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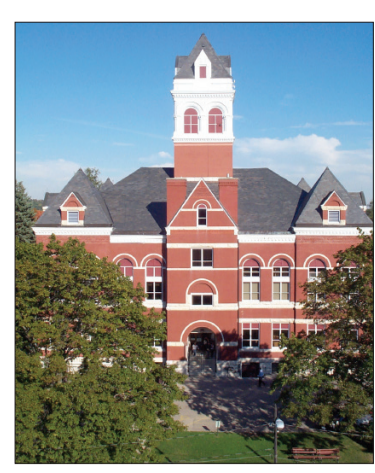
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VALLEY SHOPPER

MONDAY
April 8, 2024

FREE

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 04

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KNOW IT TODAY



PAG presents show this month

Performing Arts Guild of Mt. Morris will present "Love Letters: April 12-14 and April 19-21. A5

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
64 41	65 46
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
61 48	60 41
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
61 37	62 44

OBITUARIES

- Mary Louise Baker
- Elizabeth Benthien
- Penny McCoy

See page A4

INSERTS

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

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Shining Star CAC serves Ogle and Lee Counties

'Everybody can speak up for kids. Everybody can watch for signs'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

DIXON — Last fiscal year, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center conducted 219 forensic interviews with potential victims of child abuse in Ogle and Lee counties. The nonprofit organization has been in operation for over 20 years and has worked with over 3,000 children.

Shining Star, which is based in Dixon, works with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and law enforcement when there are issues of physical and sexual abuse of children. When there is an open case, Shining Star has its own location where children can be interviewed in a warm environment by trained staff. It also provides counseling,



Last fiscal year, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center conducted 219 forensic interviews with potential victims of child abuse in Ogle and Lee counties. The nonprofit organization has been in operation for over 20 years and has worked with over 3,000 children. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

court advocacy, community resources and more.

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. This month, Shining Star will be leading the way locally raising awareness

with events including National Wear Blue for Child Abuse Awareness Day on April 5, a Hands Around the Courthouse event on the Old Lee County Courthouse lawn on April 19 at noon, and

its yearly Crimes Against Children Conference on April 23 at the Dixon Elks Lodge at 1279 Franklin Grove Road in Dixon.

"One of our big focuses over the past couple of years is getting out into

the community more," Shining Star Executive Director Jessica Cash said. "We've been at a lot of community events and talking to a lot of community groups just to get the word out about the work we do. Child abuse has no boundaries, no matter what county you're in or any discriminatory factors. We've been working to provide education to parents on how to talk to their kids and report if disclosures do come out."

Cash said her organization works to raise awareness 12 months a year, but steps up efforts during the national month in April. Mayors in Ogle and Lee counties will be making proclamations in honor of the month and Shining Star during April.

See STAR page 2



"It's nice to help them through their journey and make things as comfortable as possible."

CANCER CONTROL MONTH AT RCH

RN Williams helps patients with infusions after her own fight in 2013

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — April is National Cancer Control Month. Rochelle Community Hospital's infusion services department offers cancer patients different types of chemotherapy along with hydration and adjunct therapy, RCH Manager of Outpatient Services Tracey Busby said. "We'll administer IV chemotherapy," Busby said. "We'll do oral chemotherapy. We do injectable chemotherapies. When they're here, we try to offer comfort and take that extra step, so it's not just about the treatment. We try to connect with them and have a more holistic approach. We offer financial programs that can help cancer patients. We also can network with wigs and hats for people that lost their hair. We can help to link them up with medical equipment or special undergarments or prosthetics."

Busby said she wants cancer patients in the area to know that they don't have to have a doctor at RCH to receive treatment there. With a current shortage of specialist physicians, cancer doctors may be in Rockford, Chicago or at the Mayo Clinic. RCH offers the ability for patients to get care closer to home by having doctors send those orders to RCH, where its doctors review the information and sign off on the orders.

See HELP page 3



(Courtesy photo)

McCombie honors Koeller Forrester Hardware

FORRESTON — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie spent time honoring a local business this month through her new program launched earlier this year to help promote the great business community in northwest Illinois.

This month, Leader McCombie visited Koeller Forrester Hardware as her second local business highlight of the year and presented them with a special certificate of recognition. The store came to life on Aug. 21, 2015, when it was purchased by Gary and Jane Koeller, who are longtime Forrester residents. Gary Koeller, who moved to Forrester in 1967, is a plumber and handy man, which makes the store a perfect fit. The family-run store is a staple in the community offering essential supplies and wisdom for any home projects, but it goes far beyond just that.

See AWARD page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

STAR: Online cases involving kids growing

From page 1

"It's everyone's job to help protect kids, not just the people employed to do it," Cash said. "Everybody can speak up for kids. Everybody can watch for signs. We'll have people wearing blue to spread awareness about child abuse and its prevalence in our communities. Some people think it's kind of a bigger-city problem. It's not. It's everywhere. People read online stories from other places. It happens here too."

If you suspect abuse of a child, you can report it to the DCFS hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE. Cash said Shining Star always encourages people to also report possible abuse to local law enforcement as well due to the DCFS having certain parameters of cases they can take or not take. If it doesn't fall into DCFS investigation parameters, local law enforcement will always investigate.

Shining Star works with 13 different local police agencies, two prosecutor's offices and two DCFS

offices. It has also started working more with Homeland Security and the FBI on online cases in recent years.

"On a daily basis, we're working with a wide network of professionals," Cash said. "With our two counties, all of our police, prosecutors and DCFS officials work hard on these cases and are really dedicated to helping kids. I don't always hear that from other child advocacy centers. I think we're very fortunate in the team we do have and their dedication to helping kids."

Cash said Shining Star has been seeing more online cases concerning child abuse and children going online and talking to strangers and it resulting in sexual assault or grooming. The local children's advocacy center has also seen an uptick since COVID-19 in physical abuse of children by parents.

"We definitely saw an uptick since COVID-19 in physical abuse with parents being more stressed with things like jobs or resources, or just being home with their kids more," Cash

said. "What would normally be punishment turned into abuse with different things. We have seen an uptick in that. We've also seen an uptick in digital sexual abuse that involves kids against each other. We've been managing that and helping kids get resources for that."

Shining Star recently saw its VOCA (Victim of Crime Act) funding cut in the amount of about \$20,000 and has been trying to make that money up through fundraising. The cut did cause the organization to have to reduce one counselor position, which it hopes to add back with new grants it's requested for the future.

When it had two counselors, Shining Star was able to provide counseling for both parents and kids. It now has to refer parents to other agencies for counseling, which Cash said makes parents less likely to follow through with the service.

The work that those in the Shining Star office carry out for area children on a daily basis does not come without hard days, Cash said.



(Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

"Some days are much harder than others," Cash said. "Not only for our staff, but law enforcement and prosecutors too. We work with them all on the importance of self care and taking time to yourself. We have a peer support group where a clinician comes in and talks with us once a month about secondary trauma and things like that. We offer counseling for our staff if they need it. We give a generous amount of time off so that people aren't getting burned out. If we have exceptionally-hard cases, we

want to give people time off if they need it. It's definitely something we manage on an ongoing basis."

Shining Star has a wish list of needed items on its website at shiningstar.org. Needs include snacks and drinks for kids when they come for services, along with items that go home with kids in comfort bags such as stuffed animals, blankets, coloring books, journals and toys.

"They're simple things that people can donate that really help us out a lot," Cash said. "We are very

fortunate that we have a lot of community support. I still feel like there's more work we could do to get our name and what we do out there. A lot of families don't know about us until they have to use us. We're trying to change that and be a resource for people even if they're not going through an abuse situation. We can show people how to talk to their kids and things like that. We're very fortunate with our board members and volunteers. The support we have in both counties is wonderful."

Womanspace offers fine arts scholarship to high school seniors

ROCKFORD — Womanspace is looking to further the creative ambitions of one high school senior by offering a \$1,000 college scholarship. The application criteria are as follows: Must be a resident of Winnebago, Boone or Ogle County. Must be a senior at a Winnebago, Boone or Ogle County public or private high school. Must have a minimum

GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0. Must have a chosen academic field of study in fine arts (includes: visual arts, such as drawing, sculpting, painting, music, dance, theater or architecture). Applications without an identified major will not be considered.

The deadline for this scholarship is April 15 with the awardee notified no later than April 30. A full application can be found online at www.womanspace-rockford.org/scholarship. Application materials must be submitted to krisilizie@mac.com or mailed to: Womanspace Scholarship 2024, 3720 Highcrest Road, Rockford, IL 61107.

Womanspace is a not-for-profit organization offering programs for women, men and children to enhance body, mind and spirit, with a focus on the creative arts, holistic health, interfaith exploration and environmental stewardship. Situated on seven wooded acres in Rockford, Illinois, the Womanspace campus boasts multi-media art studios, galleries, a gift shop, beautiful gardens and a much-celebrated labyrinth. More information can be found at www.womanspace-rockford.org.

AWARD: McCombie is highlighting local businesses

From page 1

The store serves the community while also supporting other local businesses through their "County Corner" that highlights local entrepreneurs: from handmade soap to butchered meats. The store also contains local history from its past days as the old post office and bank. Portions of the building remain intact from that time — including the colorful ceiling in the main area.

"Everyone needs to have a local hardware store in their rotation and the selection of goods paired with the expertise and friendliness of staff make this a staple spot in Forrester," McCombie said. "This store goes above and beyond to not only be a great business but be an essential part of the community here."

Highlighting local businesses is an ongoing effort for Leader McCombie to continue to connect with business owners throughout the district—and bring great resources to constituents. McCombie encourages constituents to help suggest local businesses that deserve recognition by using the nomination form below:

<https://repmccombie.com/local-business-high-light-submission-form/>

The 89th District includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties. With questions, constituents can contact Leader McCombie's Office at (815) 291-8989.

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

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501 S. 2nd Street, Oregon

\$20,000 dickersonnieman.com/202307306

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705 W. Blackhawk Drive, Byron

\$549,900 dickersonnieman.com/39090191

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MAYDELL LESSEN
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(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

HELP: Hospital also offers support group

From page 1

“Our pharmacy is involved too,” Busby said. “We can get pretty much any kind of drug here. I think people don’t know that. Not just cancer treatment, but people can get anything done here with a doctor’s order. Patients need to know they can advocate for themselves, and I think that’s really important especially if they have certain restraints on transportation or time. People should know that they don’t have to venture so far from home and have that worry about being so far away. I want patients to know that they have a choice.”

RCH Senior Infusion Nurse Donna Williams, RN, has serviced patients whose doctors have been all the way in Chicago or at the Mayo Clinic. She said patients enjoy not having to travel a longer distance, along with the more intimate atmosphere at RCH. She knows from more than a professional perspective what RCH can do for cancer patients, because she underwent chemotherapy there herself after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013.

Less than two weeks after her diagnosis, Williams underwent surgery. She then went to her oncologist and was told she’d have to undergo chemotherapy. She worked in a different department at RCH at the time and was unaware it offered chemotherapy. Once she found out it did, she told her doctor she wanted to



Williams

do it in Rochelle.

“And that’s what I wanted, because I worked here,” Williams said. “I live in Rockford five minutes away from a hospital. But I chose Rochelle. The experience is different. Everybody here is so friendly. You don’t get that at the bigger hospitals. I did have my first dose of chemo at a bigger hospital. It’s a long day of getting shuffled around and you get your chemo and go home. Here, you come in and you’re already pre-registered and we register them right in our unit and go over their vitals and medications. We order their labs. Everything is done. They don’t have to move out of that chair unless they want to.”

Williams said that for her, it was more inviting and comforting to get her chemotherapy done at RCH. She now enjoys treating patients that are in the same position she was once in.

“I love it,” Williams said. “It’s always great when they have a good outcome. But with cancer, not everybody does. It’s nice to help them through their journey and make

things as comfortable as possible for those patients. You just want them to have the very best.”

Williams continued to work while she was undergoing chemotherapy years ago to support her family as a single mother. She touted RCH’s support of her, along with the financial assistance program it offers patients.

“We do whatever we can for the patients here,” Williams said. “We offer the services that cancer patients need. And when we work with them, we just talk to them. If they want to talk about their diagnosis or what they’re experiencing. We always let them know what to expect in their journey with things like side effects. We do what we can to make it a little more comfortable for them.”

Support group

RCH also offers a cancer support group led by one of its RNs, Teri Dickey. The group offers a network of comfort and encouragement. Attendees can connect with people in a safe place of support and recognition. The general support group is for those currently in treatment, post-treatment, and their caregivers. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday in February, May, August & November from 2-3 p.m. at Rock River Center at 810 S. 10th St. in Oregon. For more information, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252. Everyone is welcome to attend the free group.



(Courtesy photo)

Eagle’s Nest Art Group Spring Membership Show at Conover Gallery opens April 27

OREGON — Eagle’s Nest Art Group will hold its annual Spring Membership Show at its Conover Square gallery located on the second floor at 201 N. 3rd St., Oregon. The show will open with a reception on Saturday, April 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The art show will continue on Sunday, April 28, Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The show contains over 80 original pieces of art, including paintings, glass work, pottery, calligraphy, drawings, fiber art, works on wood, and gourd art. In addition, large and small prints are available for sale.

ENAG is a group of 82 members who are all from our local area: Oregon, Mt. Morris, Chana, Byron, Polo, Dixon,

Forreston, Rochelle, Hampshire, Ashton, Sterling, Rock Falls, Winnebago, Rockford, Sycamore, Pecatonica, Pearl City, and Loves Park.

This show is dedicated to celebrating the long history of art in this area. ENAG was founded in 1957 to support the work of local artists and share art through hosting shows, offering programs and informal studio art sessions, and conducting art classes.

Artists will be on hand each day of the show to welcome you. Refreshments will be served.

The shops of Conover Square will be open during show hours. The show is free and parking is plentiful.

For more information about the group call 815-732-7783.

Public input meetings planned for potential LOTS scheduled routes

ROCHELLE — The Lee-Ogle Transportation System (LOTS), a leading transportation organization, is excited to announce a series of public input meetings to study the feasibility of providing scheduled route public transit in Dixon and Rochelle. Community members are invited to attend one of four planned meetings hosted by LOTS to provide valuable input on the future of scheduled bus service in these cities.

LOTS, in collaboration with public transportation consultant RLS & Asso-

ciates, aims to evaluate options for fixed route bus service to enhance access to workplaces, medical care, education, shopping, recreation, and more for residents in Dixon and Rochelle.

The project team is eager to hear from a diverse range of stakeholders, including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, transit riders and non-riders, students, and anyone who values transportation as a vital community resource.

Rochelle public meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 in the

City of Rochelle Council Chambers at 420 N. 6th St. from 1-2:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.

Dixon public meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 16 at the Dixon Park District at 1312 Washington Ave. from 1-2:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.

Free rides on LOTS will be provided to and from public meetings during LOTS’ hours of operation.

For accessibility or other meeting information, please contact Michelle Perales at (937) 299-5007 or via email at mperales@rlsandassoc.com.

Forreston FFA Greenhouse Sale dates announced

FORRESTON — The Forreston FFA and high school agriculture program is proud to announce and share their hard work through the annual greenhouse sales. Multiple new plants will be offered, as well as many old favorites. The number of vegetables available has increased; and we will continue to offer over 200 beautiful hanging baskets.

The greenhouse will be open for shopping the following dates and times:

Opening day - Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3 from 3-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7 from 3-5:30 p.m.
Friday, May 10 from 3-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14 from 3-5:30 p.m.
Friday, May 17 from 3-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dates are subject to change due to weather or supply. Please follow our Facebook page for updates.

We have also partnered with Koeller Forreston Hardware, who will sell plants while supplies last.

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**

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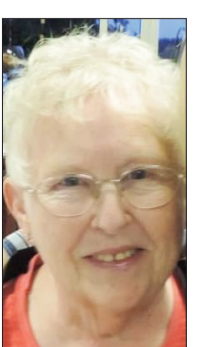


LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Penny Jean McCoy

LEAF RIVER — Penny Jean McCoy, 79, of Leaf River went to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 11, 2024. She was born April 29, 1944, in Rockford, the daughter of Harold and Barbara (Harty) Ebens. Penny graduated from Shabbona High School in 1962. She volunteered as a secretary at Global Harvest Church, and was a member of Beacon Hill Assembly of God where she enjoyed being active in Bible studies and prayer groups. She was always ready to pray with anyone who needed comfort or strength.



She enjoyed painting with nature as her inspiration. She had a fondness for sea turtles and baking and cooking for her family and friends. Penny's favorite saying was "all is good."

Frank and Darcy and their families would like to extend special thanks to Penny's brothers and sisters, Emma

Ewing and Connie Mudd for their unending love, support and friendship for Penny. Penny loved their many outings, trying new restaurants and ice cream trips.

Penny is survived by her son Frank (Dorene) McCoy, daughter Darcy (Scott) Inman, granddaughter Maddi McCoy, grandson Gunnar McCoy; brothers Jim (Barb) Ebens, Harold (Cheryl) Ebens, Ed (Kathy) Ebens, and Matt Ebens; sister Susan (Gary) French; and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her father Harold Eugene Ebens, stepmother Edith Ebens; mother Barbara Jane Harding, brother Jerry Ebens and niece April Roos.

A celebration of Life will be held at Beacon Hill Assembly of God, 6467 N. German Church Road, Byron, IL 61010 on May 4, 2024 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm CST.

Mary Louise Baker

OREGON—Mary Louise Baker, age 82, died suddenly on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at KSB Hospital in Dixon. She was born February 7, 1942 in Spring Valley, IL the daughter of George Elmer and Mary Louise (Borri) Nave. She graduated from Spring Valley Hall High School in 1960.

Mary Louise married Gerald Edward Baker on November 16, 1963 at the St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Dalzell, Illinois. She worked for Jonas Martin Well Drilling in Oregon, IL.

She was a devoted member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oregon, IL. She also was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Red Hat Club.

She was extremely proud of her sons, daughters-in-law, and granddaughters. She was very involved in their activities and sports throughout the years. She therefore became an avid Butler University fan. Mary Louise became an excellent scout of ducks and geese for her husband and sons. She was a very kind hearted lady and would go above

and beyond to help anyone.

She was predeceased by her parents George and Mary Louise Nave, her brothers George (Delores) Nave and Andrew Nave, her brother-in-law's Edward Stasik and Marty Tesch.

She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years Gerald "Jerry" Baker, Sr. of Chana, sons Gerald "Jerry" (Lisa) Baker, Jr. of Mt. Morris, and John (Lindee) Baker of Mt. Morris, granddaughters Abigail Baker of Oregon, and Haylee Baker of Mt. Morris, sister Nancy Stasik (Dave Stremlau) of Mendota, IL, sister-in-law Nancy Tesch of Peru, IL, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Christian funeral Mass will be held 11:00 AM, Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oregon, IL with the Rev. Joseph P. Naill officiating. Burial will be at the St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday evening from 5-7 PM followed by a 7:00 PM Rosary.

A memorial fund is established for the EWTN, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Serenity Hospice and Home.



March 2024 From The Heart Calendar Winners announced

- Mar. 1 – Deanne Ponto, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 2 – From The Heart, \$25
- Mar. 3 – From The Heart auction, \$50
- Mar. 4 – Araceli Flores, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 5 - Stephanie Gittleson, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 6 - From the Heart, \$25
- Mar. 7 - Jennifer Marshall, LaMoille, \$25
- Mar. 8 - Noah Mer-shon, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 9 - Stacey Horstmeier, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 10 - Gail Walker, Rochelle, \$50
- Mar. 11 - Christine Gorman, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 12 - Ethan Etes, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 13 - Danny Miller, Ashton, \$25
- Mar. 14 - Allison Wagner-Huntley, Byron, \$25
- Mar. 15 - Tiffany Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 16 - From the Heart, \$25
- Mar. 17 - From the Heart, \$250
- Mar. 18 - Edith Yarbrough, Dixon, \$25
- Mar. 19 - Cally Gustafson, Topeka, Kansas, \$25
- Mar. 20 - Two Sisters on Main, Amboy, \$25
- Mar. 21 - Elvis Baneski, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 22 - From the Heart, \$25
- Mar. 23 - From the Heart, \$25
- Mar. 24 - Jan Thompson, Rochelle, \$50
- Mar. 25 - From the Heart, \$25
- Mar. 26 - Brian Vanderheyden, Sycamore, \$25
- Mar. 27 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
- Mar. 28 - From the Heart auction, \$25
- Mar. 29 - Mark Boehm, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 30 - Chad Horn-er, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 31 - Greg Duffy, Dixon, \$300

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

Elizabeth A. Benthien

LEAF RIVER—Elizabeth A. Benthien, age 92, passed away at Allure of Pinecrest in Mt. Morris on March 31, 2024. She was born in Rockford on August 18, 1931 the daughter of Thomas and Grace (Frank) Rew.

Elizabeth grew up in Rockford, IL where she attended West High School. She married the love of her life Robert Benthien on April 13, 1948 and he preceded in her in death on June 2, 2009.

Betty and Bob raised their family in Winnebago where she worked as a secretary and book-keeper for Community Unit School District 323 for many years. She was a woman with a strong faith in God and attended Forest City Baptist Church in Rockford with her family for many years before they moved out in the country and settled in Leaf River.

Once there, they began attending First Baptist/ Cornerstone Family Church in Byron where they were active in the AWANAS youth ministry.

After her husband passed, Betty moved to the Byron area before transitioning to Pincrest/ Allure Campus Village Apartments and then to the Pincrest/ Allure Terrace. She had a servant's heart and enjoyed volunteering for the Rockford Rescue Mission. In her spare time; she loved tending to her garden and baking for her loved ones.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother, Robert Rew, daughter, Kathy Cummins, and son, David Benthien.

She is survived by her son, Thomas (Laura) Benthien of Rockford;

and sister, Marilyn (Don) Fensterman; brother, Jim (Alice) Rew; daughter-in-law, Vickie Benthien; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A funeral service celebrating her well lived life will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday April 4, 2024 at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home in Byron with Pastor Randy Snider officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at 10:00 AM. Burial will be at North Grove Christian Cemetery in Leaf River. Memorials are established for Cornerstone Family Church, 205 Peru St., Byron, IL 61010.

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Chana Play Day scholarships available

CHANA—The Chana Play Day committee has announced competition for several scholarships. The candidates must be high school graduates or the equivalent with ties to the Chana area.

Applicants who are current or former residents of Chana or who have parents or grandparents who attended Chana School or participated in Chana Play Day may apply. Two-time recipients are not eligi-

ble to reapply. The scholarships will be awarded to the candidates who best meet and complete the requirements listed in the application.

Scholarship forms may be picked up at the Oregon High School guidance office or Stocking Equipment, four miles east of Oregon on Illinois Route 64.

Please deliver or mail the applications to Ron Stocking, Stocking Equipment, 3749 E. Pine Rock Road, Oregon, IL 61061.

The completed application must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 3.



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LOCAL NEWS



Pictured left to right: Brandon Schaffer and Jessica Cash (Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center), Pat Kuhn, Polo Mayor Doug Knapp, Diane Stern Miller, Gloria Bellows Schneider, Louise Hall and Sheila Dean, members of Polo Women's Club. (Courtesy photo)

Polo Women's Club plants pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month

POLO — Members of the Polo Women's Club braved some chilly weather on April 1 to "plant" blue and silver pinwheels at the Paul Grahling Park, Centennial Grade School, Appleton Middle School and the Polo Community High School to raise awareness that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Polo.

Mayor Doug Knapp read a proclamation that evening at the Polo City Council meeting acknowledging the work of the women's club in increasing public recognition of this local issue. The simple pinwheel is used nationwide as a reminder of the importance of protecting our children who may be caught in a

physical or mental abusive situation. If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship there is help. You can contact Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center in Dixon at 815-284-1891, HOPE of Ogle County Domestic Abuse Agency at 815-562-8890 or Prevent Child Abuse Illinois at 312-663-3520.

Free community concert in Mt. Morris on April 21

MT. MORRIS — The public is invited to a recital featuring oboe and piano at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 21, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 308 E. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris.

Oboist Matthew Guschl and pianist Kristen Nelson will perform a variety of works showcasing their expressive versatility. Matt is a freelance oboist and educator in the Rockford

region. He currently serves as principal oboe in the Rockford Wind Ensemble and oboe II/English horn in the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra. Kristen is a freelance pianist and educator and serves as the rehearsal accompanist for the Nielsen Chorale.

The community concert is free and open to the public, although donations will be accepted

to support future concerts. Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Their global and local ministries range from creating health kits and quilts for world relief to a program for local preteen girls that teaches self-respect and empowerment, called Strong Girls 2 Women. Worship

services are in-person Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, and available on their website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page. Weekly podcasts from Pastor Josh Ehrler are on buzzsprout.com and iTunes. For more information about Trinity's mission, ministries, and programs visit www.trinityymmil.net, or email trinitymmooffice@gmail.com.

Fehr Graham hires Soltow as a designer

ROCHELLE — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Braiden Soltow as a designer.

Soltow provides design services tailored commercial, residential and municipal engineering projects. He is skilled in AutoCAD Civil 3D to ensure designs are accurate and detailed. He is gaining experience in grading plans and stormwater and roadway designs. He works in the firm's Rochelle



office.

Soltow earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Studies and Systems from Illinois State University.

Oregon's Nyderek ranks among top 2 percent at Iowa State University

AMES, Iowa — The following area students are ranked among the top two percent of students in their college at Iowa State University: Oregon: Valerie Nyderek, freshman, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department releases spring information

OREGON — As spring blooms across Ogle County, the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) is steadfast in its commitment to enhance recycling practices and promote sustainability among residents.

All household recycling programs in Ogle County accept the same materials for recycling. These materials include all aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, plastics labeled #1-5 and #7, and a wide range of paper products including cardboard, newsprint, magazines, office paper, file folders, junk mail, catalogs, brochures, greeting cards, phone books, construction paper, paperboard food and beverage containers, and plain wrapping paper. Please crush all plastic jugs and replace cap, and break down all cardboard boxes to conserve space in the recycling bins. Keep material clean, dry, and empty.

One problem with recycling is that some people believe that many

items are recyclable, when in fact they are not. Placing unaccepted items into recycling bins creates difficulties at the recycling centers and adds cost to the recycling program. Just because an item contains metal, glass, or plastic does not mean it's recyclable. Items to keep out of the recycling bins include plastic bags, shredded paper, Styrofoam, broken glass, pizza boxes or paper plates soiled from food and grease, coat hangers, plastic containers from automotive fluids, plastic toys, electronics, wires, cables, furniture, scrap metal, pipes, doors, windows, or other construction and demolition debris, and plastic utensils.

If you have curbside recycling pick-up where you live, the OCSWMD encourages you and your family to properly recycle as much of your recyclables as possible through your curbside program. If you need additional recycling bins, contact your waste hauler or municipality to request one.

For those without curbside pick-up, the OCSWMD maintains two residential drop-off recycling containers. These convenient locations include the Ogle County Farm Bureau parking lot, 421 W. Pines Road, Oregon, and at the Byron Forest Preserve Maintenance Facility parking lot, 6845 N. German Church Road, Byron. There is also a drop off recycling container located at the Waste Management Orchard Hills Landfill at 8290 Illinois Route 251 in Davis Junction.

Please do not leave items on the deck or on the ground. If the bin is full or requires other maintenance (snow removal, deck repair, open dumping) please call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020.

Please follow these guidelines and remember, if in doubt, leave it out. If you have additional questions about recycling in Ogle County, call the OCSWMD at the number above or go online and visit www.oglecountyil.gov.



(Courtesy photo)

Performing Arts Guild presents Love Letters April 12-14, April 19-21

MT. MORRIS — Andrew and Melissa, both born into wealth and position, begin their correspondence in childhood with birthday party thank-you notes. Their letters continue through their boarding school and college years while they are romantically attached and later through their individual marriages and careers.


Share a lifetime of friendship and love this spring as the Performing Arts Guild of Mt. Morris presents a dessert theatre, Love Letters. This enchanting play will be held on Friday through Sunday, April 12-14 and April 19-21 at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove Theater, 500 Evergreen Lane, Mt. Morris. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 with dessert (included in the price) served at intermission. Reservations are encouraged. For information call 815-734-2103 or order online at www.performingartsguild.com and click on tickets. Tickets are currently on sale.

The cast will display their own unique talent and experience to chronicle this lifetime friendship.

The play will be directed by Jeff Bold and produced by Karen Urish.

Tails PET OF THE WEEK

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VIEWPOINT

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

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

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Sadness and dismay

Dear editor,

I read with sadness and dismay in the March 25 edition that the Ogle County Board has decided to make Ogle County a non-sanctuary county for immigration. I suppose because of how politicized the whole immigration issue has become in our country.

But as a pastor in the Lutheran Church, though now retired, I wonder how effective my preaching and teaching has been over the years. How would, for example, the members of the Ogle County Board respond to the story of the Good Samaritan. How about Matthew 25 where Jesus talks about the hungry, the sick, the in prisoned, the stranger, of whom Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." Apparently this does not apply to undocumented asylum seekers in Ogle County. It is a red herring to suggest we only have

enough resources for our own troubled people. How much love does a mother have? How many children can she love? Does a light become diminished if it is shared too often? Cannot there be resources for all who live here? Are we not called to provide for all in our care?

I suppose those who read this may seek to assuage their discomfort or their anger by declaring me to be too liberal, or too naive, or too out of touch. Fine. My faith and my understanding cause me to respond in this way. And the fact that my family were at one time immigrants. I am thankful that they were not booted out of where they landed on American soil.

My only consolation here is the faint hope that the Ogle County Board felt at least a little bit of shame in casting the vote as they did, rather than basking in self-righteous indignation.

Ronald Larson
 Mt. Morris



Grant money available through REAP

As part of the federal Inflation Reduction Act the USDA is awarding grant monies for a new Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers can also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new systems loans for agricultural production and processing endeavors.

Eligible borrowers include: Rural small businesses, and agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of their gross income derived from agricultural operations.

All applicants must have no outstanding delinquent federal taxes, debt, judgement or debarment.

Loan restrictions that apply: Borrowers must be citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after legally being admitted for permanent residence.

Borrowers must demonstrate that all money received will remain in projects undertaken in the United States.

Businesses applying must be in a rural area with a population

of 50,000 or fewer. Agricultural producers can be located in rural and non-rural areas.

Funds can be used for a wide variety of renewable energy systems including:

Biomass (biodiesel, ethanol, anaerobic digesters and solid fuels), geothermal for electric generation, small and large wind generation, or small and large solar generation.

Funds can also be used to purchase, build or install energy efficiency improvements like: high-efficiency HVAC, insulation, lighting, doors and windows, replacement of energy efficient equipment, or cooling or refrigeration units.

Agricultural producers can use the funds to install energy efficient equipment and systems for use on their farm.

Funds available include: Loan guarantees on loans up to seventy-five percent of total eligible project costs, grants for up to 50 percent of total eligible project costs, and combined grant and loan guarantees funding for up to 75 percent of the total eligible project costs.

Those interested in the loan guarantee can find the guarantee percentage in the Federal Register at the following link <https://www.federalregister.gov>

Applications are accepted year-round at the USDA Rural Development office. For Ogle County the office is located on Pines

Road, in Oregon.

Anyone interested in the REAP program that has questions or needs assistance can contact:

Callie Heidbreder, USDA Rural Development; 2118 West Park Court, Suite A; Champaign, IL 61821; 217-403-6217; callie.heidbreder@usda.gov; or visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/il>

USDA accepts funding proposals year-round and hold quarterly competitions through Sept. 30, to select projects for funding. For information on application deadlines and submission details go to visit bit.ly/3SbyGik

The REAP program helps increase American energy independence by increasing private sector supply of renewable energy, and decreasing the demand for energy through efficiency improvements. Over time these improvements will lower energy costs for small rural businesses and agricultural producers.

ComEd also offers assistance in conducting facility assessments to help you understand what energy efficiencies may work in your business or farm operation. To get assistance for a free facility assessment go to ComEd.com/BizAssessment or call 1-855-433-2700.

"I was training to be an electrician. I suppose I got wired wrong somewhere along the way." -Elvis Presley

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



Ron Kern

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On April 22, 2000, 6-year-old Elián Gonzalez, who was the sole survivor of an abortive attempt by 13 other Cuban citizens to enter America as illegal immigrants, was taken by a S.W.A.T. team from his Miami relatives. Following a number of court battles, the child was returned to his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez.

* On April 23, 1898, Spain declared war on the U.S. after rejecting its ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba. Following the declaration, the American Asiatic Squadron, under Commodore George Dewey, engaged the Spanish Pacific squadron under Admiral Patricio Montojo y Pasarón in the Philippines' Manila Bay, and decimated the Spanish squadron.

* On April 24, 1942, singer/actress/film producer Barbra Joan Streisand was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. Considered "the girl on the block with the good voice" in her youth, and determined to be a star, her breakthrough came with the lead role in the 1964 Broadway musical "Funny Girl." In 1968, the movie version of the role earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress. To date, Streisand has sold more than 140 million albums and won 10 Grammys.

* On April 25, 2006, Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that his country was happy to share its nuclear technology with other nations, during a meeting with the visiting Sudanese president. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice condemned the comments, and Iran's top nuclear negotiator threatened to suspend its cooperation with the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog if the country was threatened with sanctions.

* On April 26, 1928, Filipino immigrant Pedro Flores opened the Yo-yo Manufacturing Company in Santa Barbara, CA. By November 1929, he was operating two additional factories in Los Angeles and Hollywood, which together produced 300,000 yo-yos daily.

* On April 27, 1971, eight members of the Welsh Language Society were accused of conspiring to damage, remove or destroy English-language road signs in Wales.

* On April 28, 1789, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against William Bligh aboard the HMS Bounty and set him and 18 loyal crew members adrift in a 23-foot open boat, but the men survived a 47-day voyage to the Dutch East Indies and returned to England to report the mutiny. Christian and the rest of the crew eventually settled on Pitcairn Island and Tahiti.

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The art of the comeback

HAVING secured sufficient delegates to become the first thrice-nominated Republican presidential candidate since Richard Nixon and the only person to bear the GOP standard in three consecutive elections, Donald Trump moves closer to completing the greatest political comeback in American history. A Trump triumph in November would far surpass any previous political rehabilitation, including Nixon's 1968 victory. Despite the effortless manner in which Trump dispatched his intra-party rivals, the road to a Trump Restoration remains perilous. Not since Napoleon returned from Elba has the global establishment been so focused on the defeat of one man. Luckily for Trump, he is an authority on comebacks.

The Art of the Comeback (1997) was published by Random House almost exactly 10 years after the same publisher released The Art of the Deal (1987). Sequels, being derivative in nature, are rarely superior to the first installment. But this one is because Kate Bohner is a better ghostwriter than Tony Schwartz. Nevertheless, the volumes are similar. In both books, Trump's edifice complex is on full display. Each is essentially a photo album of skyscrapers. But Comeback is more relevant to Trump's present situation.

Comeback contains the story of Trump's return from near insolvency when the early 1990s recession devastated the New York real estate market. "Survive 'til '95" was the mantra Trump put into practice via a complex restructuring of his business' debt, much of which he had personally guaranteed. His back against the wall, Trump persuaded creditors that they were better off if he were a going concern. And when the economy roared back stronger than ever, so did Trump. Other developers were not so fortunate.

Trump acknowledges in Comeback that his financial troubles were compounded by his own mistakes and inattentiveness. Today, all of Trump's financial problems stem from one very poor business decision in 2015—his decision to run for president.

Trump was the closest thing to an independent president this country has seen. And boy, has he paid for it. Most politicians leave politics far wealthier than when they entered it. Not Trump. His net worth has fallen precipitously as his businesses have suffered sustained attacks by his adversaries. In one particularly vindictive act, congressional Democrats insisted that Trump's companies be ineligible for aid from the Exchange

Stabilization Fund under the CARES Act despite the devastation the pandemic wrought on the hospitality industry.

But it is not just Democrats who have it out for Trump. The establishment of both parties despise Trump because he threatens the status quo. If Franklin Roosevelt shook up politics with the New Deal and Harry Truman followed with the Fair Deal, then Trump is leading a political realignment called the Art of the Deal. It consists of an outright rejection of the bipartisan consensus on immigration, trade, and foreign policy, offering Americans what should have been offered to them upon victory in the Cold War--government in the national interest.

Trump has already risen considerably since his Jan. 6, 2021 nadir. This has only intensified the determination of his opponents, who will stop at nothing to keep him out of the White House.

When Alger Hiss sued Whittaker Chambers for defamation, Chambers confidently stated "I do not believe that Mr. Hiss or anybody else can use the means of justice to defeat the ends of justice." The famous pessimist Chambers was too optimistic. A judge has already suspended Trump's ability to do business in New York. And the hundreds of millions of dollars in judgments, fines, and legal fees that Trump is already on the hook for plus a slew of potential criminal penalties in cases still pending could make any electoral victory a pyrrhic one. Trump could re-take the presidency, only to find his business empire in ruins.

Fortunately, Trump is one politician who clearly is not in it for the money. Otherwise, he would have abandoned politics long ago. Trump even gave his entire \$400,000/year salary as president back to the government. Despite going to great lengths to cultivate an aura of success, the true essence of the Trump story is coming back from adversity.

Having once categorized Manhattan real estate powerbrokers as among the "most vicious people in the world," Trump now knows that his business rivals have nothing on his political opponents and the Department of Justice. The reversal of fortune Trump pulled off a generation ago shows what he is capable of. But this time the stakes are considerably higher. If he wins, Trump will be more than a president. He will be a legend.

Paul F. Petrick is an attorney in Cleveland, Ohio.



Paul Petrick

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

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF

Rochelle man arrested on criminal sexual abuse charge

OREGON — On March 18, deputies responded to rural Monroe Center for a juvenile complaint. Upon further investigation, 18-year-old Frank J. Decena-Flores of Rochelle was arrested for criminal sexual abuse. Decena-Flores was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was detained in lieu of a court date before a judge.

On March 26 at approximately 8:30 a.m. deputies arrested Marcel Brewster, 33, of Clinton, Iowa when he turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He was arrested an outstanding warrant for no valid driver's license. Brewster appeared in court, was released, and will return to court on May 13 at 9 a.m.

On March 26 at approximately 9 a.m. deputies arrested Jacinda Garza, 44, of Sterling when she turned herself into the Ogle County Jail. She was arrested an outstanding warrant for driving on a revoked driver's license. Garza appeared in court, was released, and will return to court on April 8 at 9 a.m.

On March 26 at approximately 2 p.m. deputies arrested Mashala Dubois, 22, of Genoa when she turned herself into the Ogle County Jail. She was arrested an outstanding warrant for uninsured motor vehicle. Dubois posted 10 percent of the \$3,000 bond, was released, and will return to court on April 12 at 9 a.m.

On March 26 at approximately 7:46 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 100. The call originated after a concerned citizen reported the involved vehicle was driving all over the roadway. After further investigation, Robert Constantin, 24, of Pompano Beach, Florida, was placed under arrest for operating a vehicle with no valid driver's license. Constantin was also cited for improper lane usage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Constantin was released from the scene on a notice to appear.

On March 27 at 10:15 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of East Hales Corner Road. As a result, deputies arrested Kristopher B. Gyger, 53, of Dixon on a Lee County warrant, and for driving on a suspended license. Gyger was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Gyger was released on a notice to appear for the Ogle County violations. Gyger was additionally released on the Lee County warrant with a future court date.

On March 27 at 6:26 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of Illinois Route 38, Creston. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested, Daniel Del Rosario Nestor, 30, of DeKalb, for driving while unlicensed. Rosario Nestor was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a return court date. Rosario Nestor was also issued a citation for an equipment violation.

On March 27 at 8:46 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of the Rochelle Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at Dement Road and Illinois Route 38. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Armando

Orozco-Ramos, 27, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Orozco-Ramos was released with a notice to appear. Orozco-Ramos was additionally issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration.

On March 27 at 4 p.m. deputies located an accident with injuries in the 4,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that a 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche was traveling eastbound in the 4,000 block of East Illinois Route 64, when it exited the south side of the roadway, causing the driver to lose control. The Chevrolet then crossed the eastbound lane of traffic, entered the westbound lane of traffic, where it struck a 2018 Infiniti QX80 causing major damage. The Chevrolet Avalanche then overturned in the woods north of the roadway. The driver of the Infiniti QX80, 32-year-old Kaylee Fowler of Oregon, was transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon EMS, with serious injuries. The driver of the Chevrolet Avalanche, Jessica N. Atterbury, 43, of Rockton, was transported to KSB Hospital with minor injuries. Deputies arrested Atterbury for driving under the influence of alcohol, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Atterbury was additionally issued citations for expired registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, improper lane usage, speeding (78 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour speed zone), and improper container cannabis/driver. Atterbury was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Deputies were assisted on scene by Oregon Fire/EMS.

On March 28 at approximately 12:31 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of West Camp Road and North Columbian Road, outside of Mt. Morris, for a check welfare. When deputies arrived on scene, they located Kyle N. Miller, 18, of Mt. Morris, in his truck that had stuck a tree in the ditch. After a brief investigation deputies arrested Miller for reckless driving. Miller was released with a notice to appear. As a result of the crash, Miller was transported by Mt. Morris EMS to KSB Hospital for evaluation.

On March 28 at approximately 10:42 p.m. deputies were advised of a driving complaint traveling southbound on Illinois Route 2 from Byron. Deputies located the offending vehicle and a traffic stop was conducted in the 3,000 block of West Mud Creek Road. After further investigation Jared Babler, 27, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Babler was also cited for improper lane usage and an equipment violation. Babler was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On March 30 at approximately 8:44 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 10,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested and cited Jackie St. John, 62, of Rockford for driving while license revoked. St. John was additionally

cited for suspended registration and no valid insurance. St. John also had an active Boone County warrant. St. John was transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were held in lieu of bond.

On March 30 at approximately 9:09 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at South Illinois Route 251 and Steward Road (Rochelle) on a blue Chrysler Pacifica. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jynette K. Vesey-Watts, 28, of Chicago, for driving while license suspended. Vesey-Watts was taken into custody without incident and released on a notice to appear with return court date set for next month. Vesey-Watts was additionally cited for improper turn signal and a child restraint violation.

On March 30 at approximately 9:32 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of the Polo Fire Department, responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 2,000 block of South Freeport Road. After an investigation, it was learned that a Black Kia, driven by a juvenile, was southbound on Freeport Road when it lost control and entered the west ditch before striking a guard rail. The driver sustained suspected minor injuries but refused further medical attention from EMS at the scene.

On April 1 at approximately 9:06 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 72 at Stillman Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Aaron E. Braden, 33, Freeport, for driving while license revoked. Braden was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a return court date.

On April 1 at 8:51 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on West White Eagle Road at North Baileyville Road. As a result, Skyler J. Barncord, 28, of Shannon, was arrested for driving while license suspended and a Whiteside County warrant for failure to appear for driving under the influence. Barncord was additionally issued citations for improper lane usage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Barncord was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear on his Ogle County charges, and held in lieu of bond on the Whiteside County warrant.

On April 1 at approximately 9:04 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Rock Road near the intersection with Illinois Route 64. After further investigation, a passenger in the vehicle, Gage Reese, 23, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Rockford PD warrant. Reese was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On April 1 at approximately 10:15 p.m. deputies investigated a disturbance in the lobby of the Ogle County Jail. Through the course of the investigation it was learned that Albert Brooks, 39, of Dixon, had an outstanding Lee County warrant. Brooks was taken into custody and released to the jail.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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Number of Paid Claims:	240,705
Cash and Share Value Returned:	\$173,003,634.03

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LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Woman cited for speeding

MT. MORRIS — On March 12 at approximately 7:35 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 2,400 block of Leaf River Road. The driver, Katelyn M. Izer, 28, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for speeding 52 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. Izer was released on scene.

On March 12 at approximately 6:35 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 10 block of East Front Street for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Ernest J. Munyon, 33, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Munyon was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 12 at approximately 8 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of East Brayton Road. The driver, Robert D. Vandyke, 43, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for expired registration. Vandyke was released on scene.

On March 13 at approximately 8:40 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Hitt Street for a traffic violation. The driver, Jose A. Velasquez Mejia, 27, Mt. Morris, was arrested for driving while license suspended and issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Velasquez Mejia was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On March 15 at approximately 8:05 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 300 block of East Lincoln Street for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Megan C. Moorehead, 30, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with battery. Moorehead was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released with a notice to appear.

On March 16 at approximately 1:15 a.m., Mt. Morris Police were sent to the

10 block of West Center Street for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Kristina L. Tinkler, 33, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Tinkler was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 16 at approximately 3:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 100 block of East Illinois Route 64 for the report of a theft. After an investigation, Christopher D. Strite, 32, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with retail theft. Strite was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On March 21 at approximately 11:25 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were in the area of the 10 block of South Seminary Avenue, where they located an individual that was wanted. The subject, Christopher D. Strite, 32, Mt. Morris, was arrested on an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a previous charge. Strite was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 26 at approximately 7:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were in the area of the 10 block of East Front Street where they located Lucas S. Gelandar, 47, Mt. Morris. Gelandar had an Ogle County Warrant for failure to appear on a previous traffic violation charge. Gelandar was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 27 at approximately 5:40 p.m. Mt. Morris Police located a subject, Robert D. Vandyke, 43, Mt. Morris, in the 100 block of East Center Street. It was learned that Vandyke had an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on a previous charge. Vandyke was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

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

ISP announces results of distracted driving enforcement

OGLE COUNTY — Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander Captain Joseph Blanchette recently announced the results of the distracted driving enforcement program patrols held in Ogle and Winnebago counties during March. This program provided

extra patrol coverage for ISP officers to focus on saving lives and reducing serious crashes by enforcing distracted driving laws.

Hand-held phone/device citations: 22. Texting while driving citations: Two. Other types of distracted driving citations:

Zero. Total distracted driving citations: 24. Total distracted driving written warnings: Zero. Total of all citations: 65. Total of all written warnings: 20.

The extra enforcement patrols were made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Oregon Lions Annual Dessert Auction held

The Oregon Lions Club held their annual Dessert Auction on Thursday, on March 14th at the VFW in Oregon. Lots of tasty treats, baked by the Oregon Lions, were auctioned off by Oregon Lion James Brown with the assistance of his wife Karen Virnoche Brown. Many thanks to all the Oregon Lions who baked and bought all the goodies. It was a fun and profitable evening! Shown are James Brown and Karen Virnoche Brown. (Courtesy photos)



POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Man arrested for domestic battery

POLO — On March 26 at 12:15 p.m. Wesley P. Beatty, 35, Polo, was arrested for aggravated domestic battery. Beatty was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 31 at 8:23 p.m. Bethany M. Bates, 34, Polo, was arrested for an

outstanding Ogle County warrant for contempt of court. Bates was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On March 31 at 2:30 p.m. Mary B. Kemp, 42, Rockford, was cited for expired registration, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving without a valid

license. Kemp was issued a notice to appear.

General Calls for Service for the weeks of March 18-31: Citizen complaints/assists: seven. Juvenile: one. Animal complaints: three. Fire/medical assists: two. 911 hang ups: one. Traffic stops: six.

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AREA SPORTS

Polo baseball defeats Pearl City

The Polo High School baseball team defeated Pearl City 9-3 on Wednesday, March 20. Nolan Hahn led the Marcos on offense, finishing 4-for-5 with two RBIs while Scott Robertson went 2-for-5 with one RBI. Carter Merdian went 2-for-4 with two runs scored at the plate. Hahn and Robertson combined to strike out 12 Pearl City batters in seven innings pitched.



controlled the Plano offense from the circle, while Ella Dannhorn and Gracen Pitts each had three hits. Kaelin Shaffer and Abree Barker each had two hits.

Polo baseball scores win over Hiawatha

The Polo High School baseball team defeated Hiawatha 6-1 on Thursday, March 28. Nolan Hahn tossed a complete game on the mound, striking out 16 batters without a walk while allowing just one hit. Gage Zeigler went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs at the plate. Jacob Monaco also added two hits, going 2-for-3 with one RBI on the Polo side.



Polo softball falls against Warren Stockton

The Polo High School softball team fell 9-3 against Warren Stockton. Cheyenna Wilkins started in the circle, throwing four innings before Karlea Frey followed with three innings of relief. Wilkins and Cam Jones each totaled two hits, while Avalyn Henry doubled and both Frey and Allissa Marschang singled. Jones also swiped two bases for the Lady Marcos in the game.



Polo softball earns win over Dixon

The Polo High School softball team picked up a 6-4 win over Dixon. The Lady Marcos took a 5-2 lead after a two-run single from Makayla Cisketti. Polo totaled 11 hits in the game, with Sydnei Rahn going 3-for-4 and recording one RBI. Leah Tobin singled, doubled and added one RBI, while Izabella Witkowski and Cam Jones each singled twice and finished with an RBI. Jones pitched all seven innings, striking out nine batters.



Polo softball edges Pearl City

The Polo High School softball team held on for an 11-8 win over Pearl City, scoring five runs in the first inning. Karlea Frey reached base four times and finished with four RBIs for the Lady Marcos, while Cheyenna Wilkins and Sydnei Rahn each totaled three hits. Izabella Witkowski went 2-for-4 with two singles and three RBIs. Frey pitched five and one-third innings, striking out three.



Oregon girls soccer takes down Winnebago

The Oregon High School girls soccer team took down Winnebago 8-2 behind three goals and two assists from Deborah Schmid. Anna Stender added three goals of her own, while Teagan Champly totaled one goal and two assists. Arianna Hammer chipped in one assist and both Kenna Wubenna and Mya Engekles dished out two assists for the Hawks (4-0).



Oregon softball dominates Plano

The Oregon High School softball team dominated Plano 16-1 with 11 runs coming in the first inning. Emma Schlichtmann



Kids fishing derby at Conservation Club is June 23

CHANA — The 38th Annual Kids Fishing Derby presented by the Northern Illinois Bass Masters will take place June 23 at the Rochelle Conservation Club near Chana, located at 3501 Sweeny Road.

The free event will see preregistration from 8-9 a.m. and fishing from 9-11 a.m. From 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be lunch and a gift giveaway. Lunch will be served to everyone that attends and all kids will receive a gift. There will be giveaways all day. Bring a rod and let's go fishing.

The derby is open to ages 1-15. For more information, contact Marty Gorsuch at 815-979-0146.



Polo Lions donate to Polo youth softball

During the Polo Lions Club meeting on April 2 at the Polo Community Center (senior center) President Greg Cross handed a \$350 donation for Polo youth softball to Larry Loomis. Larry got a little emotional as he thanked the club for the donation. Larry is truly one of Polo's great citizens with all he has done for our youth. (Courtesy photo)

RE/MAX of Rock Valley



745 N. Ottawa Avenue, Dixon
NOW \$109,000 Call Carla
So much to offer! This charming home in Dixon located offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on a large corner lot that offers loads of room with a very large kitchen and living room! Newer roof, Newer updated LVT flooring and carpeting, updated vinyl replacement windows. There's a main floor bedroom with 2 bedrooms on the upper level. Separate detached 2 car garage for both of your vehicles! Charming and cozy throughout, you can move right in! Located close to I-88 for easy Interstate access. Close to restaurants, shopping, city parks, Rock River and more!



1921 Wildcat Lane, Dixon
\$525,000 Call Rebecca
EXTENDED \$5,000 CLOSING CREDIT BEING OFFERED TO A BUYER WITH AN ACCEPTED OFFER BY APRIL 15th! Original owner, meticulously maintained, 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, was built by S & D Construction is perfectly situated on a 2.85 landscaped lot with just over 4,000 square feet of living space. Bursting with curb appeal the moment you approach up the circle driveway and admire the Trex dining lining the front of the home, gorgeous landscaping including mature trees, retaining walls and brick patio pavers. Main floor is spacious with an eat in kitchen, living room, family room, formal dining room and breakfast room. There is also a dedicated laundry room and plenty of storage. Upstairs you will find a grand master suite with updated en suite bathroom and custom walk-in closet. There are also 3 additional bedrooms and a full bath. Walk out, lower level boasts a large family room, second kitchen, updated full bathroom with tile walk in shower and exercise room. Attached and heated 2 car garage with basement entrance. There is also a detached, heated 2 car garage with bonus room for extra storage. Backyard and walk out lower level both have expansive brick paver patios with a pergola and built in gas grill for entertaining. This is the home that you have envisioned building for a much higher cost, waiting for you to purchase TODAY!



912 Main Street, Ashton
\$199,900 Call JD
Turn-key bar downtown Ashton with a ton of potential. This 2600 sq foot property offers an array of features that makes it a desirable opportunity for owners/investors. Featuring a new roof in 2023, fenced in patio area, connected banquet room offering plenty of hospitality for events, and a spacious back room ready to build out for a kitchen space... opportunity is endless. Included with the property is an array of equipment, tables, chairs, signs, coolers, pool table, and more! Step right in and make it yours, today.



000 S. Andrew Drive, Oregon
\$45,000 Call Jenny
Look no further! This beautiful 1.5 acre lot is the perfect building site for your new home. It has a country feel, yet is conveniently located just outside of Oregon off of Daysville and Lowden roads. The Mississippi Point Subdivision has large lots providing ample distance from neighbors. The covenants allow for swimming pools, fences, and out buildings. Get your house plans ready and build your new home this year!



102 E. Front Street, Mt. Morris \$124,900
Call Becky
This charming 2 BR, 1 BA ranch sits on a corner lot and is found in the heart of Mt. Morris within walking distance to downtown. Enjoy relaxing on the oversized covered front porch! Living room is large with tall ceilings, crown molding & arched opening to the dining room with a wall of built-in cabinets. MBFR has original hardwood floors, wall of shelves and walk-in closet attached to front foyer. 2nd bedroom has a huge extra sitting room attached to it. Kitchen has refrigerator, electric stove & backsplash. Window A/C unit in LR. Enclosed back porch can be used as a mudroom which has access to basement stairs and deck leading to 2 car split garage with 2 openers. LL has washer/dryer which stay, water softener, gas hot water heater, furnace is boiler system which was new in '09. Some windows are newer.



11764 N. Tower Road, Byron \$325,000
Call Rebecca
YOUR HOME IN THE COUNTRY! Welcome home to this well maintained ranch with 3 beds and 3 baths situated on 1.2 acres. Updated kitchen with stunning wood cabinets, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances and main floor laundry area. There is a breakfast bar area and dining room with sliders to the composite deck. Hardwood floors throughout the kitchen and dining room lead into the inviting living room. New carpet, gas fireplace and large window with panoramic views are sure to make this one of your favorite rooms in the house. Main floor has 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. One of which is an en suite master bathroom with walk in shower. Finished lower level with plenty of entertaining space including a wood burning fireplace, wet bar and full bathroom with jacuzzi tub. Just a few steps from your oversized, composite deck complete with lighting is the detached, heated garage boasting T&R flooring, water and additional screen garage door. This is in addition to the attached, heated two garage featuring T&R flooring and storage cabinets. Updated windows and roof are an added bonus to this property. All of this could be yours, call for your showing today!



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



202 N. Hastings, Oregon
\$115,000 Call Lori or Mark
Charming 3 bedroom home on a corner lot. This house has been recently updated including a bathroom with all modern fixtures and washer and dryer hookups. The eat-in kitchen has great cabinets with a very efficient layout. The kitchen has a sliding door bringing lots of light to the kitchen and access to a deck. Maintenance free siding and a new roof added in 2023. Water heater was new in 2020. A 2 car detached garage rounds out the package. Challenging to find a 3 bedroom in this price range!



10 E. Hitt St., Mt. Morris
\$399,000
Call Jennifer Rybicki or Mark
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!



504 N. Stanton Street, Davis
\$275,000 Call Rebecca
THE REAL MCCOY'S, IS A REAL DEAL! If you are looking for the quintessential, turnkey, small town bar- look no further! The Real McCoy's has been a community staple for over 11 years with a longstanding history of great food and a great atmosphere. Being sold completely turnkey including all bar fixtures and equipment, the property has many updates including roof, HVAC, bar coolers, flooring, bar top, direct pour beer system, electric and plumbing. Spacious kitchen with prep area was also redone in the last 3 years with all new equipment. There is dining seating for 60 and bar seating for 15. Outdoor beer garden area recently finished and fenced, ready for entertainment! Extra income from the apartment upstairs with long term tenant. Full list of equipment and recent year financials available to qualified buyers. Dad's Bar and Grill in Davis may also be purchased along with this establishment. Call today for more information on this excellent investment!



8298 N. Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley
\$195,000 Call Rebecca
3 BEDROOM RANCH HOME WITH GUEST HOUSE! Conveniently located in-between Stillman Valley and Rockford this home sits on an acre lot and features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest house and detached 3 car garage. Inside the kitchen has an eat in area along with an attached, spacious dining room. Main floor master with an en suite bathroom and access to the main floor laundry room. Full crawlspace with tons of storage. Guest house has a living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom making it a great space for family or guests! Detached garage with plenty of room for parking additional cars or toys. With a little TLC, this property could really shine! Call for your showing today!

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SPORTS NEWS

Forreston and Oregon start halls of fame

AMONG Ogle County high schools, Forreston and Oregon are joining Byron and Rochelle in the sports hall-of-fame business. Both schools are looking for nominations in first-ever induction classes.

At Oregon, former athletes, coaches, teams, administrators, faculty and friends are eligible. Criteria include regional, state and national recognition. Others factor to be considered are significant contributions to the community and exceptional accomplishments.

Unofficially, it is a combined Mt. Morris/Oregon Hall-of-Fame, as achievements both places are under consideration. Additionally, the committee vetting nominations will include reps from each town.

Credit to Oregon for setting this up in an all-encompassing manner.

Forreston's HOF will be based upon dedication, extracurricular, personal achievement, service and teamwork. Only the Forreston community can nominate individuals, teams or friends of Forreston, with a committee reviewing and making selections.

That was the easy part. The hard part will be deciding which candidates are most worthy of making the cut as hall-of-famers, especially when you need to go back in time to

say, 1916 when Sherman Landers of Oregon was making headlines as a track & field star.

There is a balancing act between what was achieved in decades past versus those of today. Is there sage judgment in defining the differences?

Another difficulty will be reaching a delicate balance between Mt. Morris and Oregon in which nominees are most deserving. Will there be some give and take or will community pride influence decision-making?

I didn't see anything about Leaf River, which closed in 1989 and absorbed into Forreston, being part of the equation.

Will some sports, such as those glory-driven like football and basketball, be weighted higher than bowling, field hockey or golf?

It's easy to go back and review records or game results and assume certain individuals and teams are most deserving. However, what about other individuals and teams that don't have gaudy results, but have overcome adversity or tougher competition to actually achieve more.

For example, when covering wrestling, I knew kids that never

won an individual state title, but were better than others that had won them in different weight classes because of bracketing. The same is true with many a sports team.

It's more of a chore to look past the raw data, but to give everyone a fair shake, intangibles are a part of the equation.

What about football, which did not have a state tournament until 1974? When it comes to the state playoffs, it's easy to define success at a place like Forreston. However, would those teams be given priority over pre-1974 squads that didn't have a chance to do more than win a conference title?

Will girls sports, which had been in the background for so many years, receive the same consideration as the boys or would there be biases?

What about candidates that have had "character" issues since graduating. Are they downgraded because of that?

The IHSA sanctions both athletics and activities. Activities are things like cheer and music, which often support athletic programs. Would individual and teams from these activities be eligible?

Do you want your hall of fame to

honor the best of the best, like the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame does with its stringent voting or use it as a celebration where nearly everyone gets in, like the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association HOF, which had 135 inductees for 2024. The year before, it had about same number.

Here's an entirely different thought on hall of fames as a whole, be it professional, college or high-school:

Are they an ego-filling proposition? If the purpose of life is to live in humility, don't hall of fames contradict that notion?

What about everyday people that aren't superstars in their field, but live life better than those more talented? Where is their reward?

Call me a "wet blanket" on the subject, but a little devil advocacy once in a while is healthy for the debate.

That being said, I look forward to hearing about all the nominations and who makes the first class of hall of fame for both Forreston and Oregon/Mt. Morris.

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



Andy Colbert

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 11
Serenity Hospice & Home's Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m. The location will be determined. Please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, to register.

April 12
Serenity Hospice & Home's Morning Group will meet on Friday, April 12 from 9 -10 a.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. This group is open to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss during the past two years. To register please call 815-732-4111 by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

April 12
Serenity Hospice & Home's Diamond Art will be held April 12 & 19 from 9-11 a.m. at The Serenity Shed, 131 N. 3rd St. Oregon. Please bring your own supplies. Please call 815-732-4111 to register.

April 15
For our program on Monday April 15, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild, will present Rhonda Streich from Sassy Farm Chicks Quilt Company in Orfordville, Wisconsin. She is an avid collector and maker of all quilt types. Rhonda will present a program on "Eras in American Quilting." She will show quilts from each era in American quilt history and share their stories. Guild members and guests are encouraged to bring any antique or vintage quilts you might like to share, and we can discuss

the history of these quilts also. The program will be followed by refreshments, a business meeting, and Show 'n Tell.

Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are welcome; for Visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381 or Karen Bolen 815-233-9836, or Guild President Chyree Rohde-Lincoln 815-275-2759.

April 17
Basics of Medicare Byron, an educational and informational presentation on the Medicare insurance program will be presented for the community at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, at the United Church of Byron located at 701 W. Second St., Byron. The emphasis will be on the eligibility and enrollment periods, benefits, and options concerning all parts of Medicare. All are welcome. This will be the last program, and will resume in the fall 2024. Presenter will be Greg Wills for the program. This program is sponsored by the Legacy and Endowment Committee of The United Church of Byron as a community service. The United Church of Byron is a fun and diverse church with a heart for mission! Check us out at www.unitedchurchofbyron.org. Disclaimer: This program is educational and informational only. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare

to get information on all of your options.

April 18
Illinois Epilepsy Supports will be back at The Village Bakery on April 18 at 9:30 a.m. The group has been partnering with The Village Bakery for the last two years to provide a safe place for people to connect with others who are living with epilepsy. The meeting is open to anyone who has epilepsy and their family members. The Bakery will have snacks and refreshments available to those in attendance. Over the last two years, the meetings have brought support and resources to both individuals and their parents who were in need of assistance. If you or someone you know is living with epilepsy, please encourage them to attend or reach out to the program director, Stephanie Harcharik at (815) 673-5574 or sharcharik@streatorunlimited.org. This is funded by IDHS.

April 27
Blackhawk Snowblazers Snowmobile Club of Oregon will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2024. The club was established on Jan. 21, 1974. The club will be hosting a celebration at the Oregon VFW on April 27 at 5 p.m. The social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with a meal following at 6 p.m. and a magic show by Brian Holt shortly after. If you are a member, former member, a sledding enthusiast or just want to know more about snowmobiling, come help the club celebrate! Please RSVP by April 15 to blackhawksnowblazers@gmail.com

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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!



Friends had fun planting seeds in their mini-greenhouse at the Mount Morris Library during spring break! (Courtesy photos)

Solar Eclipse Program

Sunday, April 7th
Come by on Sunday, April 7th from 2-4pm 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.

Cookbook Club

Next Meeting May 7th
Join us as we explore *The Cookbook Club!* Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful

and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on May 7th, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Ink with a Friend: Card Making at the Library

Thursday, May 9th
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, May 9th 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 May 2nd!

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 Welcomes Historic Auto Attractions

With over 80,000 square feet of exhibits including the world's largest collection of Presidential and World Leader's Limousines, a vast collection of Gangster Era vehicles and memorabilia, a large Elvis Presley display and memorabilia, TV Land cars, and cars from hit movies such as "Batman," "Ghostbusters," and "Back to the Future." The museum has something for everyone. Visit us in Roscoe, Illinois!

Historic Auto Attractions is offering Buy One Get One Free Admission. Explore More Illinois users can access and reserve passes from any of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library website, mtmorris-il.org, under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

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 mmllib@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

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.

National Library Week

April 7-13th Ready, Set, Library! National Library Week is April 7th-13th, and Bertolet Memorial Library encourages everyone to visit the library and explore all we have to offer! There will also be guessing jars to calculate, door prizes to register for, and goodies to take home. Need a library card? Just bring in your photo ID and proof of address, and you'll be on your way to see all we offer at Bertolet Memorial Library!

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.

Severe Weather & Staying Safe

Tuesday, April 16th at 11:00 AM WTVO Chief Meteorologist Candice King will be teaching us all about Severe Weather as we head into the spring season. We will learn what to look for as severe weather approaches and how to stay safe until the sun shines again! We hope you join us!

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

- Against the Wind by Amanda Cabot
- Shooting Iron by William W Johnstone (LP)
- The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder by C.L. Miller (LP)
- The Truth About the Devlins by Lisa Scottoline

Picture Books

- Let's Go Itok by Kora Dandan-Albano
- Peek-a-Flap ABC by Jaye Garnett

DVDs

- Ferrari

FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

National Library Week

April 7th - 13th. Join us this week as we celebrate National Library Week with the theme "Ready, Set, Library". We're not just about books anymore, so stop in this week to discover all your library has to offer, from eBooks to programs to a multitude of other services. We'll also have prize baskets and our ever-popular guessing jars so come in and sign up by Saturday, April 13th for your chance to win!

4th Tuesday Book Club for Adults

Tuesday, April 23rd, 7:00 pm. This month's selection of *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley is available at the library. Anyone is welcome to pick up a copy and join the meeting on April 23rd at 7:00 pm.

The discussion will be lively and the snacks are always delicious, so please join us!

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

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.

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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 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.

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 16 at 7 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

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.

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.

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.

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

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Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30 -10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
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Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

CHANA

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

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Fellowship following the Worship Service each Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Potluck luncheon following Worship every 4th Sunday, except in the summer months of June, July and August. Various small groups meet throughout the month. For more information about the small groups please call 298-2310. AA meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9am. For more information please visit our website WWW.DJUMC.ORG

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FORRESTON

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

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

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

LINDENWOOD

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

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

KINGS

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

MOUNT MORRIS

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

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

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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,



Professional artist Jerry from Do Art Productions gave a lively and fun painting workshop at the Byron Public Library! Teens made colorful and surreal art and were encouraged to use their imagination. (Courtesy photo)

renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery

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

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

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Storytime at the Library

Join us in person at the library for songs, stories and crafts! Ages 2-5. Wednesdays at 10a.m. 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? No 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 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 trans-



Young patrons attended a Taylor Swift party, last week at Julia Hull District Library, where they made crafts and played games celebrating their favorite pop star. (Courtesy photo)

forming 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 Parachutes

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.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

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

DOWN

1	Omelet needs
2	Old Italian money
3	Help a crook
4	Born abroad?
5	City-related
6	Drench
7	Sauce source
8	"The Italian
9	Tennis champ Arthur
10	Transcript stats
11	Eternities
16	Dark film genre
20	Spy org.
21	Color named for a fruit
22	Journalist Nellie
23	Gist
24	Year in Spain
25	"Gee, ya think?"
26	Alias abbr.
27	Yoga pad
28	Jargon suffix
29	Aachen article
31	Bro or sis
34	'60s chic
35	Challenge
37	El Greco's birthplace
38	Gratis
39	Joan of rock
40	Aware of
41	Author Harte
42	To be, in Toulon
43	Some July babies
44	Endure
46	Wildebeest
47	Up-to-date

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MAGIC MAZE

SEEN ALONG THE ROAD

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

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

Billboards	Farms	Motels	Trucks
Bridges	Fast food	Motorcycles	Wildlife
Cattle	Hitchhikers	Rest stops	Wrecks
Crops	Mile markers	Troopers	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Railing is different. 2. Handle is added to lunch box. 3. Sleeve is rolled up. 4. Leak is moved. 5. Pipe is thinner. 6. Bite is missing from sandwich.

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Answers

King Crossword

SEEN ALONG THE ROAD

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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
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Fax ph. 815-362-2316

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Route 64
Oregon, IL 61061
815-312-7089

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779-340-0734

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Fax 815.900.2090

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Oregon, IL 61061 Ph: (815) 762-5307

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President / Owner
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Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright

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- Stump grinding
- Climbing specialist

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 BANC CORP, N.A. of Rockford, Illinois, Administrator of the Estate,** whose attorney is **Jennifer L. Birkholz of SMITH, BIRK-HOLZ & 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 mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.

STILLMAN BANC CORP, N.A., Administrator
Jennifer L. Birkholz SMITH, BIRK-HOLZ & 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 21, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

HomeSpun Goodz
404 W. Elm Street
Forreston, IL 61030
Dated March 21, 2024
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0405
(April 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-2-9, the Village of Davis Junction will hold a special meeting to convene a public hearing on April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Davis Junction, Village Hall, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020, to consider the adoption of the annual Appropriation Ordinance. A copy of the Appropriation Ordinance may be viewed online on the Village's official website www.davisjunction.com or may be obtained from the Village Clerk by requesting the Appropriation Ordinance by electronic mail directed to djclerk@davisjunction.com or by calling the Village Clerk at (815) 645-8000 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The annual Appropriation Ordinance may be adopted at the same meeting at which the public hearing is held or at any time after the public hearing. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Posted by **Sandie Maahs, Village Clerk,** on April 1, 2024.
No. 0406
(April 8, 2024)

NOTICE

Ordinance No. 2024-1 AN ORDINANCE FIXING CHARGES FOR LIFE SUPPORT EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the District Fire Chief, the Board should establish current reasonable costs for providing life support ambulance service, such services defined in herein; and WHEREAS, at a general election previously held which election was called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the general election law of the State of Illinois, the Monroe Township Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois was authorized to levy a special tax for the purpose of providing emergency ambulance service; and WHEREAS, the District provides, or causes to be provided, an emergency ambulance service within and to points outside the District; and WHEREAS, Section 22 of the "Fire Protection District Act" "70 ILCS 705/22" authorizes the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the District to "fix, charge and collect fees for emergency ambulance service within or outside of the fire protection district not exceeding the reasonable cost of the service"; and WHEREAS, the Board finds it is in the best interest of the citizens and residents of the Monroe Township Fire Protection District that residents and non-residents whom are provided emergency ambulance service by the District be charged for the emergency ambulance service provided; and WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is reasonable and proper to charge residents of the District and non-residents of the District for emergency ambulance service provided to them; and WHEREAS, the Board finds that the reasonable cost of providing basic life support emergency ambulance service by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District is \$1500.00 per call, and the reasonable cost of providing advanced life support level 1 emergency ambulance service by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District is \$1900.00 per call, and the reasonable cost of providing advanced life support level 2 emergency ambulance service by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District is \$2100.00 per call, and the reasonable cost of providing advanced life support level 3 emergency ambulance service by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District is \$300.00 per call, and the reasonable cost of providing Oxygen, as applicable, is an additional \$100.00 per call, and the reasonable cost of transport, as applicable, is an additional \$21.00 per transport mile, and such other reasonable charges for additional available services, as may be from time to time approved by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District Board of Trustees; and NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Monroe Township Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: The preambles of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby incorporated in the text hereof as if set out herein in full.

SECTION 2: Each person receiving basic life support emergency ambulance service shall pay the sum of \$1500.00 per call for said service,

and an additional \$21.00 per transport mile, and an additional \$100.00 per call if Oxygen provided, and such other reasonable charges for additional services, as may be from time to time approved by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, within thirty days of being billed thereof.

SECTION 3: Each person receiving advance life support level 1 emergency ambulance service shall pay the sum of \$1900.00 per call for said service, and an additional \$21.00 per transport mile, and an additional \$100.00 per call if Oxygen provided, and such other reasonable charges for additional available services, as may be from time to time approved by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, within thirty days of being billed thereof.

SECTION 4: Each person receiving advance life support level 2 emergency ambulance service shall pay the sum of \$2100.00 per call for said service, and an additional \$21.00 per transport mile, and an additional \$100.00 per call if Oxygen provided, and such other reasonable charges for additional available services, as may be from time to time approved by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, within thirty days of being billed thereof.

SECTION 5: Each person receiving advance life support refusal emergency ambulance service shall pay the sum of \$300.00 per call for said service, and such other reasonable charges for additional available services, as may be from time to time approved by the Monroe Township Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, within thirty days of being billed thereof.

SECTION 6: If any section, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7: All Ordinances, resolutions or other proceedings in conflict herewith, be and are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

SECTION 8: Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to emergency ambulance service charges: Basic life support. Services shall be medical treatment or procedures provided to a patient as defined by the National Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) Education and Practice Blueprint from the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-Basic. Advanced life support level 1. Services shall be medical treatment or procedures provided to a patient beyond the scope of the EMT-Basic as defined by the National Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) Education and Practice Blueprint. Advanced life support level 2. Services shall be defined as advanced life support services provided to a patient including any of the following medical procedures: (1) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion; (2) Endotracheal intubation; (3) Central venous line; (4) Cardiac pacing; (5) Chest decompression; (6) Surgical airway; or (7) Intraosseous line, and the administration of three or more medications. Advanced life support refusal. An advanced life support response where at least one advanced life support procedure or piece of equipment is performed or used and the patient or other authorized person on behalf of the patient signs

a refusal for further services and/or transport to a medical facility. Transport mile. The transport mile shall be assessed in statute miles from the location of an incident scene, or center point of a fire demand zone where an incident scene or address is located, to a hospital or other facility where a patient is transported. **SECTION 9:** This Ordinance shall become effective on its passage and publication as provided by law. Adopted and approved on this 7th day of March, 2024. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**
No. 0407
(April 8, 2024)

NOTICE

Lincoln Township, Ogle County will hold the annual meeting, Tuesday April 9th, 2024 at 7:00 Pm in the town hall. Subsequent meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 AM.
Kenneth Eichholz, Clerk
No. 0409
(April 8, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman's Lawn Care. 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

205 SITUATIONS WANTED

Looking for rhythm guitar player. Must have back up vocal harmonies. Some lead vocals is a plus.
We play 50's/60's rock and roll, Beatles, CCR.

Call **Steve**
815-751-8719

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

305 GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale - Byron - 6788 N. Summit Drive & 6881 N. Summit Drive (Nordic Woods) - 5241 Walden Road (Walden Valley Subdivision). Thursday, April 18 - Friday, April 19 8AM - 5PM, Saturday, April 20 & Sunday, April 21 9AM - 2PM. Clothes, Furniture, Household Items, Toys & 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.

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 APARTMENT 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

ADVERTISE WITH US

203 HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
Rock River Center, Inc. is seeking an Information & Assistance Specialist to act as a liaison for older adults and caregivers. Responsibilities include identifying client needs and providing information regarding appropriate resources. Must possess problem solving skills, basic computer skills and have the ability to work independently with compassion and confidentiality. Must have a valid driver's license. Apply in person at Rock River Center, 810 South 10th Street, Oregon, IL or send resume to executivedirector@rockrivercenter.org by April 22, 2024.



START AN EXCITING NEW JOB WITH THE ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER!

Multimedia Sales Consultant

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

Multimedia Sales Position
Rochelle News-Leader
ATTN: Tonja Greenfield
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to tgreenfield@amboynews.com



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

Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.
Auctions - Real Estate Appraisals
Online Auctions
Now Available
Pecatonica, IL
815-239-1436
Hacksauction.com

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

PUBLIC AUCTION



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