



STILLMAN VALLEY STUDENTS COMPETE AT ACES SECTIONAL SEE SECTION B

# Ogle County LIFE

## ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 03

MONDAY April 1, 2024

FREE

Visit [www.oglecountylife.com](http://www.oglecountylife.com)

Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!

### KNOW IT TODAY



#### April First Friday announced

The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show April 5. **A3**

#### WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
54 40	48 31
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
52 33	59 36
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
63 40	63 42

#### OBITUARIES

- Marlene Emery
- David Groharing
- Tim J. Hintzsche
- Phyllis LaBudde
- Cathleen McKenzie
- Patricia Weber

See page A4

#### INSERTS

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

#### Ogle County Court

## Two separate cases end in guilty murder verdicts

### Jury finds Malta man guilty of murder stemming from death of pregnant Mt. Morris woman

OREGON — Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock announced in a March 25 press release that on March 22, Matthew T. Plote, 36, of Malta, was found guilty by an Ogle County jury of four counts of first-degree murder, three counts of intentional homicide of an unborn child, one count of residential arson, one count of aggravated domestic battery and one count of concealment of a homicidal death. The jury trial which began on March 18 was presided over by the Honorable Judge Benjamin Roe. On Nov. 25, 2020, 27-year-old

Melissa Lamesch of Mt. Morris, who was nine months pregnant with a son, was found on the kitchen floor in her single-story home at 206 S. Hannah Avenue in Mt. Morris on Nov. 25, 2020 after the Ogle County 911 center received multiple calls at 4:29 p.m. for smoke coming from the residence. Firefighters found heavy smoke and heat as they entered the structure. Life-saving measures were attempted on Lamesch, but she was pronounced deceased at the scene.

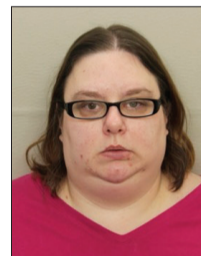


Plote

See GUILTY page 2

### Oregon woman pleads guilty to first degree murder in 2021 death of 7-year-old son

OREGON — An Oregon woman pleaded guilty to first degree murder in the 2021 death of her son in Ogle County court on March 27, Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock said in a March 27 press release. Sarah Safranek, 37, of Oregon plead guilty in front of the Honorable Judge John C. Redington. On Feb. 17, 2021, the Oregon Police Department responded to 403 S. 10th St. for a deceased minor. The minor would be identified as the defendant's son, seven-year-old Nathaniel Burton. An autopsy was conducted and it was determined



Safranek

that Burton died from suffocation. The Oregon Police Department and the Illinois State Police conducted an investigation and the defendant was developed as a suspect. The case was reviewed by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office and charges were authorized. First degree murder is a Class M felony with a sentencing range of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of mandatory supervised release. The sentence is served at 100 percent. Safranek's sentencing hearing is set for May 17 at 1 p.m.

## Ribbon cutting held March 21 for Runnings in Rochelle

*'It's great to see the support from the community and we want to support this community'*

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, March 21, a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening were held for Runnings at 1240 N. 7th St. in Rochelle.

The space was previously R.P. Home & Harvest. In April 2023, Runnings, a Minnesota-based retailer, reached an agreement to purchase R.P. Home & Harvest, expanding its footprint to 80 locations, serving customers in 12 states from New York to Montana.

Runnings has been in business for over 75 years and is one of the top farm, home and outdoor-store companies in America. The Rochelle store has spent the past year undergoing a brand and operations transition. Seth Holmgren, manager of the Rochelle Runnings, spoke at the March 21 ribbon cutting that saw attendance from Rochelle Chamber of Commerce

Runnings was officially welcomed to Rochelle and the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting and Grand Opening on March 21. The farm, home and outdoor store is located at 1240 N. 7th Street. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)



member business owners and local officials. The store saw a lot of traffic during its three-day grand opening promotion.

"I would like to thank the staff here. They've done a tremendous job converting this store in eight short months. We've moved every product and aisle and expanded selection on everything. Hopefully we're meeting the community's needs. If we're not meeting your needs, let me know, and I'm going to

track it down for you. For our staff, we've had people come from Montana and Ohio to help us out with this. When you sit there and hear about businesses referred to as family, this is truly support like family with this company. It's great to see the support from the community and we want to support this community."

Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera led the proceedings at the ribbon cutting and said the chamber is excited to have Runnings in the space in the city's northern corridor. She thanked the company and its management for their investment in Rochelle.

See OPEN page 2

**Stillman BANK** Here to Help You Grow!

**Ryan Reeverts**  
Ag Lender  
815.645.2012  
ryanr@stillmanbank.com

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

**Holcomb Bank**  
MY BUSINESS, MY BANK

**Headons Fine Meats**

Locally owned since 1970, new owners Mark Hibshman, and his son Justin, are growing the business with new & creative ideas.

**HURST HEATING & COOLING**  
Sales • Service • Installation  
815-757-4383

WE'RE YOUR HVAC PROFESSIONALS FOR  
**SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION**

**Byron Bank**  
NMLS# 440162 | [byronbank.com](http://byronbank.com)

We believe your home is more than just an address - it's where love resides, memories are created, and laughter never ends. Contact our mortgage team today and let 2024 be the year you embrace homeownership.

When you ask, we help - that's the Byron Bank Way!

# LOCAL NEWS

## GUILTY: Plote's status hearing set for April 25

**From page 1**

Lamesch's son was due three days after the fire. She worked as an EMT since June 2016 and was working for Trace Ambulance in Tinley Park. Lamesch graduated from Oregon High School in 2011.

Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock and Assistant State's Attorneys Heather Kruse and Allison Huntley prosecuted the case at trial for the People. The case was investigated by the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Mt. Morris Police Department, Illinois State Police, and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Plote will remain in custody pending a sentencing hearing. He is facing a mandatory life imprisonment sentence. The case is set for a status hearing on April 25 at 3 p.m.

## OPEN: Runnings welcomed

**From page 1**

"Sometimes when stores change to different ownership, they kind of lose that small-town thing," Herrera said. "And right away when we heard this was going to be Runnings, they reached out to us and said they wanted to be part of the chamber. And we were really excited when we heard someone local, Seth, was going to be the manager here. It's exciting to have you here and to have a quality company here in this space and storefront. Sometimes they sit empty, but you guys didn't do that. You stepped up and I've heard really great things about this place. Welcome."

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows spoke at the event as well and talked about the agricultural community that Rochelle is having access to farm products at Runnings. "It allows people to buy what they need," Bearrows said. "And it's something we were missing. On behalf of the city, we want to say that you now have partnerships with the chamber and the city. We work together. It became very apparent back during the COVID-19 pandemic that the city cares for small and large businesses alike, whether it's working with our commercial/industrial taskforce, or working with a small mom and pop operation that has a storefront downtown. We're here for you if there's anything we can do that's within our power. Welcome to Rochelle."



(Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

## Groundbreaking held March 15 for new Creston-Dement Public Library

*Project has 12-18-month completion timeline: 'It's going to be a great thing'*

**By Jeff Helfrich**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**CRESTON** — On Friday, March 15, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Creston-Dement Public Library project at the corner of Main and Cederholm Streets. Board members, library employees and members of the community took part in the event.

A referendum passed in June 2022 that allowed the Creston-Dement Public Library District to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building on the land that was donated years ago for just that purpose. The main reason for the desire for a new building is the library outgrowing its current space at 107 S. Main St.

"This has been a seven-year project to get up to this point," Library Board President Doug Kroupa said. "We did community surveys and had experts come in to show us the difference between wants and real needs to create the building the way we need it to be. We'll see a lot of community involvement. The growth in the library

and the people who are interested in this will help the town and community. It's going to be a great thing."

The library project recently underwent a redesign due to an unexpected \$800,000 funding gap due to not receiving a state grant and higher-than-anticipated building costs.

The redesigned plans made the project about a third smaller. The redesign caused about a year-long delay.

"We shrank the building width-wise, but all the major things are still in the building," Kroupa said. "We twisted the activity room so it now fits in. As the building could grow in the future, expansion could be easily incorporated into the design without a whole bunch of restructuring. We've been very conscious about how we're spending people's money. We spend it as if it was our own money. We were frugal in the way we deployed the money and in the design we still have a kids area and adult area. We did lose the study rooms in the redesign, but we have the activity room that can be turned

into study rooms as the need grows. We can cover almost everything we need right off the bat."

Construction was scheduled to start during the week of March 17-23 and will take place weather permitting from there on out. Kroupa said the first steps will be leveling ground, soil boring, bringing in gravel and pouring a foundation. The board hopes for a fall 2025 opening.

Kroupa called community support for the project "amazing" and said the new library will allow his organization to better meet needs of the village's residents.

"We're here to make sure we meet the community's needs and gather information and share it quickly and easily to everyone," Kroupa said. "Even through COVID-19, the library continued to provide entertainment and education. We had online viewings and continued to offer services. Now that we'll have a facility that's large enough and fully handicapped accessible, we'll see growth of that type of education even more."

Growth in services and community offerings and demand from district residents has been seen in recent years which further showed the need for a new library, Kroupa said. He cited the library's Christmas in Creston event each year and said it has grown from 40-50 people at its start to almost 200

last year.

"Constantly, people are encouraging us to continue to grow," Kroupa said. "This means a lot to the community. The library isn't just about books and stuff like that. We bring people together in many different ways to share their knowledge and education. That community growth is spreading as we go. We bring everybody together to keep the community growing strong and it just keeps going and going."

For board members and library staff, "hundreds and hundreds of hours" of work have gone into the new library project up to this point, Kroupa said. The board has also navigated supply chain issues that have taken place in the construction industry since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's going through research, finding experts, talking to community members, and balancing the wants and the needs," Kroupa said. "Making sure we focus on what we need to do is really the important thing. It will be a great relief when it's finally done. When we were going through planning with the bonding people, we saw wood triple in price and steel and wiring more than quadrupled. Some things went up almost 10 times what they were to begin with. To manage that so we could get this in a timely fashion and watch the prices come back down so it's an affordable facility, that was the important thing."

Join us for our spring women's event:  
**Growing in Prayer**

Enjoy brunch, fellowship, time in the Word, and laughter as we celebrate this season of spring growth together!

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 | 8:45AM-11AM**

Childcare provided for infants-2nd graders  
Please RSVP to 815-965-1940 for childcare

**Kishwaukee Community Church**  
8195 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley

**SERVICE CALL SPECIAL**  
**\$29.95 ANY BRAND**

We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.  
**Over 30 Years Experience.**  
**AFFORDABLE WATER**

**815-625-3426**  
Toll Free: 877-353-7638

dickersonnieman.com

**homes**

**BYRON**  
220 W. 3rd St.  
(815)234-5133

**OREGON**  
113 S. 4th St.  
(815)732-3365

**Dickerson & Nieman REALTORS**

Ogle County's Real Estate Market Leader!

---

**1458 W. Indian Heights Drive, Oregon**  
\$254,900 dickersonnieman.com/202400873  
**MOVE IN CONDITION!** Split floor plan ranch with 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms upstairs. Master bed has walk-in closet & jacuzzi tub. Great room features vaulted ceilings & 3 new skylights. Finished walk-out lower level with 4th bedroom/office and 3rd bathroom. Pool table & barstools negotiable. 2 sheds. New roof, siding & gutters in 2023.  
**SHARON BOWERS**  
(815) 757-7462

**705 W. Blackhawk Drive, Byron**  
\$549,900 dickersonnieman.com/39090191  
**FORMER SAM'S DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT!** Owner retiring. Price includes equipment. This restaurant building contains 2,452 SF & the canopy w/20 drive-up ordering stations contains 1,860 SF. 2 single stall restrooms, a basement for storage, & seating for 48-76 people. 180' of road frontage on Blackhawk/Route 2 and 182' on Colfax. Located on lighted intersection. Zoned highway front business. Kitchen already certified with OCHD as commissary kitchen.  
**TRACY EASTMAN**  
(815) 979-4926

**000 Harvest Drive, Byron**  
Starting at \$69,000 dickersonnieman.com/201701914  
**BEAUTIFUL BYRON SUBDIVISION!** Large lots, city water & sewer. No Impact fees. Building packages open to all builders. Builder assistance available. Developer approval required. Remaining lots are either full or partial exposure.  
**CHRIS SNYDER**  
(815) 494-7857

---

**MAYDELL LESSEN**  
DESIGNATED MANAGING BROKER  
(815) 622-4619

**DOROTHY BOWERS**  
(815) 985-3264

**SHARON BOWERS**  
(815) 757-7462

**LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL**  
(815) 218-0059

**TIFFANY CRAVATTA**  
(815) 988-4388

---

**RANDY CRIDDLE**  
(815) 871-4004

**DANA DAUB**  
(815) 440-2835

**KAYLA HESLOP**  
(815) 222-9771

**SEAN HOSSEINI**  
(815) 200-8490

**CHRIS SNYDER**  
(815) 494-7857

**TANYA VINCER**  
(815) 703-6118

# LOCAL NEWS



**Jerry Tice, chairman of the First Fridays Committee, opened last month's show, with help from a few friends. (Courtesy photo)**

## First Fridays Open Mic is April 5

**OREGON** — The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW this April 5. The event attracts many talented performers, but musicians and singers of all skill levels find acceptance from its supportive audience.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, although a jar is available for donations. Performers can sign up for time slots on a first-come-first-serve basis, so it's best to arrive by 6 p.m. or earlier. Interested parties who have questions can contact Jerry Tice, at 815-449-2660.

The VFW is located at 1310 W. Washington Street in Oregon. It provides ample parking, along with the availability of a restaurant and bar within the building. A fish fry runs from 4-8 p.m.

## Monaco named February 2024 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

*Polo senior participates in football, wrestling, FFA*

**POLO** — Jacob Monaco was recently named the February Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for his efforts. He is the son of Marie and George Monaco.

Monaco's extracurricular activities include football, wrestling, baseball, FFA and FCCLA. After high school, he plans to attend flight school in DuPage to become a pilot.

Upon winning the award, Monaco filled out a list of questions about his school experience.

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

A class that I find really engaging is Production Woodworking with Ted Alston, Brock Soltow, Nathaniel Yingling, and I. We have been building chairs to sell, but the reason why



I like it so much is because we like to have fun while building the chairs.

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

My career and post-graduation plans are to first go to DisneyLand, of which I got to because I won a bet with my mom, work during the summer,

after DisneyLand, to have some money when I go to a flight school in DuPage to become a commercial pilot.

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

My two favorite extracurricular activities are

football and Boy Scouts. What I learned from football is teamwork, hard work pays off, and just because you start off terribly doesn't mean it will end terribly. Boy Scouts taught me how to be social, survival techniques, leadership, and how to give back to your community.

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

A memorable moment that was meaningful to me was when I finished painting West Side Park for my eagle scout project and seeing everyone that helped out.

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

My hope for the future is that we become more accepting as a society and that we become more united as a nation as the founding fathers wanted.

## Coliseum Museum presents a spring concert and new artists in April

**OREGON** — The Coliseum Museum in Oregon presents its first concert as well as two new artists on display at the Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiques & Americana during April.

On April 5, "Hot 'n' Cole" The Music of Cole Porter Spring Concert will feature music from one of America's most beloved jazz/theatre composers. Matt and Cynthia Gruel enlighten listeners with biographical and musical background that will bring greater appreciation for Porter's genius. Highlights include "Too Darn Hot," "Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)," "Begin the Beguine," and many more.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with music by Ivory and Burgundy followed

by Hot 'n' Cole at 6 p.m. Ivory and Burgundy features Miles Beske on flute, Andy Eckardt on piano, and David Eckardt on drums. Tickets are \$25 for CMAAA members and \$30 for non-members and available by calling the museum at 815-595-5810 or online at [www.cmaaa.org/events.html](http://www.cmaaa.org/events.html). The concert is sponsored by Bry's Antiques.

Rich Born is the Feature Artist for April. Rich, based in DeKalb, has a strong interest in photography that began during his childhood days. He works with digital cameras now but does very little post-processing of images in Photoshop. Rich also has images printed translucently on glass as well as high gloss standouts on a metallic surface. Most recently, Rich

has taken up the art of scanography. Rich has displayed his work in shows at several galleries and has participated in numerous juried shows.

Joy Meyer from Dixon, will be showing her work in the Taft Gallery during April and May. Joy earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in art and art education from Northern Illinois University. She taught art for 30 years, the last twenty years at Rock Falls High School. Joy has enjoyed working in many different media including watercolor, pen and ink, pencil, glass etching, stained glass, and silk painting, but the medium she has chosen to specialize in during recent years is acrylic painting. She has won numerous awards for both her painting and her teaching.



**Hot n' Cole performers Matt & Cynthia Gruel; Rich Born - Untitled; and Joy Meyer - Orange Lilies.**



Back by Popular Demand!  
**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE!**

**NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub**  
Featuring our Free Shower Package

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS 15% OFF**  
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY  
Call Toll-Free 815-515-4749

**safestep**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

**Call Today for Your Free Shower Package**  
**1-815-515-4749**

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

**LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY**

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

*Spring into Savings!*

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
Upon completion of appointment

**LeafGuard®**  
Get it. And forget it.®

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
Upon completion of appointment

✈

**15% OFF TOTAL SALE\***  
Does not include cost of materials

- ✓ LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- ✓ MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- ✓ THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- ✓ SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

\*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, IL, PA and MI. Expires 4/30/24.

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**  
**815-673-7499**

**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Marlene J. Emery

**OREGON** — Marlene J. Emery, age 91, passed away at home on March 26, 2024. She was born on March 13, 1933 in Chicago the daughter of Charles and Esther (Christensen) Nielsen. Marlene married the love of her life, James Emery on August 4, 1951 in Chicago. He preceded her in death on December 25, 2015.

She was a woman with a strong Christian faith who enjoyed playing an active role in church by helping set up luncheons, taking part in the Women's Guilds and attending services on Sundays. She liked to be outdoors and some of her fondest days were spent fishing with her husband and children or camping with her family and friends.

Her family looks back at all the beautiful memories spent with Marlene at the camper in Michigan or going to the Chinese restaurant, show, and ice cream on her and her twin, Marilyn's birthdays.

Marlene was a natural caregiver and loved to help people. She spent many of her days caring for her husband and for others as a CNA at Pinecrest for many years. She took that compassion to the Rockford Rescue Mission where she spent time volunteering. Her family knew she could be counted on in their time of need.



She was their "go to" girl. Once the day came to an end she loved to cozy up with a good book and read before going to bed or take the time to crochet.

She was a dedicated wife and mother who always took care of her home. The most important thing in Marlene's life was her family. She loved them well and made sure they knew how important every single person in her family was to her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and siblings, Charles, Margaret, June, Loraine, Audrey, Carl, Norman, and Marilyn.

She is survived and missed by her children, Susan (Steve) Bouton, Linda Martin, James Jr. (Sara) Emery, Steven Sr. (Cheyenne) Emery, and Christine Emery; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews who she loved beyond measure.

Marlene was given wonderful care by the staff of Serenity Hospice and the memorials are established for them. She was and will continue to be loved by all that knew her and as she would always say "Uffda!" A graveside service will be held at 12:00 PM on April 6, 2024 at Riverview Cemetery in Oregon.

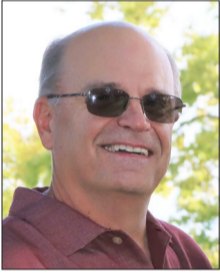
To leave an online condolence please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### David D. Groharing

**BYRON** — David D. Groharing, 60, of Byron, IL, died on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Lawnwood Hospital in Fort Pierce, FL.

Dave's memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Thomson United Methodist Church in Thomson, IL. There will be no visitation. Following the service, a Celebration of Life will take place from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Tipton Auction Service in Thomson, IL. Cremation rites have been accorded. Interment will be at Lower York Cemetery in Thomson, IL. A memorial has been established.

David was born March 27, 1963, in Orlando, FL, to Richard and Janet (Jackson) Groharing. He was educated in the Hanover grade schools and was a 1981 graduate of Thomson High School. He married Kristy K. Miller on April 16, 1989, in Branson, MO. Dave was a union electrician at Exelon Nuclear Generating Station in Byron, IL for 36 years before retiring in 2020. He attended The United Methodist Churches in Thomson and Leaf River, IL, as well as City First Church in



Rockford, IL, and First Baptist Church in Okeechobee, FL. Dave along with his wife, Kristy, cherished their time wintering in Okeechobee, FL, in recent years. Dave's greatest joys in life were faith, family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Kristy; one daughter, Karissa (Matthew) Goellner of Wayne, IL; one son, Matthew Groharing of Byron, IL; his mother, Janet Fowler of Peoria, IL; his father, Richard (Samantha) Groharing of Adamsville, TN; three brothers, Robb Groharing of Adamsville, TN, Steve (Susie) Groharing of Hanover, IL and Eric Groharing of Bristol, WI; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Karen and Richard Miller of Thomson, IL; one brother-in-law, Steve (Penny) Miller of Streamwood, IL; along with numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Maurice and Kate Jackson; paternal grandparents, Bruce and Alice Groharing; his step father, Jesse Fowler.

To send online condolences go to [www.bosmarenkes.com](http://www.bosmarenkes.com).

### Patricia M. Weber

**OREGON** — Patricia M. Weber, age 85, died Thursday, March 22, 2024 at the Serenity Hospice and Home near Oregon, Illinois. She was born September 29, 1938 in Baltimore, Maryland the daughter to Lawrence and Frances (Gobeli) Shields.

Patricia graduated in 1956 from Glenbrook High School. She married John P. Weber on February 22, 1957. They were married for almost 62 years.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Patricia was predeceased by her parents Lawrence and Frances Shields and her husband John Weber.

She is survived by her 5 children; Deborah (Steven) Simon of Carpentersville,



IL, John B. (Ruth) Weber of Hampshire, IL, Cynthia Sanchez of Aurora, IL, Douglas R. (Nancy) Weber of Leaf River, IL., and Eric P. Weber of Oregon, IL, 6 grandchildren; Sabrina, John Paul, Matthew, Jennifer, Melissa, and Stephanie, 3 great grandchildren Ben, Greyson, and Joey.

There are no services planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers a memorial fund is established for the Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL.

Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home in Oregon, IL is assisting the family.

Visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Patricia.

### Phyllis Jean LaBudde

**FORRESTON** — Phyllis Jean LaBudde, 89, of Forreston, died Sunday, March 24 in her home. She was born December 22, 1934 in Brookville Township, Ogle County, Illinois, the daughter of Harold and Mildred (Pulver) Drenner. Phyllis married Frederick "Fritz" LaBudde on November 2, 1985. He died March 15, 2015.

She lived in the Forreston-Polo area her entire life, attending Polo schools. She was a Farmer's wife for many years and worked many jobs after her two children from a previous marriage started school. She worked in the cafeteria at the new grade school, a Nurse's Aide, Physical Therapy Aide at F.H.N., and Micro Switch for two years, Forreston F. S. Plant, then back home to help with the family feed business.

Phyllis was a loving person, a caregiver, Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma and Great-Great-Grandma. She had a love for her family, flowers, her dog, and enjoyed painting, crafts, playing



golf, reading and traveling.

Phyllis is survived by her son, Gary (Marcia) Buss of Forreston; daughter, Vickie (Carl) Beyer of Shannon; grandchildren, James (Felicia) Buss, Samantha Buss and Mindy (Michael) Arndt; five Great-Grandchildren, Devan, Jocelyn, Hayley Sue, Elijah and Jordan; Great-Great-Grandchildren Laylah and Lukas Volkman and Delylah Schultz; two step-nieces, Louise Meyer and Judy Nettles. Also surviving are special friends, Dana Weegens and family.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, 11:00 A.M. March 30 in Forreston Reformed Church. Rev. Lyle Zumdahl. Pastor will officiate. Visitation will be from 10:00 A. M. until time of service in the church. Burial will be in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Freeport.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her name. Arrangements were made by Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home, Forreston.

### Cathleen Hanora McKenzie

**OREGON** — Cathleen Hanora McKenzie, 81, of Oregon, IL and former resident of Loudoun County, VA, passed away suddenly at KSB Hospital in Dixon, IL, on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. She was born 81 years earlier on March 20, 1943, in Chicago, IL, the daughter of Austin R. & Louise (Barbetti) Manley.

She graduated from Mt. Assisi High School in 1961 and received her nursing degree from the Saint Joseph School of Nursing in 1964. Cathie was a Registered Nurse working in the psychiatric field for over 50 years. She worked at the Norfolk General Hospital in Norfolk, VA and retired from Sibley Memorial Hospital in the Washington, D.C., area.

Throughout her life she had many great passions including animals, especially dogs, cats and even birds. She also loved to spend her time crafting and being artistic. She would sketch, work with ceramics, and just be creative in



everything she would do.

She was always supportive of the Veterans in her life as she was a U.S. Navy wife for 20 years; her father, husband and grandson were in the military, as well. Her family and friends were always very near and dear to her heart.

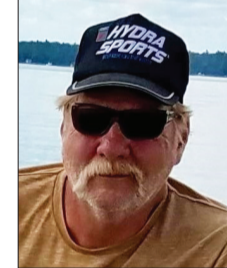
She is survived and missed dearly by her daughters Laura (Curtis) Cook of Oregon, IL, and Lisa McKenzie of Sterling, VA; grandchildren: Travis Cook, Drew Cook, David McKenzie, Apryl Lampert, Brandon Lampert; and several great-grandchildren. Cathleen is preceded in death by her parents, former husband Gerald McKenzie and brother Robert Austin Manley.

Cathleen will be laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Oak Lawn, IL following a private family service. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Darkhorse Lodge in Springville, TN, Oregon Fire Department or Project Humane Polo in Polo, IL.

### Tim J. Hintzsche

**BYRON** — Tim J. Hintzsche, 61, of Byron IL, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, with his family by his side. Born July 21, 1962, in DeKalb, IL, the son of Charles and Sandra (Pierce) Hintzsche. Tim attended Rochelle Township High School. He married Christine Stout on September 24, 1994. He began his career hauling meat for FDL Foods of Dubuque, Iowa in 1978, eventually becoming an OTR owner/operator until 2002.

Tim loved the outdoors, whether it was fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, boating, ATV's, making a bonfire, or camping — he was always ready to go. He treasured the family



vacations in northern Wisconsin and camping and fishing at King's Camp in Chana, IL. He was sure to keep a close eye on the Chicago Cubs schedule, so his chores did not interfere with their game.

He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, and uncle. Tim inherited a passion from his dad for teaching anyone, especially kids, the joy of the outdoors. While growing up and working on the family farm he became extremely mechanically inclined — he could fix anything, sometimes temporary, often permanent, and he enthusiastically shared his help, talents, and advice with others.

Survived by his wife, Christine; son, John; moth-

er, Sandra; brother, William (Cheryl) Hintzsche; sister, Janette Hintzsche; nephews, Eric (Ashley) Hintzsche, Samuel Hintzsche and Vincent Morris; nieces, Liliana Webb and Cori Block, numerous great-nephews, great-nieces, and cousins; brother-in-law, Ricky (Tammy) Stout; his lifelong friend, Al Rush; and his fur baby, Maya.

Preceded in death by his father, Charles Hintzsche.

The family would like to thank Northern Illinois Hospice Association — and especially Stacy for the loving care, compassion, and attention we received.

There will be a private service for the family.

Tim's family will host A Celebration of his Life on Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 4:00-6:00 pm, at the Jarrett Prairie Center located at 7993 North River Road Byron, Illinois. Please join us and celebrate his wonderful life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Northern Illinois Hospice Association.

To share a memory or a condolence, please visit [olsonfh.com](http://olsonfh.com).

### ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

Advertisers please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors made on our part and we will adjust bills accordingly, but only provided we receive notice immediately following the first time the ad appears. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which also reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, and not this newspaper, is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval, and may be refused at any time for any reason.

### The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

Published every Monday by Rochelle Newspapers, Inc. at 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068-1183. Subscriptions in our service area are free on a requester basis. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper, P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068-9801. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have carrier delivery and your paper fails to arrive by 7 p.m. on Monday, telephone our office at 732-2156, if your paper fails to arrive by mail telephone our circulation office at 562-4171, ext. 112. For subscriptions, call the LIFE office at 815-732-2156.

**VFW Post #8739**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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

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

**Public is Welcome!**

**VFW EVENTS**

Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm  
 Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm  
 Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm  
**Fridays @ 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, Karaoke, Live music**  
 (different Fridays)

**Public is Welcome!**

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

**Try out the hot slots every weekday!**

**J&J Gaming**

01082024

**ANDERSON**  
**PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling  
 Water Heaters, Water Softeners,  
 Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,  
 Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

**Since 1976**

**621 First Ave., Rochelle**  
**(815) 562-8784**

LIC# 055-010888

# LOCAL NEWS



Students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater attended the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Student Forum on March 4, 2024, at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. (Photo courtesy of Brian Lucas)

## Gale recognized by Wisconsin Broadcasters Association at UW-Whitewater

**WHITEWATER, Wis.** — Brian Gale from Stillman Valley, who is studying journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, was among the honorees at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) 2024 Student Forum. The event was held Feb. 24 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Gale won Second place, News Writing (TV) as part of the organization's Student Excellence Awards program.

As an institution, UW-Whitewater took home 17 awards, including 11 for first place in a category, five for second place and one for third place.

The WBA is a state broadcasters membership group that was established in 1951. Its main purpose is to promote

the development of the arts of aural and visual broadcasting in all its forms, working closely with statewide educators and broadcast managers/directors to encourage and promote customs and practices that will strengthen and maintain the broadcast industry to best serve the public.

The WBA also recognizes state broadcasters, professionals, and student/amateur broadcasters with annual seminars and recognitions. Students in the media studies program at UW-Whitewater have the opportunity each spring to attend a number of networking breakout sessions during the annual Student Seminar, typically held in late February/early March.

## Byron's DeWitt of UW-Whitewater serving as student teacher

**WHITEWATER, Wis.** — Natalie DeWitt from Byron, who is studying Biology Science Education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is representing the university as a student teacher during the spring 2024 semester.

DeWitt, a student in UW-Whitewater's College of Education and Professional Studies, is serving as a student teacher in Science in the Byron School District through the end of the school year.

"Our students are highly sought after," Fred Trotter, administrative director in UW-Whitewater's Office of Clinical Experiences, said. "School districts really appreciate the caliber of our

graduates." A total of 176 UW-Whitewater students were placed in school districts around the state starting in January. Student teaching is the final activity before teacher candidates earn their degree and license.

UW-Whitewater will partner with 249 cooperating teachers across 130 schools in 87 districts over the course of the semester.

"We couldn't do this without a lot of the great partnerships we have with those pre-K through 12 schools - their partnerships are very much appreciated," Trotter said.

Student teachers assist cooperating teachers with lesson planning, instruction

and assessment. This spring, a record 46 UW-Whitewater teacher candidates were hired by school districts as student teaching interns as part of the Department of Public Instruction's Wisconsin Improvement Program (WIP). Interns are licensed by the DPI to teach up to 50 percent of each day on their own and receive a stipend for the semester.

UW-Whitewater licenses the most teachers in the state of Wisconsin. Educating teachers was the university's original mission during its founding in 1868. To learn more about the College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-Whitewater, visit <https://www.uww.edu/coeps>.

## Jon Hansen performing in Augustana Choir California tour

**ROCK ISLAND** — Jon Hansen, a vocal music education major from Lindenwood, is one of 54 Augustana College students performing in the Augustana Choir tour of California from March 21 to March 25. The choir will perform at five Southern California churches, followed by a home concert on April 6 in Davenport.

Under the direction of Dr. Jon Hurty, more than 50 students will perform

a mix of traditional and modern choral selections from various composers. During this tour, students

can share a part of the Midwest choral tradition with friends, family and colleagues in California.



**Stillman Valley Nursery**

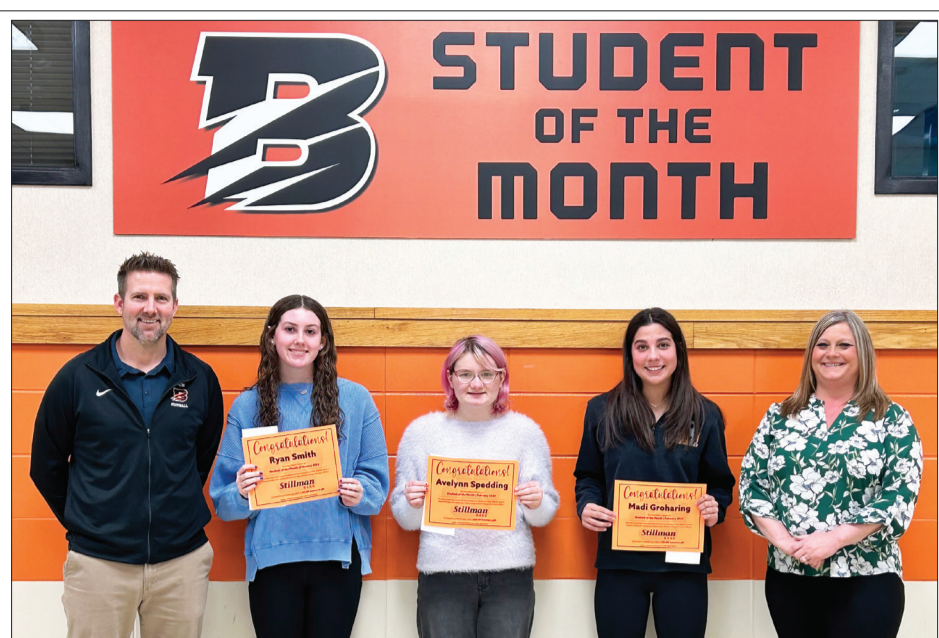
9979 N. Kishwaukee Road  
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084

(815) 645-8113

Premium Hardwood • Designer Colored Mulches  
Pulverised Dirt • Mushroom Compost • Straw Bales

Delivery Available

08032020



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

Byron High School Students of the Month for February were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: BHS Principal Andrew Donaldson, Ryan Smith (ninth grade), Aveylnn Spedding (10<sup>th</sup> grade), Madi Groharing (12<sup>th</sup> grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Not pictured is Gina Baker (11<sup>th</sup> grade). Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

## Byron Women's Club empowerment scholarship applications open

**BYRON** — The Byron Women's Club empowerment scholarship is awarded to a woman residing in the Byron School District who would like to continue their education in college/community college, a GED program, or a vocational/professional training program.

Please pick up an application at the

Byron High School Guidance Office. You may contact Becky Little at 815-509-3925 or e mail [becky.little6@outlook.com](mailto:becky.little6@outlook.com)

Completed application forms may be turned in the Guidance Counselor's office at Byron High School or sent to Becky Little by April 15.

## DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

**Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery**  
**A.A. Hotline** **800-452-7990**  
**Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.**  
**Oregon** **732-3157**  
**Rochelle** **562-3801**

**Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline**  
**HOPE of Ogle County** **562-8890 or 732-7796**  
**Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs**

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

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

**Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County**  
**P.O. Box 628**  
**Oregon, IL 61061** **732-6855**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

453-2103 • Ashton, IL

RALPHIE & LULU'S

Est. 2001

07272022

# VIEWPOINT

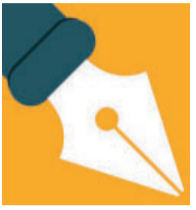
"Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech or of the press"

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

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

## Ballot item wording

Dear editor,



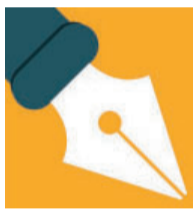
I would happily vote for a sales tax increase to benefit the schools if you would just word the proposal correctly to avoid the typical bait and switch scheme. Word the bill so that any existing

funding would not be decreased, and that typical annual increase would occur as normal and that the schools would receive the extra tax dollars in addition to their normal funding.

**Keith Koziol**  
Leaf River

## Thanks to Ogle County Board

Dear editor,



Thank you to the Ogle County Board for declaring Ogle County a non-sanctuary county for immigration. Thank you for pledging and re-dedicating our limited resources to the residents in need living legally in Ogle County. Thank you for not buying into the insanity of this state and this country under the current leadership. As descendants of immigrants somewhere along the line, Americans do seek to help those who choose to become a part of what we still hope to salvage of this law-abiding nation by providing a legal pathway to citizenship. After this step of good faith by one seeking to live in America, this country has

much to offer people of all nationalities. This is made evident by the fact that people are not clamoring to escape America, but to live here. But freedom is not free. Constant free giveaways that lead to laziness and hopelessness are not what made this once-great nation a historic success and a beacon of the world.

John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, advised: "Posterity: you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." The Ogle County Board has taken a step to restore this admonition of President Adams today.

**Jodi Kielsmeier**  
Oregon

## The farming picture in Illinois

THESE days with all the new pronouns, changing definitions of things I've known for decades and misinformation peddled by "social influencers" it's hard for anyone to define anything anymore. The only social influencer I ever knew in my life were called mom and dad, and dependent on their mood at the time or their answer truly influenced your social life.



**Ron Kern**

A resounding "NO" from pop when I asked to borrow the car usually signaled that my social life in the moment was going to be restricted.

Believe it or not it's even becoming difficult to define what a "farm" is these days. I always thought it was any place that someone grew food and fiber. Now we have solar farms, wind farms, technology farms and the list goes on.

But let's look at farms in Illinois and see what the picture looks like. It might be familiar.

96% of Illinois' 70,900 farms are family owned. Illinois has 27 million acres of farmland - 24 million cropland acres, 824,100 pastureland acres, and 1.4 million forestland acres.

In 2021, Illinois ranked:  
#1 in the nation in soybean and pumpkin production.  
#2 in the nation in corn production.

#4 in the nation in pork production.  
#2 in the nation for farmers markets.

Renewable Fuels in Illinois:  
Illinois ranks third nationwide in ethanol production and fourth in the nation in biodiesel production.  
\$1 out of every \$10 generated in Illinois comes from agriculture.  
More than \$137 billion in Illinois' economic activity stems from production-agriculture-related industries.

Illinois food and agriculture businesses account for more than \$359 billion in economic output in the state.

Cook County derives \$17.8 million in economic activity from agriculture and related industries.

One in 17 Illinois jobs are related to agriculture; agriculture and related industries account for more than 482,000 jobs in Illinois.

Illinois agriculture contributes \$25.1 billion in gross receipts from sales of crops & livestock.

Pretty impressive numbers. For those of us who live in rural Illinois that economic activity derived from farms is usually the number one economic engine that drives our counties.

So what the heck let's take a look at Ogle County shall we!

Total jobs created from agriculture - 5,079

Added jobs from livestock production - 3,036  
Total value added from agriculture - \$428 million  
Value added from livestock - \$237 million  
Added household income - \$208 million  
Market value of crops - \$208 million  
Market Value of livestock - \$68 million  
Total farms - 1,618  
Farmland as a percentage of the property tax base - 15 percent

Ogle County also ranks in production in the State of Illinois as

Sixth in cattle and calves, seventh in nursery, greenhouse and floriculture, ninth in other crops and hay, 14th in corn, eighth in total number of farms, 16th in beef cows, and eighth out of 102 counties for total number of farms.

One definition I know hasn't changed is "rural" and here in Ogle County we fit that definition to a tee.

So while you are trying to figure out if it's he or she, it or that, him or her, man or woman, mother or birthing parent as you drive through Ogle County look around. You just might see a farm, just like the old days.

"Opportunity is missed by most people, because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." -Thomas Edison

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

## Local counties consider protective resolutions

AFTER postponing the evictions of migrants and illegal immigrants from Chicago shelters for months, Chicago leaders began an official eviction process on March 17. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and members of his administration said thousands will be evicted from Chicago shelters over the next few months.

When announcing the enforcement of evictions, Mayor Johnson said, "The ultimate goal is to move people to resettlement or out-migration." In other words, the Mayor of the Sanctuary City of Chicago is saying migrants should move on and out of Chicago.

These evictions and out-migrations will place new pressures on municipalities that are ill-equipped to handle an influx of migrants and illegal immigrants into communities and schools.

City councils and village boards in a few suburban communities have already passed ordinances or resolutions prohibiting or restricting the arrival of buses carrying migrants and illegal immigrants. These community leaders are also limiting the amount of taxpayer funds spent on them by actively enforcing zoning laws and fire codes and taxing the use of hotels/motels, warehouses, and other facilities that are used for extended use by migrants and illegal immigrants.

Local units of government here in Northwest Illinois are also beginning to take proactive steps to address the migrant crisis. The Stephenson County Board is considering a resolution that declares the county a "Non-Sanctuary County" and urges the Illinois Legislature to repeal the Illinois TRUST Act, which prohibits local law enforcement from coordinating with federal immigration authorities on immigration matters. I am the chief sponsor of Senate Bill 3596, which repeals the TRUST Act.

This law is harmful because those entering our country via the southern border are primarily claiming to be asylum seekers. By designating themselves as asylum seekers, they can remain in the United States until a hearing takes place and asylum status is either granted or denied. This hearing process is now

taking several years.

Statistically, most of those claiming to be asylum seekers will have their asylum status denied at their hearing. At that point, they become illegal immigrants in this country should they decide to stay.

After living in the United States for several years, is it feasible to believe these illegal immigrants will leave our country of their own volition? With the TRUST Act tying the hands of local law enforcement, there is no legally enforceable mechanism to detain and deport illegal immigrants who are denied legal status in this country yet refuse to leave.

In neighboring Winnebago County, board members are considering a resolution that limits the use of county funds in any response to the abandonment of asylum seekers in the county.

Expressly, the Winnebago County resolution would forbid the use of taxpayer-funded reserves or emergency funds for long-term housing, medical, or other needs for these migrants, except for situations where they are abandoned in the county without means of transportation to the migrant landing zone in Chicago.

I commend those sponsoring these resolutions for prioritizing the needs of their counties' families and for seeking to ensure that taxpayer resources are channeled first and foremost to their counties' citizens.

I will continue to address the migrant/illegal migrant issue at the state level and will work with anyone who would like to address this issue. Still, local and county government is the final firewall we have at our disposal to protect our shared constituencies from the open border policies put in place by our current President.

The resolutions under consideration in the counties of Stephenson and Winnebago are model policies that could and should be used across the state, and I am proud that counties in the 45th District are leading on such a critical issue.

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



**Andrew Chesney**

## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On April 15, 1945, British troops liberated the German Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where they discovered thousands of dead and rotting corpses, and many more thousands of sick and starving prisoners confined to severely overcrowded and dirty compounds. The prisoners were suffering from acute typhus, typhoid and tuberculosis due to a lack of running water. More than 30,000 others had died in the previous months, many from typhus, but even more from starvation.

\* On April 16, 1964, The Rolling Stones' debut album, "The Rolling Stones," issued in the U.S. as "England's Newest Hit Makers," was released. The band consisted of lead singer Mick Jagger, rhythm guitarist Brian Jones, lead guitarist Keith Richards, bassist Bill Wyman and drummer Charlie Watts.

\* On April 17, 1985, the U.S. government announced a campaign to increase organ donation awareness with the hope of making the procedure as widespread as donating blood, following similar campaigns from other countries around the world as organ transplants became more common.

\* On April 18, 1997, major floods in Grand Forks, N.D., caused by the Red River's breaching a dike, necessitated the evacuation of 50,000 residents from their homes. In some areas, only the roofs of their houses were visible.

\* On April 19, 1897, the world's oldest annual marathon run took place for the first time. Today the Boston Marathon ranks among the world's most prestigious road racing events, with an average of 20,000 participants, and is one of five members of the World Marathon Majors, which also include the cities of London, Berlin, Chicago and New York.

\* On April 20, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI visited Ground Zero in New York, the scene of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the city's Twin Towers, at the end of his six-day tour of America. He greeted survivors, fire and police workers, and relatives of some of the 2,749 people who died at the scene, and prayed for the rescuers and victims, as well as "those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred," before celebrating Mass at New York's Yankee stadium.

\* On April 21, 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace pilot popularly known as the "Red Baron" and credited with 80 confirmed air combat victories, was killed in action during World War I.

## 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

## OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Woman arrested on outstanding failure to appear warrant

**March 18**  
At 3:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Ashley N. Borgen, 28, Mt. Morris, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a traffic offense. Borgen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

**March 19**  
At 6:44 a.m., Oregon Police issued William J. Ewing, 29, of Moreno Valley, California, citations for speeding, 46 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone, and improper use of registration. These violations occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 1:51 p.m., Oregon Police issued Deborah S. Fowler, 70, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 2:56 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Kayla M. Slepski, 34, Mt. Morris, for driving while license suspended. Slepski was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

At 3:23 p.m., Oregon Police issued Chelsea J. Palmer, 38, Oregon, for passing a school bus while loading or unloading. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 2nd Street.

**March 20**  
At 7:59 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Chad E. Veitch, 32, Oregon, for driving while license

suspended and for an outstanding Lee County warrant for contempt of court. Veitch was also issued citations for operating a motor vehicle with an expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Veitch was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

**March 22**  
At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police issued Ariel Dominguez-Bella, 48, Rockford, citations for speeding, 49 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone and operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. These violations occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:11 a.m., Oregon Police issued Melissa A. Gallentine, 46, Sterling, 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.

**March 23**  
At 8:19 a.m., Oregon Police issued James E. Fagerman, 45, Sterling, 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.

At 8:47 a.m., Oregon Police issued Yesenia A. Navarro, 19, Sterling, a citation for speeding, 64 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of North 4th Street.

At 12:38 p.m., Oregon Police issued Nancy S. Williams, 65, of Chicago, a citation for speeding, 47 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 12:38 p.m., Oregon Police issued Mary A. Sjurset, 55, Oregon, citations for operating a motor vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 200 block of East Washington Street.

At 1:31 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jerry G. Oleson, 45, Oregon, 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 2:16 p.m., Oregon Police issued Madison L. Watwood, 22, of Elgin a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 400 block of West Washington Street.

**March 24**  
At 4:49 p.m., Oregon Police issued Juan Rodriguez, 65, of Northlake a citation for speeding, 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Washington Street.

Thirteen verbal warnings and seven parking citations were issued during the week of March 18-24.

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

# WANTED

\$\$\$ WE BUY GUNS \$\$\$



## RAT WORX

112 E. Hitt St.

# MT. MORRIS, IL.

◀ 815-734-7346 ▶

WE SELL GUNS, KNIVES & AMMO



WE BUY GUNS  
**RAT WORX**  
Research and Testing  
Worx Inc.  
112 East Hitt St., Mt.  
Morris, IL

815-734-7346

guns@ratworxusa.com | www.ratworxUSA.com

# LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

### Rockford woman taken into custody on outstanding warrants with help from Crimestoppers

**OREGON** — On March 12 at approximately 1:30 p.m. Melanie Humphrey, 44, of Rockford, was taken into custody on two outstanding warrants. The warrants were both issued for failure to appear by Rockford PD and DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. This arrest was made with the help from a tip provided to Crime Stoppers.

On March 13 at approximately 10:35 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 13,000 block of East Holcomb Road. After investigation, Alex J. Ferguson, 63, of Rockford, was placed under arrest and issued citations for driving while license revoked, operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration, and no taillight. Ferguson was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

On March 13 at 1 p.m. deputies and Byron Fire/EMS were dispatched to the 11,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a single-vehicle crash with injuries. During the course of the investigation, it was determined a single blue GMC Sierra pickup truck, operated by Clifford K. Swanson, 56, of Byron was traveling southbound when it abruptly exited the roadway and entered the ditch. As a result, Swanson was transported by Byron EMS to Swedish American Hospital, for an apparent overdose. Swanson was arrested by deputies and charged with possession of fentanyl and driving under the influence of any amount of drug. Swanson was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, improper traffic lane usage, registration expiration, and failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions. Swanson was issued a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 13 at 2:42 p.m. deputies were dispatched to Skare Park (5426 S. Skare Road) for a report of an assault. As a result, a 13-year-old juvenile was arrested and charged with battery. The juvenile was released into the custody of his parent.

On March 14 at 5:53 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North River Road. As a result, Sue A. Buerke, 43, of Byron was arrested for driving while license suspended. Buerke was transported to the Ogle County Jail, and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 15 at approximately 4:32 p.m. deputies responded to a call of criminal trespass to a residence in the 800 block

of North Devils Lane in rural Byron. While en route, deputies were further advised by dispatch of a domestic problem in the 5,400 block of North River Road involving the same male offender. After investigation, deputies placed Clifford Swanson, 56, of Byron, under arrest for criminal trespass to a residence (class four felony), criminal trespass to a residence, and disorderly conduct. Swanson was additionally charged with possession of a stolen vehicle (class two felony) and criminal trespass to a vehicle. Swanson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On March 15 at approximately 9:21 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Interstate 39 and Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies placed Rashad Griffin, 27, of Elgin under arrest for driving while license suspended. Griffin was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Griffin was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 15 at approximately 10:50 a.m. deputies arrested Whitney Barmore, 30, of Rockford when she turned herself into the Ogle County Jail. She was arrested an outstanding failure to appear warrant for obstructed front windshield. Barmore posted the \$549 bond, was released, and will have no further court appearances. On March 15 at approximately 3:50 p.m. deputies arrested Irfan Alamzai, 19, of Rockford at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant for uninsured motor vehicle. Alamzai posted the \$401 bond, was released, and will have no further court appearances.

On March 17 at approximately 5 a.m. deputies were dispatched to a domestic problem at 364 S. Church Road. Later in the afternoon, deputies conducted a follow-up at the residence and arrested Kimberly Santiago, 40, of Kings for domestic battery. Santiago was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On March 17 at approximately 3:30 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Church Road. After investigation, deputies placed Manuel Roman, 39, of Rockford, under arrest for aggra-

vated driving under the influence (class four felony), aggravated driving while license revoked (class four felony), driving under the influence, and driving while license revoked. Roman was additionally issued citations for speeding, improper U-turn, and operating an uninsured vehicle.

Roman was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On March 17 at approximately 10:20 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 southbound at mile post 106. After further investigation, deputies arrested Deandre Edwards, 29, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Edwards was also cited for no registration light and suspended registration. Edwards was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given.

On March 18 at around 6:53 p.m. deputies responded to Benny's Corner Market in Davis Junction for the report of a retail theft of alcohol. On March 19 at 6:20 p.m. after an investigation, deputies placed Margot Jacobson, 26, of Davis Junction, and Gerald Tyszko, 46, of Davis Junction, under arrest for retail theft. Jacobson and Tyszko were taken to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear court date.

On March 19 at 2:01 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on North Junction Road just south of East Illinois Route 72. As a result, Javier Leyva Meraz, 25, of Elgin was arrested for driving while license suspended. Leyva Meraz was additionally issued citations for no rear splash guards, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Leyva Meraz was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 19 at approximately 6:30 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on South Lowell Park Road at the intersection of Henry Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Timothy J. Gallagher, 48, of Dixon, for driving while license was revoked. Gallagher was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Gallagher was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 21 at approximately 2:48 p.m. deputies responded to Rochelle Community Hospital in reference to a domestic issue. After investigation, deputies arrested Matthew Bearrows,

43, of Rochelle for domestic battery. Bearrows was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On March 21 at approximately 3:20 p.m. Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of South 1st Avenue in Forreston. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Nickole M. Butler, 40, of Byron, for aggravated driving while license revoked. Butler was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a return court date set.

On March 23 at 6:23 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of the Oregon Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at Hill Street and Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Joseph Mikeworth, 47, of Mendon, Illinois, for driving without a valid license. Mikeworth was released with a notice to appear. Mikeworth was additionally issued a citation for suspended registration.

On March 23 at 4:02 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at West Mud Creek Road and North Indian Heights Drive. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Terry Wallace, 74, of Mt. Morris, for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Wallace was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a return court date.

On March 23 at approximately 10:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on West Illinois Route 72 near Adeline Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested William W. Clark, 44, Rochelle, for no driver's license. Lindsay A. Horton, 39, Dixon, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Joel M. Moore, 36, Nelson, was arrested for an outstanding Whiteside County warrant. Moore was additionally charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine less than five grams, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Clark was released with a notice to appear. Moore and Horton were both transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 25 at approximately 10:08 a.m. Tristen A. Halverson, 25, of Rockford turned himself into the Ogle County Jail on an outstanding failure to appear Ogle County warrant. Halverson posted bond and was released with no return court date.

*All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.*



### Sheriff's Office announces St. Patrick's Day enforcement results

**OREGON**—The Ogle County Sheriff's Office recently joined forces with state and local law enforcement and highway safety partners in the St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign. During the enforcement period, which lasted from March 8-18, sheriff's deputies issued 86 total citations and made two felony arrests which included: Three arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs, one arrest for felony DUI, one arrest for felony possession of a controlled substance, 12 arrests for driving with no valid/suspended or revoked licenses, 26 citations for registration violations, 16 citations for no valid proof of insurance, 19 citations for speeding violations, and 10 citations for other traffic offenses.

### State Police announce February activity figures

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

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Troopers issued 1,312 citations, 1,837 written warnings and made 29 criminal arrests during the month of February. Troopers issued 411 citations for speeding, 39 citations for distracted driving violations and 97 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 48 traffic crashes, assisted 277 motorists, and conducted 540 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 61 were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 21 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated no fatal traffic crashes in February.

# Antiques & Collectibles

## Belvidere Collectible Coins

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

We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion

**10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm

~ Call For Directions ~ **(815) 547-7111**  
880 Belvidere Road • Belvidere, IL

## THIS & THAT

Collectibles

520 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL  
815.909.1069

Open 7 days a week

Antiques, MCM, Primitives & Vintage  
Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer  
Redesign with Prima Retailer

## SYCAMORE ANTIQUES

JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS

321 WEST STATE STREET  
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

OPEN  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY  
815-895-4720

**Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!**

Call:

**Andrew Heiserman 815-561-2123**

**Christel Ackland 815-561-2153**

**Chris Grimm 815-561-2125**



# LOCAL NEWS



## Stillman Valley High School's January 2023 Students of the Month named

Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for January 2024 were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: SVHS Vice Principal Jeff Voltz, Maddie Shaw (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Abigail Gilliam (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Alyvia Bagg (10<sup>th</sup> grade), Annay Morneo (ninth grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Kelly Carlos. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

## Gilbert named January Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

*Polo senior participates in FCCLA, basketball cheerleading*

**POLO** — Emmalee Gilbert was recently named the January Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. She is the daughter of Nicole and Robert Gilbert.



Gilbert's extracurricular activities include FCCLA and basketball cheerleading. After high school, she plans to attend college and get a degree in elementary education.

I will make monthly I got to find a house, a car, shop for groceries, and pay bills. I personally really enjoyed this project.

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

Upon winning the award, Gilbert filled out a list of questions about her school experience.

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

Basketball cheer is one of my favorites because I got to meet so many new friends while doing it. Another favorite is picking weeds with Alivia Schmidt at Judy Brodie's house. This is by far one of my favorites because it was nice to see how grateful she was when we finished.

**What class do you find really engaging and why?**  
Consumers Ed. Ms. Gelande made the class very fun. My favorite part of that class was the budgeting project. I got to look up my future career and based on how much

After high school I plan to go to Sauk Valley Community College and major in Elementary Education. After two years at Sauk I hope to transfer to Northern Illinois University to continue my education.

## Stillman Valley's Peterson participates in 'These Shining Lives'

**LEBANON** — Hunter Peterson of Stillman Valley participated in These Shining Lives, a play by Melanie Marnich, from Feb. 29-March 3 at the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts on the campus of McKendree University. Peterson provided sound design for the crew.

pany in Ottawa in the 1920s. The play chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance. Their employer assured these women that the radium they were using was completely safe, even after many of them developed serious health issues. Their successful lawsuit became a cornerstone in the fight for workers' safety standards nationwide.

These Shining Lives is based on the true story of the women who painted the watch faces for the Radium Dial Com-

pany in Ottawa in the 1920s. The play chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance. Their employer assured these women that the radium they were using was completely safe, even after many of them developed serious health issues. Their successful lawsuit became a cornerstone in the fight for workers' safety standards nationwide.

## Trinity Christian College announces fall 2023 dean's list

**PALOS HEIGHTS** — In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, released the college's dean's list

for fall 2023. The dean's list is Trinity Christian College's highest academic honor. It is recognized for traditional undergraduate students who achieve

a semester GPA of 3.5 or better in 12 or more credits with grade points. Local students from Byron included Kaitlyn Harland and Madison Harland.



## Oregon Elementary School names March Students of the Month

Oregon Elementary School recently named its March Students of the Month. They include: Noah Halfman, Grayson Ginn, Odin Anderson, Knox Benesh, Nora Bradley, Andrew Garmon, Easton Hensley, Lily Peralta, Sawyer O'Malley, Tegan Schroeder, Laine LeFevre, Evalynn Chapman, Addison Booth, Gracelynn Wicker, Juan Reyes, Lola Arias, Kinley Truckenbrod, Emma Schier, Tessa Harriett, Lucky Warner, Liliauna Scheck, Emma Burchardt, Axle Ryan, Eli Riley, Coco Krup, Jaidyn Johnson, Enya Starchurski, Emery Hartmann, Joy Berry, Willow Lance, Kate Nobis, Emma Eckhardt, Makyla Larson, Rashaun Mctizic, and Rowen Wehmhoefer. (Courtesy photo)

**YUKON GOLD POTATO**  
B Size  
3 lb bag  
**1.49**

**US Grade A Family Pack Fresh CHICKEN BREAST**  
**1.49 lb**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand NEW YORK STRIP STEAK**  
**8.88** 10oz

Prices Effective: Wednesday, April 3 thru Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
**ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS CHUCK ROAST**  
**5.99 lb**

**Cake of the Week**

**BLACK FOREST CAKE**  
Chocolate Layer Cake  
8 inch Round  
**7.99**

**Bakery Fresh BRAT BUNS**  
6 ct  
**2.29**

**MINI CAKE FOR TWO**  
Select Varieties  
12 oz  
**2.99**

**Deli Made MACARONI & CHEESE**  
**3.59 lb**

## MONDAY ONE DAY SALE

**APRIL 8**

**Totinos PIZZA ROLLS**  
Select Varieties  
15 ct  
**3/\$5**

**Roma ORIGINAL PIZZA**  
Select Varieties  
10.54-11.5 oz  
**5/\$10**

**Red Baron CLASSIC, FRENCH BREAD OR DEEP DISH PIZZA**  
Select Varieties  
8.8 - 23.45 oz  
**3/\$10**

**J Skinner DANISH CAKE**  
Select Varieties  
14 oz  
**2.99**

**Club or Town House CRACKERS**  
Select Varieties  
9-13.8 oz  
**2/\$7**

**Niagara WATER**  
32 pk  
**3/\$10**

**Deli CHICKEN WING DING TRAY**  
20 ct.  
**4.99**

**US Grade A Family Pack CHICKEN WINGS**  
**1.99 lb**

**Deli Fresh 8 PIECE FRIED CHICKEN**  
Two Each:  
Legs, Thighs, Breast & Wings  
**12.99**

Available at all 11 Sullivans Foods including: 101 E HWY 64, MT. MORRIS 815.734.6868 | OPEN 6:30A TO 9P 7 DAYS A WEEK



# Stop By These Businesses and see why they were

## VOTED #1 in Ogle County!

**VOTED BEST** **AUTO DETAILING & CAR DETAILER**

**A1 HOT BODY DETAILING**

Voted Best 3 years in a row!

Affordable prices for all your detailing needs!

Open Monday-Friday 6:30am to 4:00pm

FOLLOW US ON **FACEBOOK**

**401 2nd Ave, Rochelle**  
**815-562-6393**

Cleaning ~ Detailing  
Waxing ~ Ceramic Coating

**VOTED BEST** **HVAC COMPANY & PLUMBING COMPANY**

**ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

**LENNOX**  
HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS  
Innovation never felt so good.™

**815.562.8784**  
email: [aphc621@yahoo.com](mailto:aphc621@yahoo.com)

Lic. No. 058-08789-1  
621 1st Ave. • Rochelle, IL 61068

**VOTED BEST** **COFFEE**

**TIKI JAVA**  
HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
@BLACKPEARLCOFFEESHOP

**BLACK PEARL**  
Coffee Shop

**VOTED BEST** **TAX SERVICES & TAX PROFESSIONAL**

**Brown's Tax Service**  
Carolyn Brown

Our combined 50+ years of service means great service for you. Make an appointment today for Tax Preparation, Payroll and/or Book-keeping Services!

361 IL Route 38 | Rochelle, IL  
815-440-1224 | 815-561-6861 | [carolyn@brownstaxoffice.com](mailto:carolyn@brownstaxoffice.com)

**VOTED BEST** **CARPET CLEANING**

**ChemDry**  
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.™

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning**  
209 Powers Road  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
**815-762-7555**  
[cdkishwaukee.com](http://cdkishwaukee.com)

**VOTED BEST** **INSURANCE OFFICE & INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL**

**COUNTRY FINANCIAL**

**AUTO | HOME | LIFE | HEALTH  
COMMERCIAL | INVESTMENTS  
BUSINESS | RETIREMENT**

[countryfinancial.com/joshmessenger](http://countryfinancial.com/joshmessenger)  
[josh.messenger@countryfinancial.com](mailto:josh.messenger@countryfinancial.com)

**Josh Messenger**  
Helping You Protect What Matters Most

**501 N 6th St., Rochelle, IL • (815) 562-8164**

**VOTED BEST** **FAMILY PRACTICE & DOCTOR**

**Davis Family Health LLC**  
Kelly Ann Tonielli Davis  
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC-CME

Veteran Owned and Operated  
Most insurances accepted

We Fix Boo Boos

1212 Currency Court, Rochelle, IL • 815-561-8500  
1201 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL • 815-538-1800

Primary Care, Physicals, Weight Loss, Dermal Fillers, Botox Injections, Suboxone Program

**VOTED BEST** **BLOODY MARY, BRATS, BUTCHER SHOP, BUTCHERS, & STEAK**

Tues-Fri - 9a-5:30p  
Sat - 9a-4p

**815-384-3620**  
[headons2go.com](http://headons2go.com)  
103 N. Main Street | Creston

**HEADONS FINE MEATS**  
EST. 1970  
CRESTON, IL

— LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON —  
**FACEBOOK**

**VOTED BEST** **FURNITURE STORE, FLOORING STORE & SALES PEOPLE**

**MEYERS FURNITURE & FLOORING**

M-F 9-5 • Sat 10-5 • Sun Closed

209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N  
Rochelle, IL  
[meyersfurniture.com](http://meyersfurniture.com)  
(815) 562-8792

**VOTED BEST** **BANK, FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES, MORTGAGE LENDING SERVICES & CUSTOMER SERVICE PEOPLE**

**Stillman BANK**

Best Bank  
Best Financial Planning Services  
Best Mortgage Lending Services  
Best Customer Service

Thank You!

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



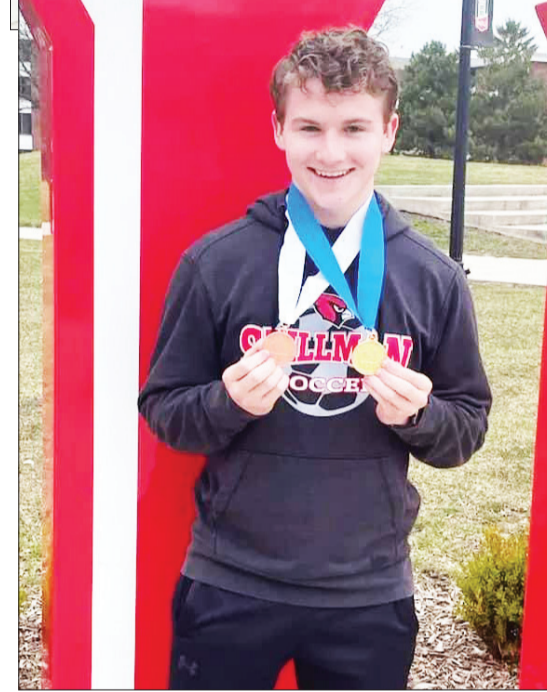
**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!**  
Great Rate - Great Spot!

Call Chris @ 815-732-2156 or email [cgrimm@oglecountylife.com](mailto:cgrimm@oglecountylife.com)

01012024



Byron High School student-athlete Neve Schilling competed in the 2024 Illinois Top Times Indoor State Championships at the Shirk Center this past weekend, finishing ninth out of 15 athletes in the Class 2A high jump competition. Schilling cleared 1.50 meters (4 feet 11 inches). (Courtesy photo)



**Stillman Valley students compete at ACES Sectional**

Two Stillman Valley High School students competed in the ACES Sectional at NIU. Congratulations to Elizabeth and to Holland, who medaled in first in engineering graphics and third in mathematics. (Courtesy photos)



**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW AGENTS!**

**Jessica Lowry**

She was born and raised in Dixon, Illinois where she and her husband Zack own and operate Hickory Hill Farm. Together they breed and raise Corgi puppies, harvest crops, make hay and raise other various farm animals. In addition to the farm, the couple invests in real estate and are proud parents to three daughters, Harper, Piper and Skylee. It's always been a life-long dream of Jessica to help others achieve their real estate goals. As a hardworking mom and former Sales and Marketing Manager at her family's business, Bonnell Industries, Jessica has great organization skills. She ensures prioritizing efficiency and pays attention to detail. With her experience in investing and owning a business, Jessica is confident she will ensure her clients a smooth and stress free real estate experience. [www.propertiesbylowry.com](http://www.propertiesbylowry.com) | [jessica@propertiesbylowry.com](mailto:jessica@propertiesbylowry.com) | 815.315.2617



**Matt Bouback**

Matt Bouback has owned and operated multiple companies in the health & fitness and transportation brokerage industries for over 15 years. As a long-time resident of northern Illinois, he has built a strong community of relationships, benefiting local buyers and sellers. He provides unparalleled service, honesty, integrity, and tackles any challenges. Matt is an Oregon, IL resident and is married to his best friend Carrie. Together they have two daughters, Olivia and Gabby. Matt attended and wrestled at Northern Illinois University and still enjoys competing today as an athlete in Hybrid Fitness events through his gym Reign XT in downtown Oregon, Illinois. [www.mattbouback.com](http://www.mattbouback.com) | [mattbouback@gmail.com](mailto:mattbouback@gmail.com) | 815.505.5827



**401 S. Barber, Polo \$199,000**  
Call Jen Rybicki

Looking for peace and quiet, Welcome home!! This charming 1900 sq ft home sitting on 3.6 acres boasts 4 generous size bedrooms, providing ample accommodations for family and guests. The main floor includes a welcoming layout with a comfortable living area, a well-appointed kitchen and a dining space perfect for gatherings. In addition, there's a wraparound porch which has it's own entry into the family room. The home offers 1 full bathroom on upper level and a half bath for added convenience on lower level. Behind the home is a massive 4,000 sq ft tool shop/garage ready for various projects and or hobbies. Schedule your showing today!!



**10 E. Hitt Street, Mt. Morris \$399,000**  
Call Jen Rybicki or Mark True

Are you ready to jump into the restaurant business? Look no further, this turnkey operation could be yours!!! The Peppermill restaurant is selling both business and building after 30 successful years of operation. The current owners have built a strong customer base, friendly atmosphere at a great location. The Peppermill offers a bar on the left side of the business with over 20 bar stools, seating for over 100 guests in the building and adequate amount of parking. Current owners are willing to train and guide you to maximize your investment and produce a cash flowing business of your own. This sale includes all equipment and inventory for a smooth transition. Set up your showing today, don't miss out this great opportunity!



**332 S. Canal Street, Dixon \$159,000**  
Call Carla

New Waterfront property in Woodland Shores Subdivision in Dixon School district. This completely rehabbed one story offers 2 bedrooms and one large full bathroom including laundry. Beautifully all new... it just sparkles throughout! New Roof, New Siding, New Windows, Kitchen, Bathroom.. Everything new inside and out!! White Pergola outside for summer entertaining. New landscaping down to the river with the dock included! All you have to do is bring your boat and move right on in!! Must see to appreciate it!



**410 S. Cherry Street, Morrison \$59,900**  
Call JD

Welcome to this charming 1-bedroom home, offering simplicity and convenience in a quaint package. Situated on a corner lot, this cozy home features main floor laundry and a full basement, providing functionality and ample storage space. But the real gem of this property is the oversized 3-car garage, perfect for car enthusiasts or as additional storage space. With its manageable size and easy maintenance, this home presents an excellent opportunity for homeownership or as an addition to a rental portfolio. Make this home yours today!



**607 S. 4th Street, Oregon NOW \$199,900**  
Call Jen Rybicki

You'll find Tons of Space in this 5+ bedroom, Tri-Level, brick & wood home in Oregon, IL! With 2450 square feet of living space there will be room for all the kids and grandpa too! Upper level has 1/2 bath, 1 bedroom, 1 bonus room plus large family room. Main level has full bath, kitchen, living room, foyer, 1st floor laundry area w/ washer & dryer. Lower level has 3 bedrooms, bonus room and a 1/2 bath. Kitchen has wonderful Sub Zero refrigerator, double wall ovens, disposal, electric stove top, newer dishwasher, & charming wood burning brick fireplace! New windows, roof & water softener in 2023! Spacious basement has nice work area, shelving & utility sink. Central air & gas furnace. Detached 2.5 car garage with new garage door plus 4 extra adjacent parking places. This home was designed with family in mind! Kids have access to school bus pickup. Close to shopping, restaurants and to the park for the kids!



**1501 Eadens Place, Dixon NOW \$164,900**  
Call JD

Recently built townhome with quick river access! Move right in and make it your own. This home offers a mix of practicality, functionality, and convenience of letting association dues cover exterior maintenance associated to snow removal and lawn care. Said dues also permit full access to utilize the expansive river front. This property features a spacious living room, kitchen with custom cabinetry and stone countertops, main floor laundry, attached garage, and more! Looking to get on the river more? Want to live worry free? Search no further... make it yours today!

 Rebecca Hazard 815-509-8432	 Carla Benesh 815-985-6235	 Mark True 815-631-1699	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-3596	 Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145	 Josie Kuss 815-994-1079	 Jen 773-849-3522	<b>606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL</b> <b>114 E Everett, Dixon, IL</b>	
 Taylor Miller 815-731-8943	 Merri Cruz 815-988-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308	 Erin Spence 815-262-5555	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055	 Jenn Goley 630-732-6858	 Becky Adams 815-509-5837	 Matt Bouback 815-505-5827	 Jessica Lowry 815-315-2617	<b>815-732-9100</b>
<b>RockValleyProperties.com</b> Each office is independently owned & operated.											



# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## Reviewing March Madness

WHILE we wait for the weather to warm up for spring sports, let's review the NCAA basketball tournament, or "March Madness", as they call it, although the IHSA claims to be original coiner of the term March Madness.

Anyway, it is madness with all the upsets and tantalizing close finishes. The game that received the highest TV ratings was unheralded Oakland (not California) beating perennial power Kentucky.

What makes this tournament fun is watching all the underdogs make a name for themselves. Before Oakland beat Kentucky, nobody outside of Rochester, Michigan (where the school is located) knew who they were. They drew us in again with an overtime loss in the second round to NC State.

Unknowns, such as Oakland three-point specialist Jake Gohlke, who proclaimed to the viewing audience after the Kentucky win, "We are not Cinderellas", suddenly become household names. Gohlke will be forgotten by next season when the tournament rolls around, but for one weekend, he was in the limelight as much as Caitlin Clark of Iowa.

Great to see the women's version of March Madness continue to make a meteoric rise in popularity, with Clark being the face of all of college basketball. No one on the men's side comes close to her in name recognition of fanfare.

Not only that, but some consider her a bigger star than anyone in the NBA. If you doubt that, check out the environment in any the arenas, home and away, she had played in. Allegedly, there is a female pop star that carries the same cache, but I'll take Caitlin.

I do have a couple of complaints about the tournament, especially on the mens side. It is mind-numbing enduring all the replay checks the officials do in the final couple minutes of a game, be it possessions, flagrant fouls or clock time.

If there is such a need for this, why isn't it being done the full 40 minutes? Then again, games would take forever to finish, more so with all the TV timeouts.

While channel-surfing four games that were on simultaneously, each one had a commercial rolling when I clicked there. The product was much more enjoyable to view in the old days before money dictated everything.

While watching a few games (because I'm too cheap to pay for cable) at my neighbor Mark Wolber's house, he said players should

be given a technical for falling on the court and acting like they are hurt. I whole-heartedly agree. Stop acting like crybabies. Get up and be a man.

Of course, that sentiment could be the curmudgeon in both of us.

For those one to see some real hardcore athletes, the NCAA wrestling finals were also on this past weekend. Those guys are absolutely tough-as-nails when it comes to competing.

Unfortunately, wrestling has always played second fiddle to basketball. It's gotten so bad, that the sport has had to petition to continue as an Olympic sport, while break dancing makes its debut at the Paris Games this summer.

The last Olympics I attended as a spectator was Montreal in 1976. Before I considered going to Paris, but travel has become such a hassle nowadays, beside the exorbitant costs for airfare to Europe and lodging there.

Life was easier 48 years ago, when my friend Doyle Lang and I piled into his late model Ford LTD and drove to Montreal, camping every place we went.

A lasting memory for me was being in the stadium for the decathlon and seeing Bruce Jenner claim a gold medal and set a world record in the process. With his rugged build, good looks and extreme athletic prowess, he was the picture of manliness.

There was another side to humanity that intrigued me. Our seats were close to the shot put ring and the women's finals were going on. It was eastern European females dominating the event and from my close-up vantage point, they all looked like men, with facial hair and muscular torsos.

This was before the crack down on steroid usage and drug enhancement. The poor American girls didn't have a chance, but they will probably end up living longer because their bodies weren't subject to such abuse.

At the shot put ring in Montreal, it was somewhat shocking to see women having characteristics of a male, but nowhere near the surprise I felt decades later when Jenner changed his gender, going from Bruce to Caitlyn.

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



**Andy Colbert**

### BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### Trustee Opening

We currently have an opening for a Trustee with a term that expires in 2025. Our Board of Trustees meets at the library on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 PM. If interested, please contact Director Linda Schreiber at 815-738-2742 during business hours or by email at bertolet705@gmail.com.

#### Solar Eclipse Viewers

On Monday, April 8th, there will be a partial solar eclipse in our area. In preparation for this, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago has provided public libraries in Illinois with a limited supply of safe solar viewers. Please stop in to receive your free solar eclipse viewers. While supplies last, limit 4 per family.

#### 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.

#### Stories with Stacey

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

#### A to Z Reading Challenge

Did you know... You don't have to read through the alphabet in order, but if you are, you should be on a book title that starts with the letter "F." You've got 52 weeks to read through 26 letters of the alphabet. You've got this! Haven't started? There's still time to catch up; stop at the circulation desk today.

#### Create-a-Card

Saturday, April 20th at 9:00 AM We are looking forward to seeing you and Jessie again as our Create-a-Card sessions resume. All materials are provided.

#### April Book of the Month

After a tornado rips through Painters Mill and a skeleton is found, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder begins to solve the crime. The clues lead her to a 30 year old missing persons case and right into Amish country, where she is from and tries to avoid going. Stop by the circulation desk and pick up a copy of this thrilling mystery, *After the Storm* by Linda Castillo.

#### April Take & Make Craft

In honor of the solar eclipse on April 8, stop by to pick up a kit to make edible phases of the moon.

#### 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

Like a Mother by Mina Hardy  
Too Late by Colleen Hoover (LP)  
The Summer Book Club by Susan Mallery

##### Graphic Novel

Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder by Dav Pilkey

##### Picture Books

Pinkalicious Kittens! Kittens! Kittens! by Victoria Kann  
Spring Is For Strawberries by Katherine Pryor

##### DVDs

All Creatures Great & Small: Season 4  
Wish



## MY BUSINESS, MY BANK

## Headons Fine Meats, Creston IL



**LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1970, NEW OWNERS MARK HIBSHMAN, AND HIS SON JUSTIN, ARE GROWING THE BUSINESS WITH NEW & CREATIVE IDEAS**

# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### National Library Week - April 7-13th

National Library Week is a time to celebrate our Nation's libraries, library workers contributions, and promote library use and support. The library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country. From picture books and large print to audiobooks and ebooks, library of things collection items, book clubs, story times, yoga, craft classes, lectures and more, the library is the place to be. Check out reading material from the Oregon Public Library this week and receive a scratch-off ticket (Oregon Public Library District cardholders only) for every 3 readable items checked out. Prizes for the lucky winners.

### 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or call (815) 732-2724.

### Community Seed Library

Looking to start your garden planning? Check out our seed library. We have over 100 packets of all types of heirloom seeds, free for anyone. Stop by the library and see for yourself.

### 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.

### Grandlin

Illinois Library Presents Dr. Temple Grandin - Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00pm. Join us for a special event with Dr. Grandin, one of the world's most accomplished and well-known adults with autism. Dr. Grandin has been at the forefront of research and activism for autism and neurodiversity for decades. Her memoir, *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*, was published in 1986 and she has continued to write about

autism and neurodivergence over the decades. Her most recent book is *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*. Dr. Grandin's research and understanding of animal behavior spearheaded a reform in the quality of life for agricultural animals worldwide. Register at: [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_TempleGrandin](https://bit.ly/ILP_TempleGrandin)

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. 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). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email [illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com](mailto:illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com)

### Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30 to discuss *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, April 21 at 2:00pm at Courthouse Tavern. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, April 17 at 1 pm to discuss *Master Butchers Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 30 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss *Grave Mercy* by Robin LaFevers. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The Five Wishes* of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple.

### Yoga

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

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, April 15th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill

level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com>

### Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, April 16th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Paper Quilling - Paper quilling is a popular craft where strips of paper are fixed together to create cards, gift bags, decorative boxes, or pieces of art. This class is for Oregon Patrons Only. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

### Writing Short Stories

Wednesday, April 17th, at 6 P.M. What do Stephen King, James Joyce and Zora Neale Hurston all have in common? They all wrote short stories during their illustrious careers - and so can you! Adam Moderow, author of the short story anthology, *Songs to Dream By*, and Oregon librarian Richard Pulfer will discuss the in's and out's of writing short stories. They'll also discuss how to submit short stories and get published. Registration requested, call (815) 732-2724 or [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

### Trivia Night at Cork N Tap

THEME: 80s POP Culture - Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm. Grab your friends and have a night out of fun! 80s POP Culture! This trivia will cover general knowledge of pop culture in the 80s. Program intended for 18 and over. Register your team of up to 6 players at (815) 732-2724 or <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com>. Prizes! Join the waitlist if it says full, we will try to get everyone that we can in to play. Registration required.

### 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.

### Passport Services

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

OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story - *The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians* by Carla Morris. At the StoryWalk is Hey, Little Ant by Phillip & Hannah Hoose.

## 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](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.

### Did you know

That you can now order 3D print projects from the Byron Library? The library's Creative Studio is home to two 3D printers that are available for making 3D prints for learning and entertainment purposes. 3D prints cost \$.10 per gram PLA, and will be available for pickup within 7-10 business days. Please visit <https://www.byronlibrary.org/3d-printing/> for more information on how to submit your 3D print idea.

### 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](http://byronlibrary.org) or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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

## MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

### Book Club

Tuesday April 2nd - Book Club. On the first Monday of the month we meet for a conversation about our book of the month at 11:00 am. Stop by the Mt. Morris Library for this month's book.

### Diamond Painting

Whether you have tried it before or you are brand new, you are welcome to join us. We will have a choice of diamond paintings for sale (they range from \$5 - \$15) and we will create beautiful art together. See you at 11:00 am.

### Bus trips

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

## FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

### Solar Eclipse Viewers

On Monday, April 8th there will be a partial solar eclipse in our area. In preparation for this, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago has provided public libraries in Illinois with a limited supply of safe solar viewers. If you are interested in receiving a free viewer, please call or stop in.

### Toddler/Pre-school Story-time

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite little person to share in a time of stories, crafts and activities every Wednesday that school is in session. This fun, relaxed program introduces children to the joy of reading and making new friends.

### Community Room

Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family reunions, and more.

Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

### Soft Plastic Recycling

We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic

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

## Thanks for a great Tax Season



Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA



Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

## Year-Round Accounting, Payroll and Tax Services

**WALTERS**  
Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley  
815.645.8979

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

04012024

# KING BLACKTOP

*For All Your Blacktop and Sealcoat Needs*

- ◆ Installation of NEW Blacktop Parking Lots & Driveways
- ◆ Commercial & Residential
- ◆ Driveway Additions
- ◆ Blacktop Repairs/Patching
- ◆ Sealcoating/Crack Filling



**Sign up NOW for 2024 Season!**

Serving Ogle, Boone & Winnebago County for over 35 years

**815-234-4171**

or **815-234-2225**



3499 E Tower Rd  
PO Box 652  
BYRON, IL 61010

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

# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Kathy's Crafty Connections

Tuesdays from 2:30-4pm  
Mount Morris Library is giving crafters an opportunity to come to an open session for working on their craft! Winter is a great time to start a new project or work on an old! Bring your project, meet other crafters, connect with old friends, and make new friends! Any portable craft is welcome: hand sewing, needlepoint, crochet, knitting, felting, beading, painting, or any craft you enjoy. Join us each Tuesday at 2:30 for friends and fun!

### Cookbook Club

Next Meeting April 2nd  
Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book, Start Here: Instructions for Becoming a Better Cook by Sohla El-Waylly and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on April 2nd, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

### Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

Thursday, April 4th  
What a great time it is to make some lovely home-made cards to send to family and friends! We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Thursday, April 4th from 5-7! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, fees are by donation. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before March 28th!

### Solar Eclipse Program

Sunday, April 7th  
Come by on Sunday, April 7th at 2pm to learn all about the upcoming solar eclipse on Monday! This event is geared toward anyone who wants to learn more about the solar eclipse. The program will be followed with crafts and a free pair of solar viewers for the next day's eclipse! Solar viewers provided by Adler Planetarium. This event is wonderful for anyone of all ages!

### Story Time!

Wednesdays at 11:15am  
We will be reading books and the children will

create a craft this Wednesday, 3/13. Story time is every Wednesday @11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

### Lego Club

Thursday, April 18th  
Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Stop by on April 18th, from 6 - 7pm! Bring a friend and build some fun with Lego bricks! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

### Adult Book Club Meeting

Monday, April 29th  
The April book, The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post, by Allison Pataki, is available! Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Copies of the book are available at the library. Meeting will be held at the library on April 29th at 3:30pm.

### Display Case Showings

"I'm a Barbie girl in a Barbie world!" Skip yourself over to the library to check out this perfect display of the pink, the perfect, the plastic that is known around the world as Barbie! This collection is on display courtesy of Kit Reynolds, Thank You! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

### Explore More Illinois

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

### Axis360 is now BOUNDLESS

Your library's Axis 360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can

provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

### Adult Programming

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

### Memorial Gifts

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

### Newspaper Available!

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

### Curbside Service is available!

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

### Additional Services Offered

We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054 - 815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## APRIL 2

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

## APRIL 8

The Byron Area Seniors are having their monthly meetings and potluck luncheons on the second Monday of every month. These meetings take place at the Byron Forest Preserve District's Jarrett Prairie Center. The next meeting and luncheon will be April 8 at noon with Bingo following the meeting. Please bring a dish to pass - the club provides all the meat. The group is looking for seniors 55 and older to join the club. There are members from Rochelle to Machesney Park and Davis Junction to Oregon. It

doesn't matter where you live, you can be a member of the club. Dues are only \$10 a year. Want to get out of the house and have good conversation with other seniors? Want to have a good lunch with informative meetings and entertainment? Then join the club at the Jarrett Center. If interested you can come to the next meeting or call 815-520-1215.

## MAY 19

Prairie Preservation's annual banquet will be held at the Lorado Taft Field Campus, 1414 N. River Road, Oregon, on Sunday, May 19. A social hour with book and native plant sales and silent auction from 5-6 p.m. will be followed by a delicious meal (either turkey with the works or vegetarian Moroccan stew) at 6 p.m. and a program at 7 p.m. More information will be posted as the date draws closer.

Brought to you by these sponsors:



**EST. 1992**  
**GLENDENNING**  
GRAIN, INC.  
Grain Handling & Merchandising  
213 South Hickory St. • P.O. Box 408, Stillman Valley, IL 61084  
(815) 645-8120 Fax: (815) 645-2736  
09262016

Your Independently Owned  
Community Bank Since 1882

**Stillman**  
BANK

Byron 815-234-5626 Oregon 815-732-7956 Rochelle 815-562-7071 Rockford 815-332-8100 Roscoe/Rockton 815-623-1800 Stillman Valley 815-645-2266

 www.stillmanbank.com  09262015

**Jonas Martin**  
**Well Drilling Co.**  
Randy & Vickie Roop  
171 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL  
**815-732-2216**  
CC2018



**Heartland**  
REALTY

 **Matthew Hermes**  
Managing Broker  
(815) 288-4648  
Fax: (815) 288-1599  
heartland1254@gmail.com  
10102016  
www.heartlandrealtyonline.com

**BRADFORD**  
**VICTOR - ADAMS**  
Mutual Insurance Company  
Providing Insurance Since 1869

120 W. South St., Franklin Grove, IL  
**815-456-2334**  
09262016



**Hank's Repair**  
Hank Kaiser-Owner  
ASE Certified  
P.O. Box 31  
54 Stephenson St.  
German Valley, IL 61039  
Bus. ph. 815-362-3451 Cell ph. 815-238-5144 Fax ph. 815-362-2316  
CC2018



**THE POLO ROOM**  
ABSINTE BAR, RESTAURANT  
AND EVENT CENTER  
POLO, ILLINOIS

712 N Division St.  
Polo, IL  
815-946-2886  
Thursday - Saturday 5PM to 1AM



**Etnyre**  
"Providing rewarding careers for over 120 years"  
1333 S Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL 61061 • Apply at www.etnyre.com/careers



**DeForest Dental P.C.**  
606 W. Washington St.  
815.732.3225  
www.deforestdental.com  
Accepting new patients



# LOCAL NEWS

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

### Storytime at the Library

Join us in person at the library for songs, stories and crafts! Ages 2-5. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Registration required.

### 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.

### European Travel for Beginners

Have you dreamed of jet-setting to Europe? Not sure how to get started? Join frequent fliers, Joanna and Wayne, as they help prepare you for your first European holiday. They'll cover everything you need to know before you go: selecting a destination, booking your flight and hotels, learning the ins and outs of transportation once you get there, living like a temporary local and more. Monday, April 22, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Genealogy: The Next Steps

So you've been researching your family history, and you have a ton of information! Now what? In this workshop we'll talk about how to organize your research, ways to verify your findings according to genealogy standards and options for sharing or even



Matt and Cynthia, of Nostalgia Entertainment, perform a Roaring 20s themed show featuring the music and history of the Jazz Age, last week at Julia Hull District Library. (Courtesy photos)

publishing family histories. Tuesday, April 23, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Who Was Lilly Pulitzer?

It is 1969, and Lily Pulitzer is transforming fashion with her boldly patterned shift dresses. In this new costumed portrayal, Leslie Goddard brings to life the celebrated entrepreneur, fashion designer and socialite. Learn what inspired this free-spirited socialite to launch a line of tropical dresses that became synonymous with resort living. Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Toddler Time: Scarves and Para-

### chutes

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some fun musical play with scarves and parachutes. Friday, May 3, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Tween Scene: Yarn Painting

Make an abstract work of art without paint or brush! We'll use yarn to cover a canvas to make a masterpiece that is not only beautiful but also soft and fuzzy! Tuesday, May 7, 6 p.m. All supplies provided. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Goal  
4 Hosp. hook-ups  
7 "Peter Pan" pooch  
11 "Pygmalion" writer  
13 Use a straw  
14 Bone-dry  
15 Teeny bit  
16 Capita lead-in  
17 Makes lace  
18 Tic  
20 Laptop connection  
22 Deli choice  
24 Radiated  
28 Reach  
32 Battery part  
33 King of the jungle  
34 Dog's foot  
36 Similar  
37 Canal vessel  
39 iPads, e.g.  
41 "In America" writer Susan  
43 — Perignon  
44 Partially mine  
46 Chip choice  
50 First light  
53 Suitable  
55 Roller coaster feature  
56 "Zounds!"  
57 Three, in Rome  
58 Links org.  
59 Pear variety  
60 Storm center

**DOWN**

1 Tag sale words  
2 Breakfast chain  
3 — Hari  
4 AOL, for one  
5 Perspective  
6 Parsley piece  
7 Site of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial  
8 Coach  
9 Quibble  
10 Billboards  
12 Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale  
19 Astronaut Jemison  
21 Ga. neighbor  
23 Super Bowl VIP  
25 Stirred  
26 Tend texts  
27 Cozy rooms  
28 Priestly vestments  
29 Pisa farewell  
30 Trumpet  
31 Chow down  
35 Bankroll  
38 Vichy water  
40 "— voyage!"  
42 Shred, as cheese  
45 Agile  
47 Mimic  
48 Swine  
49 October birthstone  
50 Cotillion celeb  
51 Previously  
52 Existed  
54 Golf peg

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### MAGIC MAZE ● — OVER —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: A DOUBLE BOGEY IN GOLF

- All the map
- Eggs easy
- Get with
- Moon Miami
- All with
- End end
- Go big
- Not yet
- Come here
- Fried easy
- Hand fist
- Voice IP
- Do again
- Get it
- Head heels

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

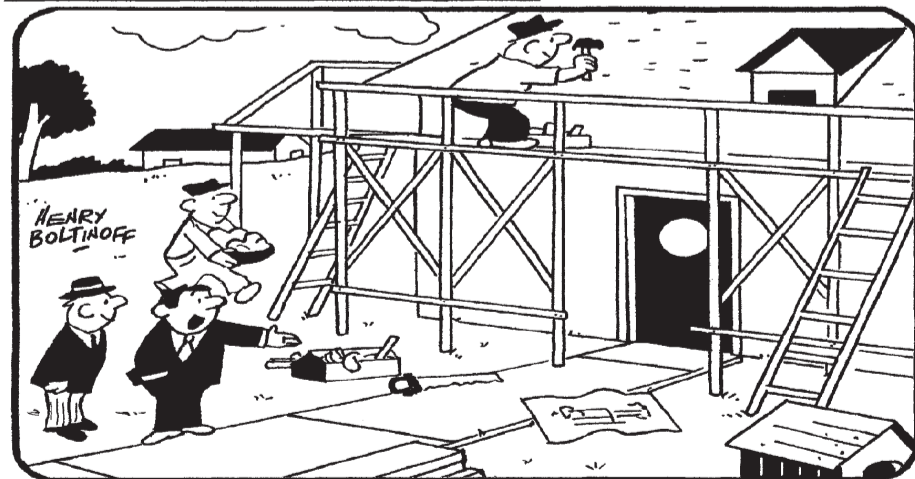
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

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

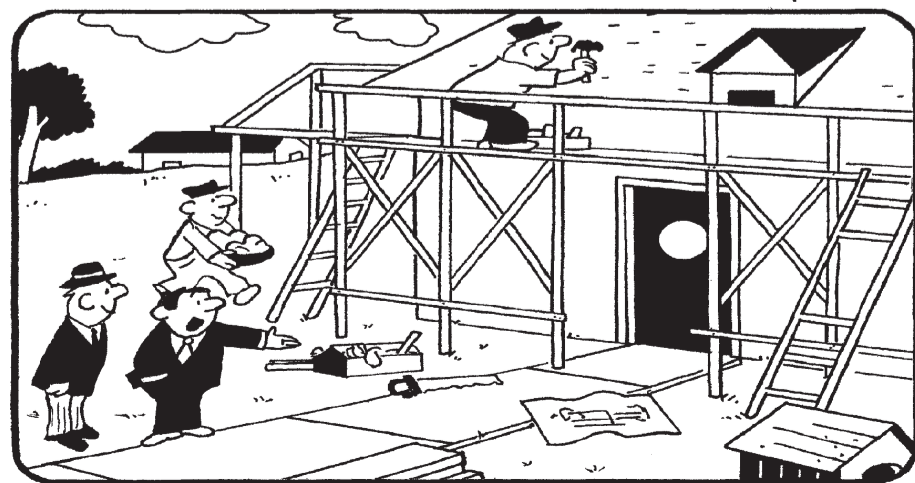
© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Door is taller. 2. Toolbox is moved. 3. Man is taller. 4. Dormer is moved. 5. Ladder rung is missing. 6. Line in walkway is moved.

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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



# Here's

# Our Card

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

**ACCOUNTING**

**Jeanette Heesaker, CPA**  
Masters in Business Administration and Finance

Certified Managerial Accountant  
Accounting and Tax Services  
For Business/Individual/Partnership  
132 W. Second St., Suite 1 • Byron, IL 61010  
**(815) 234-8100**

**AIR CONDITIONING**

HEATING AIR CONDITIONING

**Carrier**

Turn to the experts

**GAUL'S CLIMATE CONTROL**  
815-734-7314

Randy Gaul 815-946-2386 604 N. Division Polo, Illinois 61046

**AUTO REPAIR**

**Hank's Repair**  
Hank Kaiser-Owner  
ASE Certified

P.O. Box 31  
54 Stephenson St.  
German Valley, IL 61039

Bus. ph. 815-362-3451 Cell ph. 815-238-5144  
Fax ph. 815-362-2316

**AUTO REPAIR**

**Illinois AUTO REPAIR & TIRE SERVICE**

**Tony Kurzac**  
107 E. Washington St.  
Route 64  
Oregon, IL 61061  
815-312-7089

Sell New & Used Tires/Rims  
All Makes & Models  
Cars/Truck Service

Trailer Repair  
Auto Repair  
Lowest Price Around

**AUTO REPAIR**

**Lloyd's Automotive Repair LLC**

Lloyd Duncan  
309 N Wesley Ave  
Mt Morris IL 61054  
779-340-0734

**CABINETS**

**ValleyCraft Custom Cabinet LLC**

Handcrafted quality to last a lifetime

◇ Kitchen - Bath - Laundry - Office - and more!  
◇ Fully Custom, From Design to Installation  
◇ Free Estimates, Friendly Local Service

Contact Eric  
815.973.9951  
Fax  
815.900.2090

Come visit our showroom  
2477 E. IL Hwy 64  
Oregon, IL 61061  
Appointments Appreciated

**CARPET CLEANING**

**3-D Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning**

900 W. Washington St.  
Oregon, IL 61061

Heather Ruchti  
Ph: (815) 762-5307

**CONCRETE**

**CONCRETE INC.**

Neil Wills  
President / Owner  
Flatwork / Foundations

815.978.6073

741 Oaks Lane  
Byron, IL 61010

Free Estimates  
Fully Insured

**CONCRETE**

**Yoder Concrete Construction LLC**

How can we help you?

- Patios
- Floors
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Resealing
- Decorative

Jerold Yoder  
815.202.8787

FREE ESTIMATES  
jerry@yoderconcrete.us

**CONSTRUCTION**

**Mark Miller Construction**  
For All Your Building Needs!

Commercial/Residential Work  
SERVING OGLE COUNTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

- New Construction
- Roofing
- Windows
- Additions
- Complete Remodeling
- Siding
- Painting
- Interior/Exterior
- Drywall
- Flooring
- Decks

Free Estimates • Lead Certified

**815-761-1626**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**NAVARRO & SONS Construction Company**

Free Estimates \*\*\*\*\* Sr. Citizen Discount

Ceramic Tile • Wood Floors • Painting • Siding-  
Basements • Room Additions • Baths • Kitchens

Over 25 yrs. exp. Custom touch No job too big or too small

**FRANK NAVARRO • OREGON / BYRON**  
PHONE: 815-234-7588 FAX: 815-234-7568

**FIREWOOD**

**AT's FIREWOOD**

815-751-2255

ALL HARDWOODS, SEASONED,  
DELIVERED, STACKED

**GARAGE DOORS**

**Illinois DOORMASTERS LLC**

990 W Pines Rd. Oregon, IL 61061  
815-440-9827  
office@illinoisdoormasters.com

Serviceing and Installing Garage doors

**HAIR CARE**

**Leaf River Kutz**  
122 Main Street <Leaf River II

Men, Women, Kids  
HAIR CUTS 815-738-6122

**HANDYMAN**

**C.J. HOME MAINTENANCE and REPAIR**

We fix almost anything in and around the home!  
20 Plus Years Experience  
Regular and Emergency Service 24 Hours A Day  
7 Days A Week

Phone 1-815-234-4511 Byron, Oregon,  
Cell 1-815-222-6239 Mt. Morris Areas

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Insured **INTEGRITY** FREE ESTIMATES  
HOME IMPROVEMENT & RENOVATION, LLC

New Construction • Complete Remodels • Additions • Windows  
Doors • Sunrooms • Kitchens • Basements • Baths • Garages

Dan Houston 815.871.5748 • Craig Kosch 815.566.7424

www.integrityhomeimp.com

**LAWNCARE**

**TURF OF ILLINOIS**

"Your prescription for a healthy yard!"

Fully Licensed  
Lawn Treatments  
Tree & Ornamental Care  
General Pest Control  
Mosquito Suppression  
Over 15 Years Experience

Toby Behmer  
Owner/Applicator  
Stillman Valley, IL  
815-393-6471  
toby@turfxil.com

**LAWN CARE**

**Furman's Lawn Care**

SPRING CLEAN-UP!

- Weekly Mowing
- Bush Trimming & Removal
- Gutter Cleaning
- Much More!

In Business Since 1999  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates

Call Jeremy Furman at 815-761-9619  
Please leave message and I will return your call ASAP

**PAINTING**

\* Interior & Exterior \* Free Estimates \* Insured

**Goodman PAINTING LLC**  
Quality • Craftsmanship

**Tim Goodman**  
815.222.9920

**PAINTING**

WALLPAPER PAINTING STAINING

FREE ESTIMATES **K & J DECORATING, INC.** HANDYMAN SERVICES

Specializing in painting or staining kitchen cabinets or woodwork.

Insured Over 40 Years Experience

Ken NO JOB TOO SMALL! Cell (815) 353-5754  
Stillman Valley, IL

**PAINTING**

**Tennison Painting**

Specializing in:  
New Construction  
Commercial & Residential  
Interior & Exterior - Painting & Staining  
Wall & Ceiling Repair - Texturing Walls & Ceilings - Insured

Ph: (815) 501-2893  
Email: jimtennison@gmail.com  
www.TennisonPainting.com

**PET GROOMING**

by **Dun Wright Grooming**

**MOBILE GROOMING**

- Pets Groomed at Your Home
- Less Stress on Yourself and Your Pet
- No More "Separation" Anxiety
- No More Day-Long Waits for Pets
- Cut of Your Choice (depends on coat condition)
- Specialty/Flea Baths Available
- Bath/Hand Blow-Drying/Toe Nails Clipped

Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright

**STORAGE SHEDS**

**Rocky Ridge Structures**

FREE Sales Rep. Evaluation At Your Site We Deliver! From Our Lot To Your Site

We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Many Options Available
- Competitive Pricing
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015  
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet  
779.861.3542

**TREE CARE**

**HOOVER Horticulture**

Serving Ogle County Since 1996

- Trimming & Removals
- Climbing Specialists
- Insect & Disease Control
- Planting Service
- Arborist Consulting

Fully Licensed & Insured

**732-4710**

"Your Trees Deserve a Certified Arborist!"

**TREE SERVICE**

**High Top Tree Service LLC**  
Byron, IL

- Tree removal/trimming
- Storm damage
- Stump grinding
- Climbing specialist

Call or Text: **815-980-0678**

**TREE REMOVAL**

**PINE VIEW TREE SERVICE**

Tree Trimming  
Removal  
Stump Grinding  
Storm Clean Up

Gabriel Mack  
P: 779-251-0254  
F: 815-946-4372

**WATER SOFTENER**

**SERVICE CALL SPECIAL**  
**\$29.95 ANY BRAND**

Offer Expires 4/30/20  
We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.  
Over 30 Years Experience.  
**AFFORDABLE WATER**

815-625-3426  
Toll Free: 877-353-7638

**WHEELS**

**Alloy Wheel Repair Specialists**

**GRANT DEVRIES**  
Certified Technician  
Cell 815-632-7777  
Office: 815-632-9999  
greggdevries@awrswheelrepair.com

A FULL SERVICE ALLOY WHEEL REPAIR & REPLACEMENT COMPANY

WWW.AWRSWHEELREPAIR.COM/ILLINOIS

**Wouldn't you like your business card seen by 28,500 people? CALL 815-732-2156**

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

**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)

mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.  
STILLMAN BANCORP, N.A., Administrator  
Jennifer L. Birkholz SMITH, BIRKHOLZ & MORROW, P.C.  
129 S. Fourth Street, P.O. Box 10 Oregon, IL 61061 (815) 732-6124 No. 0322 (March 25, April 1 & 8, 2024)

of the 156.13 acre site, more or less  
Property Identification Number: Part of 16-14-400-010  
Common Location: 2900 block of S. Daysville Rd.  
All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: [http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning\\_and\\_zoning/zoning\\_board\\_of\\_appeals.php](http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php).  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman  
Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 15th day of March 2024  
#04-24SU No. 0403 (April 1, 2024)

**NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
To the legal voters, residents of the Town of Pine Creek in the County of Ogle and the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m. at Pine Creek Town Hall, 5527 W. Pines Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 for the transaction of miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following  
Dated March 11, 2024 No. 0401 (April 1, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
The Byron Township Road District will be accepting sealed bids for the following material and services for fiscal year April 1, 2024 thru March 31, 2025:  
Base Rock, Road Rock, dirt to haul and load, 3/8 chips, pea gravel, hot mix with 3/8 stone, and cold mix.  
For Specifications, please contact Mark Rundle, Byron Township Road Commissioner, at 815-234-8438.  
Sealed bids must be received at the Byron Township Office, 507 Colfax Street, Byron IL by 10:00am on April 15, 2024.  
Bids will be opened April 15, 2024 at 10:15am at the Byron Township Office.  
Byron Township Road District reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.  
Barbara Rundle  
Byron Township Clerk No. 0402 (April 1, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In The Matter of the Estate of: ARLENE J. RIEDLINGER, Deceased.  
IN PROBATE No. 2024PR14  
CLAIM NOTICE  
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of ARLENE J. RIEDLINGER, of Mt. Morris, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on March 11, 2024, to STILLMAN BANCORP, N.A. of Rockford, Illinois, Administrator of the Estate, whose attorney is Jennifer L. Birkholz SMITH, BIRKHOLZ & MORROW, P.C. at 129 S. Fourth Street, P.O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061.  
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 25, 2024, or within 3 months from date of mailing or delivery of notice to creditors, if required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act of 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be

**103 AUCTIONS**

**HACK'S SPRING ANTIQUES & PRIMITIVES ONLINE AUCTION OPENS: Thurs., March 28th @ 8 A.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; Pedal Cars; Collectibles; Coca Cola; Artwork; Jewelry; Fine China & Glassware; Fur Hats; Designer Shoes; Textiles; **Much More!**

**'GARY HINDE ESTATE 4-DAY AUCTION' LARGE LIVE AUCTIONS!**  
14479 Saunders Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063  
Saturday, April 6th - 10:00 A.M.  
Day One - Shop Tools, Equipment & UTV Auction.  
Gary's Shop Is Full. Featuring Huge Selection Roller Tool Chests-Socket-Wrench Sets, Instruments, Grinders & Chop Saws; Welders & Torches; Power & Air Tools; Drill Press & Battery Chargers; Kennedy Roller Chests; Snap-On Tools; Equipto 120-Drawer Parts Bins & Storage Cabinets; Service Jacks & Stands; Log Chains & Binders; Chain Saws; Loads Hardware-Electrical-Automotive Supplies; Parts Indexes; Manuals; Many NIB Items; '16 Can-am Maverick 1000R UTV; **Much More.**

**Hinde Estate Auctions also scheduled: April 20, 27, May 4. Watch for Details!**  
Hack's Auction & Realty Service  
Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers  
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436  
[www.hacksauction.com](http://www.hacksauction.com)  
I.A.F.L. #44000128

**PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION DENNIS & CONNIE ARJES**  
804 CLAY STREET, OREGON, IL 61061  
Thursday, April 4th 8AM to Sunday, April 7th 5PM  
**This is an Online Auction.**

Please visit <https://aanotauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 4/3/24. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.  
**Personal Property:** Household items; various antiques and collectibles; miscellaneous decor items; hand and power tools; hardware and garage items; china and glassware, including pink depression glass; vintage toys, including Tonka and model trains/parts; vintage chests; various sports memorabilia; furniture, including household, vintage, and outdoor; antique coal stove; fishing items; grandfather clock; antique wooden planes; bicycles; yard roller; roto-tiller; snow blower; push mower, and much more!  
**Item Viewing:** Items will be available for online viewing no later than 8am on 4/3/2024. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.  
**Item Pick-up:** Pick up will be held on Thursday, April 11th from 4:30-7:00pm at address listed above.  
**Terms & Conditions:** This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.  
**Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for the Online Sale Link and additional sale information, including pictures, how to register for online bidding, and complete sale terms and conditions.**  
Travis Cunningham,  
Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600  
A & T Auction Services, LLC  
[atauctionservices@gmail.com](mailto:atauctionservices@gmail.com)  
815-297-4595

**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 Plow; 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 Plow; 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 495A?; 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](http://www.Prouctionsllc.com) and [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com)

[www.prouctionsllc.com](http://www.prouctionsllc.com)  
RICK GARNHART, AUCTIONEER  
German Valley, IL 61039  
815-238-3044  
IL Lic: 44000901 WI Lic: 2844-52

**AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?**  
**BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING**  
NHTSA ad council

**H.O.P.E**

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

All Calls Are Confidential.  
Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.  
**HOPE of Ogle County**



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

**Show & Sell**

**Place an Ad:**  
Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171  
Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

**Browse & Buy**

**Subscribe:**  
Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171  
Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

**All in the Classifieds!**

# AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

**A&T Auction Services, LLC**  
Travis Cunningham  
(815) 297-4595  
Located in Forreston, IL  
**Lenny Bryson**  
Sales Of All Kinds  
815-946-4120

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

**Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.**  
Auctions - Real Estate  
Appraisals  
Online Auctions  
Now Available  
Pecatonica, IL  
815-239-1436  
[Hacksauction.com](http://Hacksauction.com)

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**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. In business since 1999, weekly mowing, bushes, spring clean up and much more. Fully Insured, Free Estimates, Call Jeremy Furman, 815-761-9619. Please leave message and I will return call ASAP.

**201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE**

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is

licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

**203 HELP WANTED**

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

**301 ANTIQUES**

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

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

**ANTIQUES WANTED:**

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

**305 GARAGE SALES**

Garage Sale - Oregon, 600 South 2nd Street. Thursday, April 4, 4-7pm, Friday, April 5, 2-6pm & Saturday, April 6, 9am-2pm. Antiques, Collectibles, Primitives, Tools, Toys, Vintage, Women's Clothing, Miscellaneous & Much More.

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

**405 HOUSES FOR SALE**

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

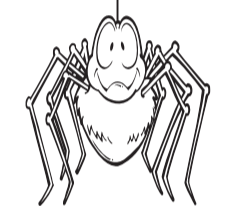
**501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

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

**511 STORAGE UNITS**

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

**ADVERTISE WITH US**



**305 GARAGE/ESTATE SALES**

**ESTATE SALE**  
1152 E Helle Rd. ~ Oregon  
April 4-6  
Thursday noon-6:00pm  
Friday 8:00am- 4:00pm  
Saturday 8:00-noon  
2 twin beds, dressers, glass door cabinet, storage racks, books jigsaw puzzles, Playskool doll house and garage set, lamps, seasonal décor, Longaberger baskets, cookware, dishes, misc items too many to list.  
PIA#10-04012024

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION**

**NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT**

- Refrigerators • Freezers
- Washers/Dryers • Stoves

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

6331 11th Street, Rockford  
**815-262-3900**  
04092023

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

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



Learn how to save for your retirement at **WeSaySaveIt.org**.

National Institute on Retirement Security, 2016.





# 9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OGLE COUNTY  
**LIFE**  
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER