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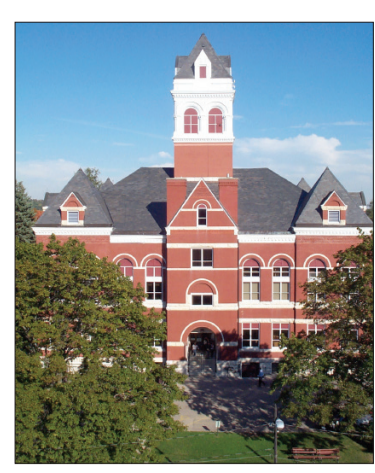
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VOLUME 36, ISSUE 06

MONDAY
April 22, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Brunner receives award

Oregon Lion Roger Brunner was recently recognized with a service award. **A9**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
63 48	59 35
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
61 39	57 43
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
60 47	64 49

OBITUARIES

- Jeff Branscomb
- James Davis
- Mable Gray
- Donald Murbach
- Lyle Printz
- Margaret Scholl
- Raymond Swanson
- Richard Wilkinson
- Judith Wilmarth

See page A4 & A5

INSERTS

- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings
- Menards
- Byron County Market
- Polo Foods
- Felker Foods

OGLE COUNTY BOARD

One special use permit for solar project denied, another approved

New rules of order unanimously approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board unanimously denied a special use permit for one solar project, and unanimously approved another.

The denied special use permit was requested by Cenergy Power for a five-megawatt community solar project in Lincoln Township on agricultural-zoned land. The application said the project would be located on approximately 33 acres of the 68.78-acre site.

County Board Member Dan Janes (R-Stillman Valley, District 5) led the proceedings on the special use decisions. He said the county's zoning board of appeals voted 3-1 to recommend the denial of the Cenergy Power application.

"That land has an extremely-high Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) score," Janes said. "Our committee on this supported the ZBA's findings and voted against accepting it due to the same premise. This is a fine piece of farm land. Last



The special-use permits were approved and denied base on farmland gradings of the requested properties. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

month, we all unanimously endorsed a resolution to support high-quality farmland. More petitions like these will come before the county board. I don't want to see us do one thing and say another. My recommendation is to deny this application."

The Lincoln Township land scored a 92 on the LESA method, which tops out at 100. LESA is a land evaluation method for cropland and integrates soil survey interpretations for important farmland classes, land capability classification, and either soil productivity or soil potential ratings.

The approved special use permit was submitted by TPE IL OG593, LLC to allow construction and operation of a 4.99-megawatt community solar facility located in Byron Township off Meridian Road, north of the Rock River and near the Winnebago County line. The project would be located on approximately 23.4 acres of the 46.2-acre site.

Janes said that land has a low LESA score. The zoning board of appeals voted unanimously in favor to recommend the application's approval.

See **BOARD** page 2

Oregon School District announces leadership changes for 2024-2025 school year

Crandall retiring, Larsen to transition out of assistant superintendent role

OREGON — Oregon CUSD #220 is making administrative changes for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. PJ Caposey, the incoming superintendent effective July 1, announced the following changes:

Retirement of Mr. Kip Crandall: Crandall, who had originally planned to retire at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, will now conclude his long tenure spanning many administrative positions within the district one year earlier, retiring at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Transition of Mr. Adam Larsen: Larsen, currently serving as the assistant superintendent, has expressed a desire to focus more intently on his

personal business ventures. However, he has agreed to support the district through the 2024-2025 school year before stepping down from his administrative duties to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. His position will not be replaced.

New position - Additional OES assistant principal: OCUSD #220 will introduce an additional assistant principal position at Oregon Elementary School (OES). This strategic decision aims at providing enhanced support at the student and staff levels, reinforcing the district's commitment to academic excellence and student support.

See **OREGON** page 2



The fire took place at the addresses of 1 and 3 N. Wesley Ave. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

3rd-alarm fire in downtown Mt. Morris

1 treated for smoke inhalation, estimated \$300,000 in damage

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — One occupant was treated for smoke inhalation on scene and no firefighters were injured after a third-alarm structure fire at a downtown Mt. Morris building Tuesday afternoon, Mt. Morris Fire Chief Rob Hough said.

First responders were called at approximately 1:32 p.m. Tuesday to the intersection of West Main Street and North Wesley Avenue in Mt. Morris for the report of a possible structure fire.

"I arrived on scene and saw heavy fire venting out of the front window of an occupancy on the corner," Hough said at around 5 p.m. Tuesday. "Companies then arrived on scene. With the wind, the age of the building and its construction, the fire grew rapidly. We escalated it to a third alarm mutual aid box alarm to bring in resources from the area. The fire is under control at this time. Everybody is accounted for and got out of the building."

The fire took place at the addresses of 1 and 3 N. Wesley Ave. The financial institution at 4 E. Main St. was evacuated as well as a precaution. The fire was brought under control

at 3:45 p.m. Fire spread into the 3 N. Wesley Ave. building due to no fire wall separating them. The fire was extinguished at 5 p.m. and most companies were released by 7 p.m. Firefighters remained on scene performing salvage and overhaul of the structures until approximately 9 p.m. 4 E. Main St. was a separate building and was undamaged in the incident.

Hough said there were occupants in the first building when the fire started, but they were all evacuated safely. He said the age of the building, a two-story wood frame structure, could be over 125 years old, which complicated things for firefighters along with weather.

"It's an aged structure," Hough said. "You have hidden voids. There were different types of construction back then. It's balloon-framed, which allows fire to spread quickly. It was a wind-driven fire. We had wind out of the southeast today gusting at 20-25 miles per hour. The cards were stacked against us. It was during the day when a lot less firefighters are available. It's just the perils of a small-town fire department."

See **FIRE** page 2

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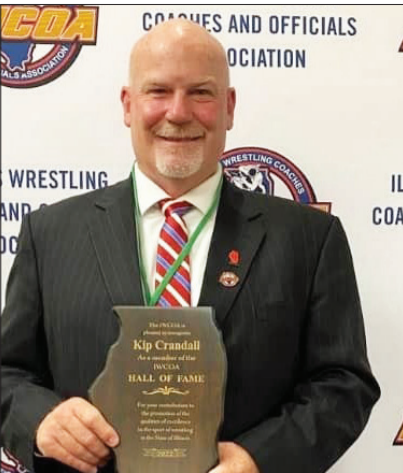
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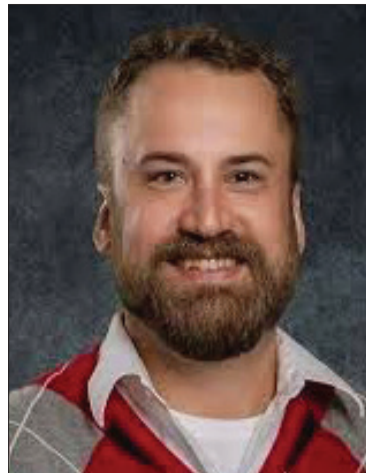
LOCAL NEWS



Caposey



Crandall



Larsen



Both 1 and 3 N. Wesley Ave. were made uninhabitable due to the fire. The initial damage estimate to both buildings is \$300,000. (Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

OREGON: Intent to maximize student service and teacher support

From page 1

Financial impact: The financial impact to the district as a result of these changes remains neutral to positive. The intent is to maximize student service and teacher support while demonstrating the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Caposey said, "I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Kip Crandall and Mr. Adam Larsen for their unwavering service, contribution to the district's evolution, and personal camaraderie throughout their tenures at OCUSD #220. Their leadership has played a pivotal role in shaping Oregon CUSD #220 into the institution it is today."

FIRE: 12 area departments respond

From page 1

Both 1 & 3 N. Wesley Ave. were made uninhabitable due to the fire. The Initial combined damage estimate to both buildings is \$300,000.

"Everybody is accounted for and got out of the building." Chief Rob Hough

BOARD: More solar permits expected

From page 1

"Because of the extremely low LESA score on that property, we thought this would probably be a great place for solar that doesn't interfere with anybody," Janes said. "There was no objection or residential or issue with people."



(Photo by Jeff Helfrich)

county board recently put into place.

Rules of order

The board unanimously approved the addition of verbiage to its rules of order for meetings, concerning public comment

and presentation protocols. Board Chairman John Finrock (R, Mt. Morris, District 7) said the changes were made due to the board having a lack of "more-stringent" public comment and presentation rules in place.

The new verbiage for public comment is as follows: "Public comment will be allowed by calling for those who would like to address the County Board. They must put their name and address on the document at the podium. The Ogle County Board is committed to providing

members of the public an opportunity to speak to the board during public comment. We do not place a time limit on the comment, but we do recommend that the presenter be as concise as possible up to five minutes to ensure that our meetings conclude in a timely manner. Given the many agenda items that we deal with at every meeting we rarely have a type of video presentations."

The new verbiage for presentations at meetings is as follows: "Board presentations will be allowed by calling the County Board chairman at least five business days in advance to schedule a board presentation. The subject should be approved by the County Board chairman and be one that is listed as a 'General Interest' to members of the public and suitable for both adults and children in attendance at the County Board meetings."

Responding departments included Mt. Morris Fire, Advanced EMS, Byron Fire, Dixon City Fire, Dixon Rural Fire, Forrester Fire, German Valley Fire, Lanark Fire, Ogle County Emergency Management, Oregon Fire, Pecatonica Fire, Polo Fire, Shannon Fire, and Stillman Fire.

"A day like today takes a lot out of firefighters," Hough said. "That's part of the job. We have a great mutual aid system. We rapidly escalated the mutual aid box alarm system to bring resources in

from all of our neighboring communities. It's a pretty flawless system. Our companies worked well together. It's what we do. We all help each other out."

Mt. Morris Police, Mt. Morris Fire, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and ATF are performing a joint investigation. The investigation is still ongoing. There was no cause determined as of the time of an April 17 press release.

Byron Civic Band to present spring concert

BYRON — The Byron Civic Band cordially invites you to our annual spring concert on Sunday, April 21 to be held at the Byron Middle School auditorium at 3 p.m. You'll be treated to a variety of music, including Pirates of the Caribbean, First Suite in Eb for Military Band, Pas Redoublé, On a Hymn song of Philip Bliss, Big Band Superhits, Themes Like Old Times III, an interesting piece called The Elephant and the Flea, featuring Tom Izzo on tuba and Charlotte Hoss on piccolo, and of course... a march or two!

As always, there will be no charge for this concert, although donations will be graciously accepted. Additionally, this will be the final performance under our director, Mark Rose, who has been this band's director since its inception in 2018.

Come help us bid Mark farewell and be part of our 2024 Spring Concert!

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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LOCAL NEWS

OCEC to honor retirements of Camplain, Roberts

School psychologists have combined 56 years of service

CHANA — Each May, the Ogle County Educational Cooperative celebrates all education staff within the organization to appreciate service to students, districts, and families. This year, it will honor two special retirements.

Come join OCEC for an open house celebration in honor of Mr. Terry Camplain and Mr. Chris Roberts' retirements. Mr. Camplain and Mr. Roberts are both retiring after a combined 56 years of service.

Date: Friday May 3. Time: 5-10 p.m. (open house). Location: Luna (previously Salt 251) 531 S. 7th St. Rochelle, IL. What to expect: Hor d'oeuvres, cash bar, live music featuring Burn N' Bush.

Camplain was Illinois School Psychologist Practitioner of The Year in 2001, Northern Illinois School Psychologist President 1999-2000, Juvenile Justice Counsel Volunteer of The Year 2014, and Highland Community College Outstanding Alumni 2023.

Mr. Camplain has served OCEC for 33 years. The organization has the utmost gratitude for Mr. Camplain's unwavering commitment to students and trauma-informed training and practices within Ogle County schools and beyond. His dedication and expertise in this area have significantly enriched the educational community.

Mr. Camplain's extensive involvement in trauma-informed training, as well as his presentations at various conferences, including the Illinois Coalition for Educating At Risk Youth (ICEARY), highlight his passion for supporting our students' holistic well-being. His long-standing tenure with the Ogle County Educational Cooperative exemplifies his deep-rooted connection to our local youth, families and educators.

Mr. Camplain's profound impact on students, particularly those facing challenging circumstances, is truly commendable. His ability to foster positive connections and lasting relationships with our students speaks volumes about his exceptional teaching approach and unwavering support. In fact, many former students still reach out to "Mr. C" to touch base and let him know how they are doing.

Per Mrs. White, CEC staff, Mr. Camplain "is the epitome of what a mentor and leader should be. He always pushes his students, and staff, to be their very best in all that they do. He never expects perfection, instead encourages consistency. It has been an absolute pleasure to learn from Terry throughout the years."

We recognize and appreciate Mr. Camplain's contributions to our educational community. His tenure at Chana Educa-



Terry Camplain (left) and Chris Roberts will be retiring from the Ogle County Educational Cooperative this May. Camplain has served OCEC for 33 years and Roberts has served OCEC for a total of 23 years.

tion Center continues to inspire both students and fellow educators alike.

Roberts

School Psychologist Chris Roberts graduated with high honors from Illinois State University 1981 with B.S. in Psychology, and a minor in Sociology. He graduated from Illinois State University with a M.S. in School Psychology in 1983. He was a Nationally-Certified School Psychologist in 1989. He's a member of the Illinois School Psychologist Association Certified Support Personnel Leadership Award from the Northwest Region of the Illinois Principals Association.

Mr. Roberts' career began as a school psychologist for Northwest Special Education (1984-87). He joined Ogle County Educational Cooperative in 1987 and

worked until 1992, at which time, he relocated to Tennessee. During his tenure in Tennessee, he served as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor & Director of outpatient services for Raleigh Professional Associates in Memphis. In 2006, Mr. Roberts returned to OCEC and has worked with the organization from then, until presently, totaling

23 years.

Roberts, a Rochelle Township High School school psychologist with the OCEC, has been a mainstay at RTHS for the past 15 years. His extensive experience and knowledge of special education have been a tremendous asset to our staff, students, parents, and the entire district. He has been an invaluable

resource for our special education teachers, providing them with guidance and support for students with special needs.

As the building principal, Dr. Lewis shares that he has "consistently relied on Mr. Roberts expertise for advice on special education matters. His well-considered recommendations are always focused on what's best for the district, but most importantly, for our students and their families. Mr. Roberts will be dearly missed next year."

Mr. Roberts is well known for his caring, calm, empathic communication and wealth of knowledge. He has served the at-risk population at Focus House as their school psychologist as well. He is noted to be loved and respected by all staff members and noted to be one of the most professional persons many have ever worked with.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Jeff 'Big Daddy' Branscomb

FORRESTON — Jeff "Big Daddy" Branscomb, 49, of Forreston, passed away suddenly at home on the morning of April 10, 2024. He was born August 3, 1974 to Deborah & Roger Branscomb and lived his whole life close to family.

Jeff worked at Kable Printing/Quebecor in Mt. Morris for 14 years, at Americold in Rochelle for 13 years and was excited to begin his new career with the US Postal Service. Jeff loved any and all sports with his favorite teams the Bears, the Blackhawks and the White Sox and especially enjoyed his Fantasy Football leagues. Jeff was devoted to his family and enjoyed spending time with them.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Roger

& Deborah Branscomb, his brother Tobi (Heather) Branscomb, aunts/uncles Ramona (Chet) Mattingly, Paul (Irene) Branscomb, Kevin (Linda) Branscomb, Calvin Branscomb, Judy (Jerry) Stultz, Kathy Long, Tom (Jodi) Cowan plus many much-loved cousins.

Jeff was preceded in death by his grandparents, Paul & Darlene Branscomb, Richard & Marg Cowan as well as maternal aunt, Patricia Cowan and maternal uncle, Jim Cowan.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 6-8pm at Finch Funeral Home in Mt. Morris with graveside service on Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 10am-11am at Lightsville Cemetery in Leaf River.



James 'Jim' W. Davis

OREGON — James "Jim" W. Davis, 82, lifetime Oregon resident passed away at KSB Hospital in Dixon, IL, on Friday, April 12, 2024. He was born on October 30, 1941, in Rockford, IL, the son of Richard C. & Helen (Bearman) Davis. He graduated Oregon High School in 1959. Two years later he married the love of his life Kaye White on June 2, 1961, and spent many happy years together.

For several years he worked in the trucking industry for A&B Freight of Rockford. He even owned and operated his own trucking company throughout the 1970s. He loved the simple things in life like fishing, boating, collecting model, and in his younger years going bowling. He also had a deep love for antique cars and tractors, he would spend a lot of time tinkering in the garage on them. His one true love however was his family. He would always make sure to spend time

with them, especially the light of his life, his grandchildren.

Jim is survived and missed dearly by his loving wife Kaye of Oregon, IL; children, Connie Davis and Rick

Davis both of Oregon, IL; sister Kristine (John) Fordham of Pekin, IL; grandchildren, Trenton, Taylor, Dylan, David (Sarah) Kevorkian; and 2 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, daughters Sandra Jean & Wendy Jo, and sister Pat.

A visitation will be held in his honor on Thursday, April 18, 2024 beginning at 5:00 pm and going until 7:00 pm at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. Jim will be laid to rest at Fairmont Cemetery in Polo, IL. Memorial donations are established in his name and may be directed to the family. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com



Mable Alice Gray

CHANA — Mable Alice Gray, age 96, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at Allure of Pinecrest in Mt. Morris, IL. She was born August 21, 1927 in Pine Rock Township, Ogle County the daughter to Merritt and Alice (Canfield) Gray. She graduated 8th grade from Kings School, Stillman Valley High School in 1945, and Northern Illinois University in 1949 with a degree in Home Economics.

She spent her entire teaching career at Savanna High School. Mable was a lifelong member of the Chana United Methodist Church where she was active in the women's group. She was also a member of the National Teacher's Association and the Ogle County Retired Teacher's Association.

Mable enjoyed traveling and eating at various restaurants with her sister Ida Belle Gray.

She was predeceased by her parents and her sisters Emma Brooks and Ida Belle Gray.

Mable is survived by her nephew Stephen Brooks of Lansing, Michigan and other nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral service will be held 10:00 AM, Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7th Street in Oregon, Illinois with Rev. David Rogula officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral from 9:00 AM till 10:00 AM at the funeral home. Burial will be at the White Rock Cemetery near Kings, IL.

A memorial fund is established in Mable's name for Serenity Hospice and Home and Chana United Methodist Church.

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

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Oregon Police, Byron Police, Polo Police, Mt. Morris

Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

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Donald Edward Murbach

BYRON — Donald Edward Murbach, age 69, crossed over into eternal life in his home on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Don was born on January 22, 1955 to Donald Wilbur and Dolores Ruth (Wodach) Murbach in Chicago, Illinois. Don grew up in Mundelein, Illinois graduating in 1973 from Mundelein High School.

Don married his wife Beth (Engelmann) on Valentine's Day in 1976. Don worked at AMMCO Tools in North Chicago, Illinois. He then worked for Commonwealth Edison (Exelon) at Zion Nuclear Power Station and Byron Nuclear Power Station until his retirement in 2017.

Don loved his family dearly and worked hard to provide for them. He gave up his time and talent where needed, taking weeks of vacation to work Rockford Sharefest.

Don was a true Chicago Blackhawks fan. Going to his first game when he was a little boy. Like his dad, his cars were always clean and in prestigious condition. His Men's Group at church instilled in him a great love of our Lord. His faith carried him through the final months of his life.

He leaves his loving wife Beth;

sons Robert and Thomas; daughter and son-in-law Molly and Jenner Eisele; granddaughter Harmony (Tyler Grant) Murbach, grandson Trey Murbach; great grandson Charles Grant and his sweet fur pal, Mac along with his sister Susan; brother John (Linda) Murbach, in-laws Ronald and Barbara Kroeger; brothers-in-law James (Laila) Engelmann; Robert (Janet) Engelmann along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and cousins to cherish happy memories of Don. He was preceded in death

by his parents.

A visitation is planned for Thursday, April 25, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Farrell, Holland Gale Funeral Home, 506 W. Merchant, Byron, Illinois. There will be a private ceremony and spreading of ashes at Better Place Forest in Oregon, Illinois.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff and volunteers at Serenity Home and Hospice, especially hospice nurse, Sheila, for making Don's final journey such a comfortable and peaceful one. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Serenity Home and Hospice, 1658 IL-2, Oregon, IL 61061. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com



Lyle I. Printz

POLO — Lyle I. Printz, 85, of Polo, passed away Friday, April 12, 2024, at his home surrounded by family.

Lyle was born, April 29, 1938, in Lanark, Illinois, the son of Rexford Sr. and Mabel (Krauss) Printz. On June 27, 1959 in Lanark, IL, he married Ms. Marcia Misiewicz. Together they celebrated 64 years of marriage and three beautiful daughters. Lyle worked for Case IH for over 45 years and farmed in the Polo, Brookville and Scioto Mills area north of Freeport. He was a member of Lions Club, Umpire for Girls Fastpitch Softball. Lyle loved his family, his farm, his church and his dogs. He also enjoyed making a run to McDonalds for his favorite lunch. Lyle looked forward to planting and harvest season. He would often play tricks or pull a prank on his family and friends. If Lyle couldn't remember your name you were called George and with his big hands he would greet you with a fist bump and a smile.

Survivors include loving wife Marcia; daughters Pam (Michael) Merry of Freeport, IL, Tammy (Jeffrey) Kelly of Dixon, IL and Kim Printz of Dix-

on, IL; brother Rexford Printz Jr. of Pecatonica, IL; sister-in-law Christine Printz of Polo, IL; seven grandchildren Ashley (Jim) Abate, Heather (Travis) Lutz, Jess (Cara) Merry, Justin (Lynsie) Merry, Samantha (Eric) Montagno, Joseph (Abbey) Kelly, Casey (Annalee) Kelly; 14 Great-Grandchildren plus 1 on the way.

He was preceded in death by Great-Grandchildren Nathaniel Jacob, Christopher Jacob, Matthew Jacob Lutz and Hadley Kelly; 5 Brothers.

Visitation will be Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Polo from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The funeral service will be Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. also at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Polo with Rev. Scott Ralston Officiating. Burial will be immediately following at Lanark Cemetery in Lanark.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established St. Marks Lutheran Church, Polo, American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or Alzheimer's Association.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.



Margaret A. Scholl

WINNEBAGO — Margaret A. Scholl, 94, passed peacefully at her home, Prairie View Assisted Living facility in Winnebago, Illinois on April 15, 2024.

Margaret was born, December 24, 1929, in Freeport, IL, the daughter of Burt P. and Clara C. (Gilbert) Stauffer. She graduated in 1947 from Polo High School and went on to Manchester College graduating with a B.A. in 1951. She also attended Ball State University. Margaret was a teacher in Polo and Milledgeville teaching kindergarten, junior and senior high school. She worked at Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for over 27 years. Traveling, cooking, gardening and most of all helping others were her life's interests. Margaret was a member of East Jordan UM Church and was involved with numerous church and community clubs. Margaret married Arnold Scholl, March 25, 1951, and together they had a daughter Barbara and an infant son.

She is survived by her daughter Barbara (Thomas) Mellinger of Freeport, IL; grandsons Bradley (Nicole) Maines of Freeport, IL and Shawn

(Melissa) Page of Hanover, IL; great grandsons Steven A. Maines of Freeport, IL and Damien W. Page of Hanover, IL; great granddaughters Araya M. Maines of Freeport, IL, Sabrina G. Page and Leah R. Page

both of Hanover, IL; sister-in-law Ruth Stauffer of Mt. Morris, IL; brother-in-law J. Myron (Karen) Scholl of Polo, IL; numerous Nieces and Nephews.

Margaret is preceded in death by her husband Arnold; infant son; brothers Clarence and Daniel.

A memorial visitation will be Friday, April 26, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at East Jordan Church in rural Sterling, IL. A memorial service will follow at 2:00 p.m. at East Jordan Church with Rev. Jim Miller officiating. She will be laid next to her family in a private service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon, IL.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to East Jordan Church in Sterling or Prairie View Assisted Living in Freeport. A special thanks to Heartland Hospice of Rockford.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.



More obituaries listed on page A5

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Raymond 'Ray' G. Swanson

STILLMAN VALLEY — Raymond "Ray" G. Swanson, age 90, passed away at home in Stillman Valley, IL. He was born on December 22, 1933 in Chicago the son of Sven and Charlotte (Rhein) Swanson. Ray proudly served his country in the US Navy.

Ray attended the University of Illinois where he earned his Bachelor Degree in accounting.

He worked as an accountant for National Lock for 10 years and for the Berol Company for 25 years. Ray married Kay Beatty Petit on September 18, 1973 and they enjoyed the next 50 years of married life. They enjoyed attending the Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley and also loved traveling together especially on long car trips across the country.

He loved seeing new things and taking vacations. He connected with a group of Navy veterans who he became close with and he and Kay would travel to different places to spend time with them for over 15 years.

In his spare time; he liked to be outside and could be found golfing, fishing, or tending his vegetable garden. Ray liked to keep his mind sharp and was fond of doing puzzles, crosswords, and sudoku.

He is preceded in death by his

parents, sister Marge, and grandchildren Jonathan and LeeAnn. He is survived and missed by his wife, Kay of Stillman Valley; children, Darryl Swanson of Rockford, Joni (David) Brundage of Salinas, CA, Douglas (Shirley) Petit of Plainfield, Kim (Thomas) Hood of Carmel Valley, CA, Kelly Petit of Rockford, Kerry Petit of Stillman Valley, and Lee (Kim) Petit of Sycamore; grandchildren, Raymond G. Swanson, Jeffrey Swanson, Will Wheatley, Jacob Petit, Jeremy Petit, Connor Petit, Quinten Petit, Keegan Petit, and Ainsley Petit; and great grandchildren Katie and Michael.

The family would like to thank Saint Anne's and Heartland Hospice for all of the loving care and support shown to Ray and the family.

A funeral service celebrating his well lived life will be held at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home, 136 W. Roosevelt, Stillman Valley with Pastor Chris Brauns of the Red Brick Church officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at 11:00 AM. Memorials may be directed to The Red Brick Church or the Veterans Association or the local VFW.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com



Judith 'Judy' Carline (Pfeiffer) Wilmarth

WALNUT — Judith "Judy" Carline (Pfeiffer) Wilmarth died April 12, 2024, in Walnut, IL at the age of 95. Born November 14, 1928 in Savanna, IL to parents Charles Andrew and Marjorie (Deyo) Pfeiffer, Judy was raised in Oregon, IL, by her maternal grandparents, Fredrica Harris Deyo Stouffer and John Stouffer. She met her husband of 58 years, Gene Wilmarth, at Oregon High School. Judy and Gene married September 1, 1948, and lived in Belmond, Iowa for several years, where they had the first of their nine children, Katherine. In 1950, they moved to the Wilmarth family homestead in Leaf River, IL. Gene died in 2006 and Judy lived on the farm until 2017 when she moved to assisted living.

Judy was a loving mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend. She will be remembered for many things: homemade macaroni and cheese, her raspberry patch, cutting wool and denim pieces for rag rugs and quilts, reading to her grandchildren, jelly made with concord grapes from her own backyard, crispy oatmeal cookies, hosting sleepovers on the farm, asking every visitor to help her pick up sticks in the yard, and her famous sweet rolls.

Judy was a dedicated community leader for many years, serving the region through her work with the Salvation Army and People Helping People, where she was president for fifteen years. She also spent time teaching adults and children how to read. Judy was honored with many awards for her impact in the Ogle County region, including the Jefferson Award, a prestigious national award honoring individuals who demonstrate a commitment to serving their community. A real highlight was when Judy was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch through Chicago for the 1996 games in Atlanta. In addition to her involvement with the local community,

Judy was also a member of Beacon Hill Assembly of God Church in Byron, IL.

In recent years, a variety of amazing caregivers have been part of Judy's life, including Shirley Mazzei. Shirley has provided loving care and friendship to Judy, becoming a true favorite. The staff at Allure Nursing home in Walnut, IL have also provided Judy with exceptional care. Judy's family is full of gratitude for the individuals who provided her with compassionate support during the last few years of her life.

Judy is preceded in death by husband, Gene, siblings Charmion Ewing, Priscilla Pfeiffer, Rebecca Crisci, and James Pfeiffer, son Christopher, and grandchildren Kathryn "Kailey" Wilmarth and Kyle Marcos. She is survived by her siblings Margo Atherton (Robert) and Frederick Pfeiffer (Laine). Also surviving are eight of her children: Katherine Edwards (Richard), Julie Meriage (Richard), Jeffry (Mary Slocum), Randi Marcos (Juan), Michael (Betty Stone), Daniel (Susan Waterman), Gary (Shelli Zimmer) and Nancy White (Thomas). She leaves behind 25 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A service celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, May 18th at 1:00 pm at the Rock River Center (810 S. Tenth St., Oregon), followed by an open house until 4:00 pm. Those who attend are welcome to bring the following items, which are needed at People Helping People: canned goods - especially fruit, vegetables, and meat - toilet paper, dish soap, and paper towels. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Vitas of Lee County at 1040 4th St., Peru, Illinois, 61354 and People Helping People at 8648 Verde Dr., Byron, Illinois, 61010 c/o Ruth Ann Goelitz. Sympathy cards can be mailed to the family at 8221 N. Conger Rd., Leaf River, IL 61047.



Richard L. Wilkinson

MT. MORRIS — Richard L. Wilkinson, age 74, passed away on Thursday April 11, 2024 in Dixon Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Dixon, IL. Rich was born on May 18, 1949 in Coral Gables, FL; the son of David E. & Frieda J (Beck) Wilkinson. He graduated from Assumption High School in Davenport, IA. Rich married Deborah Holtman on July 25, 1970 in Kings, IL. Rich served in the United States Army. After the service he entered law enforcement; and he joined the Ogle County Sheriff's Office serving his county for 35 years.

Rich is survived by his wife: Deb

Wilkinson, Mt. Morris, IL; 2 sons: Richard J Wilkinson, Mt. Morris, IL and Jason L (Tammy) Wilkinson, Killeen, TX; 5 grandchildren; 2 brothers: Chuck (Susan) Wilkinson, Cottontown, TN and David (Rhonda) Wilkinson, Bettendorf, IA; sister: Sally (John) Rottman, Maple Grove, MN.

Rich is preceded in death by his father: David; mother: Frieda; step-mother: Mary.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Rich will be buried in White Rock Cemetery.

Memorial to serenity Hospice & Home and/or Dixon Rehab and Health Care Center.



Oregon's Holland inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at NIU

BATON ROUGE, L.A. — Diana Holland of Oregon was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Holland was initiated at Northern Illinois University.

Holland is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only

and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus

L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

RPD arrests two men on drug and weapons charges following search warrant

ROCHELLE — On Tuesday, April 9, the Rochelle Police Department Narcotics Team, assisted by the State Police SWAT Team, and members of the Rochelle Police Emergency Response Team, executed a search warrant in the 200 block of Gary Street, an April 11 RPD press release said.

The search warrant was executed based on information the Narcotics Team has been gathering for several months. While conducting the search, Darnell H. Wilson was arrested on charges of possession with intent to deliver fentanyl (class two felony), possession with intent to deliver cocaine (class two felony), possession of a controlled substance ecstasy (class four felony), and three separate weapons charges (class two felony). Also arrested was Darzel A. Wilson, who was charged with



possession of controlled substance (class two felony) and one weapons charge (class two felony). The team also seized over \$3,800 in United States currency.

Both subjects were

booked at the Rochelle Police Department and transported to the Ogle County Jail. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a judgement of Foreclosure entered by the Court in Ogle County Case No. 2023FC62 the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

- The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 004 E. Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054.
- The time and place of sale will be May 17, 2024, at 10:00 A.M., Ogle County Sheriff's Office 202 S. 1st Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061, County of Ogle, Illinois, conducted by the Ogle County Sheriff.
- A description of the improvements of the real estate is: Three bedroom 2 bathroom single family home approximately 2780 sq ft.
- The terms of the sale are: Ten Percent (10%) due by cash or certified funds at the time of the sale and the balance is due within 24 hours of sale. The property offered for sale is subject to all real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality of the title and without recourse to the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. No refunds.
- Title will be conveyed subject to the following liens and interests: all general real estate taxes, special assessments, if any, easements and restrictions of record, and the interests, if any, of any tenant in possession.
- The property will not be available for inspection.
- The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of subject premises.
- If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).
- IF YOU ARE THE MORGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Matthew M. Hevrin, ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC, 839 N. Perryville Rd., Suite 200, Rockford, Illinois 61107, Tel. (815) 414-5518.

No. 0416 (April 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

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

Public is Welcome!

VFW EVENTS

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

Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners

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VIEWPOINT

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

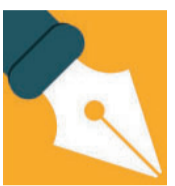
Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

Motorcycle awareness month

Dear editor,

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. The Twin Rivers and Thunder Rock chapters of ABATE of Illinois would like to remind drivers to please watch for motorcycles and don't use your phone



while driving. You're conditioned to look for cars and trucks and it's easy to overlook an oncoming motorcycle. Look twice and save a life. Thank you.

Twin Rivers and Thunder Rock chapters of ABATE of Illinois

Condemn Christian nationalism

Dear editor,

As Christians, we must condemn "Christian Nationalism" as a distortion of the Gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

"Christian Nationalism" demands Christianity be the privileged religion in the United States and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian.

However, true patriotism requires that we be loyal to our United States Constitution which established both the free exercise of any religion and also prohibited the establishment of any specific religion by the U.S. government.

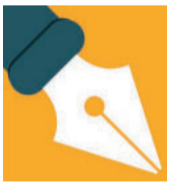
Whether we worship at a church, mosque, syna-

gogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution.

We must stand up to and speak out against "Christian Nationalism," especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship of other faiths.

In the Bible, Matthew 7:15 and 24:4, Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets. Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name saying, 'I am the Christ' and they will lead many astray."

Julia B. Hammer
Polo



Net farm income expectations for 2024

THE USDA released the first insights into net farm income expectations for 2024. The report anticipates a decrease from 2023's forecast of \$155 billion to \$116 billion – a drop of nearly \$40 billion, or 25.5%, and the largest recorded year-to-year dollar decrease in net farm income. The decline marks the second consecutive drop since record-high farm income levels in 2022 (\$185.5 billion). When adjusted for inflation, net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability, is expected to decrease 27%, or \$43 billion, from 2023. If realized, 2024 net farm income would be below the 20-year average (2003-2022) in inflation-adjusted dollars. A \$21 billion expected drop in cash receipts for agricultural goods and a \$17 billion expected increase in production expenses explain 95% of the forecast decline.

Direct government payments are estimated to decrease by \$1.9 billion, or 16%, between 2023 and 2024 to slightly over \$10 billion and about nine percent of net farm income. This marks the fourth consecutive annual decrease in government payments for producers since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and would represent the lowest value since 2014, even without adjusting for inflation. Pandemic era programs that contributed to as much as 48 percent of net farm income in 2020 no longer contribute to farmers' cash flow.

Commodity insurance indemnities, included for comparison to disaster programs, are forecast down slightly in 2024, moving from \$21.77 billion to \$20.78 billion but remaining well above the prior 10-year average of \$12.72 billion. The number of crop insurance programs has increased and along with it the total value of liabilities across sold crop insurance policies. Increased participation and difficult weather have resulted in higher-than-average indemnity payments the past several years.

Cash receipts for crop and livestock sales are expected to move from \$507 billion in 2023 to \$486 billion in 2024 for a loss of \$21 billion (four percent). The forecast decline in crop receipts explains nearly 80% of this difference, signaling a weaker incoming year for row crop prices. Receipts for all crops are

forecast to drop to \$16.7 billion (six percent). Corn receipts are forecast down \$11.3 billion (14%) and are responsible for much of the expected crop receipts decline. Corn futures prices have recently dropped to a three-year low on expectations of high global supplies. Soybean receipts are expected down \$6 billion (10%), hay receipts down \$800 million (8.3 percent) and wheat and vegetable and melon receipts .5 percent or less. Heavily traded grain commodities face strong supply dynamics that have weakened price outlooks for the year, substantially contributing to the \$16.7 billion expected difference between 2023 and 2024.

Cash receipts for livestock are also forecast down between 2023 and 2024, though not to the same magnitude as crops. Total animal product receipts are expected to decrease \$4.6 billion (1.9%) from \$244 billion to \$239 billion. After several years of gains, receipts for cattle and calves are expected down \$1.6 billion (1.6%) – the largest drop among the livestock categories. With the smallest cattle inventories in the U.S. in 73 years, prices for beef will likely be strong but largely offset by limited production. Turkey producers are expected to face a rough year, according to these numbers. Cash receipts for turkeys are expected down \$1.4 billion (21%). Growing flocks less impacted by avian influenza and weaker-than-expected consumer demand may explain this grim outlook. Similarly, cash receipts for chicken eggs are expected down \$1.7 billion (12%) for likely similar reasons. Receipts for dairy products and milk are expected down \$900 million (2%) primarily linked to lower expected prices. Growing inventories of cold stored cheeses and larger supplies globally create downward pressures against strengthening Class prices. Broilers and hogs are the only categories expected to see increases, up \$700 million and \$300 million respectively. Though any positive number is welcome, hog producers faced record losses in 2023 that will not be substantially offset by a \$300 million across industry gain.

Behind a drop in cash receipts, the most significant contributor to an expected farm income drop is attributable to higher production expenses, estimated to increase four percent over 2023 for a total of \$455 billion across the farm economy.

This marks the sixth consecutive year of production expense increases and fourth consecutive year production expenses hit a new record high. Production expenses are expected up across almost all categories.

The largest percent increases between 2023 and 2024 are expected between marketing, storage and transportation (up 12%), the cost of labor (up 7.5%) and the cost of pesticides (up 7.2%). After a year of declines for fertilizer, USDA expects a 4.3% increase between 2023 and 2024 (from \$30.4 billion to \$31.7 billion) though still quite a bit lower from the \$36.8 billion spent in 2022. Even with improving inflationary conditions, interest expenses are expected up \$230 million (about one percent), meaning relief around the cost of capital and servicing that capital is not expected for much of 2024. The Federal Reserve has held the federal funds effective rate at 5.33% since August 2023 with indications that lower rates could be many months away. This dynamic is reflected in USDA's estimations that interest expenses will increase for farmers and ranchers. The only main expense category forecast to decrease is fuels and oils, expected to drop over seven percent (\$1.21 billion) across the farm economy as fuel prices continue to recede from record levels in 2022.

USDA's most recent estimates for 2024 net farm income provide a very early forecast of the farm financial picture. For 2024, USDA anticipates a decrease in net farm income, moving from \$155 billion in 2023 to \$116 billion in 2024, a decrease of 25.5%. Much of the forecasted decline in 2024 net farm income is tied to lower crop and livestock cash receipts and continued increases in production costs. It is important to highlight the early nature of this forecast.

With an early expectation of significant revenue declines, though, it becomes all the more important for producers to have clarity on rules that impact their businesses' ability to operate and for producers to have access to comprehensive risk management options.

"Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans upon his hoe and gazes on the ground, the emptiness of ages in his face, and on his back the burden of the world." -Edwin Markham

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



Ron Kern

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On May 6, 1979, more than 65,000 anti-nuclear power demonstrators marched on the U.S. Capitol in protest against more nuclear power plants. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader had described nuclear power as "our country's technological Vietnam." The group was formed after the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

* On May 7, 1934, the Pearl of Lao Tzu, almost 10 inches around and weighing about 14 pounds, was found by a diver in a giant clam in the Palawan Sea. Gemologists did not consider it to be a true pearl, however, as it did not have the iridescence of true pearls.

* On May 8, 1988, Stella Nickell, who put cyanide in Excedrin capsules, including her husband's, as well as five additional bottles she placed on store shelves in the Seattle area, was convicted of her husband's murder and that of Susan Snow, who had ingested one of the capsules and died instantly.

* On May 9, 2005, the Thorp processing plant in Sellafield, U.K., experienced a leakage of about 20 tons of nuclear material via a cracked pipe. While the leak was contained and didn't impose a risk to the public, the estimated cost to repair the damage was expected to fall heavily on taxpayers.

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.

The tragic history of Israel and the Palestinians

THE long and bloody history leading to the war in Gaza brings to mind ancient Greek tragedies, in which the characters were helpless against fate, the laws of the universe, and their own mistakes. A similar feeling of tragic destiny hovers over Israel and the Palestinians. It arises in their case from human nature — and economics.

Jared Diamond's influential 1997 book, "Guns, Germs, and Steel," revealed how this can happen. His purpose in writing it was to explain why some societies, and not others, have prospered and become powerful.

It goes all the way back to prehistoric times, when people began to take up farming. This economic advance produced large populations, along with tools and weapons that enabled them to absorb, drive away, or kill off the remaining hunters and gatherers. This was the beginning of a pattern that continues today, in which societies with superior economies overwhelm less fortunate ones.

Mr. Diamond argues that the winners haven't been more capable than the others, but instead enjoyed more favorable natural resources, climate, and geographic locations. His examples run throughout history, around the world, and at all levels of economic development. They leave the impression that something like a law of nature, like gravity, is at play.

The victors in these tales of dominance and conquest have of course tended to see themselves as agents for the greater good. Our ancestors believed that they were creating a "city on a hill," an example of a just society for the world to imitate, when they came to America. The Native Americans that they encountered were, unfortunately, in the way.

The British also expressed high ideals as they created their empire in the 19th century. They were, in the words of Rudyard Kipling, taking up the "white man's burden" of civilizing their conquered subjects. The flip side of those ideals was the belief that the native ways of life, and often the natives themselves, were inferior.

Idealism was also a driving force behind Zionism, the movement to create the state of Israel. Ian Black's book, "Enemies and Neighbors," provides a thorough account of that struggle.

He explains that European Jews living through the persecutions of the 19th century and the Holocaust of the

20th were inspired by the dream of returning to their ancient homeland. They hoped to reestablish the long-lost state of Israel, a Jewish nation where they might live without fear. The Arab Muslims, who had for centuries made up 80% or more of the population, presented, unfortunately, a moral as well as a physical challenge to that dream.

Arthur Balfour, a leading British official at the time, expressed a common reaction among Zionists and their British supporters to that dilemma: "Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is . . . of far greater import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land."

Violence on both sides gradually intensified during the years between World War I and World War II, as more and more Jews entered the country, and as Palestinians became increasingly alarmed at the threat to their way of life. The Zionists enjoyed the financial backing of wealthy Europeans and the support of the British government. The Arabs never had a chance against that combination of economic and military power.

The Zionist dream came to pass in 1948 with the creation of the state of Israel and the removal of most Palestinians from within its borders. It has ever since remained the most powerful nation in the area, although one surrounded by enemies. The United States, rather than the United Kingdom, is now its leading supporter against opponents within and outside of Palestine.

There are many reasons for our preferential treatment of Israel through the years. We have much in common with Israelis in terms of culture and political ideology, and many Christians see Israel as a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. Arabs, on the other hand, seem more alien to us, with their unfamiliar language, religion, even their clothing.

But we must, if we're to play a helpful role in this conflict, understand the way it looks and feels from both sides, and how it fits into a pattern of conquest that goes all the way back to prehistory. The laws of human nature and economics have produced the Greek tragedy that is the war in Gaza. It will take all the wisdom everyone can muster to produce a happier final act.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Farm Bureau scholarship winners announced

OREGON—Breanna Cisketti, Gracie Prose, Cooper Alderks, Molly Blum, Carter Conderman, Aylivia Danekas, Bailey Jackson and Jack Richolson. were all recently named as recipients of scholarships awarded by the Ogle County Farm Bureau in 2024.

Cisketti was awarded the Del Flessner Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. This scholarship was created to honor the legacy of long-time Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Del Flessner. She is the daughter of Brian and Brandi Cisketti. Breanna is a 2022 graduate of Polo High School and is currently majoring in agribusiness at UW-Platteville.

Blum and Danekas were named winners of the \$1,000 General Farm Bureau Scholarship.

Blum is the daughter of Matthew and Krista Blum, Polo. She is a 2023 graduate of Polo High School and currently attends Iowa State University majoring in agronomy.

Danekas will graduate this spring semester from Polo High School. In the fall she will be attending the University of Tennessee-Martin majoring in animal science.

Richolson was named the recipient of the \$1,000 Don Bybee Memorial

Scholarship, sponsored through the generosity of the Bybee Family to honor Mr. Bybee for his many years of service to agriculture in Ogle County. Jack is the son of Brad and Julie Richolson, Lindenwood. Jack is a 2022 graduate from Rochelle Township High School and currently attends Iowa State University majoring in agricultural studies.

Conderman is the recipient of the Mark Detig Memorial Scholarship awarded in the amount of \$1,000. This scholarship honors the late Mark Detig for his service to the Ogle County Pork Producers Association and Ogle County agriculture. Carter is the son of Carmon and Craig Conderman, Byron. Carter is a 2022 graduate from Byron High School and is attending UW-Platteville majoring in soil and crop science.

Alderks is the Ag Technology Scholarship winner. Cooper is the son of Dan Alderks, Chana. He will graduate Oregon High School this year and will continue his studies at Highland Community College majoring in ag business. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$1,000.

Jackson is the recipient of the Mary LeFevre Memorial Scholarship, sponsored in cooperation be-

tween the Farm Bureau and the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family. The scholarship focuses on students pursuing careers in healthcare. Bailey is the daughter of Rodney Jackson, Rochelle. She is a 2023 graduate of Rochelle High School and is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in nursing. The scholarship is awarded at \$1,000.

Prose was awarded the George LeFevre Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. It also is funded with the cooperation of the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family, recognizing Mr. LeFevre for his lifelong service to Ogle County agriculture. Gracie is the daughter of Nick Prose, Oregon. Gracie is a 2023 graduate of Oregon High School and is majoring in agribusiness/communications at the UW-Platteville.

This marks the 26th year that the Ogle County Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to member dependents who seek to pursue course studies in agriculture at an accredited institution of higher education.

Scholarships will again be awarded in 2025 and applications will be available in January. For information on the Ogle County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program contact Ron Kern at 815-732-2231.



Conservation club makes donation to Shriner's Hospital in honor of Donald Vogeler

CHANA — On Friday, April 12, Seth Gelande, president, and Dave Gerber, treasurer, of the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club, made a heartfelt contribution to the Shriner's Hospital in honor of Donald Vogeler. Don, fondly remembered alongside his wife Tootie, was a cherished member of the Conservation Club. Together, with their grandchildren and friends, they spent weekends at the campgrounds, soaking in the splendor of nature and wildlife.

Emily Anaya, Don and Tootie's granddaughter said, "The Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club was my childhood haven where the simple joys of camping came alive with my grandparents. Days filled with fishing, playful moments at the playground, and evenings spent wrapped in the warmth of campfire tales. These cherished memories are imprinted on my

heart forever." Gerber stated, "At the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club the legacy of outdoor wonders lives on. The spirit of adventure thrives, welcoming youth to enjoy camping, fishing and outdoor education, accompanied by the sprawling beauty of its grounds. Its where families share experiences that kindle the flames of togetherness."

Gelande said, "As a fellow Mason, it felt right to honor Don, a dedicated, longstanding member who was deeply committed to the growth of our future generations Upholding such legacies is at the core of our mission here at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club."

To learn more about the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club or view our upcoming events, please visit Rochellewildlife.org.

County electronics recycling event is April 26

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, April 26, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25th.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCR's, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calcu-

lators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVD's, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

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

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



Oregon Lions give away books at Family Night

Lions for Literacy members, Lion Sharon and Lion Joe Kryszak, gave away books to those students attending Family Night at the Oregon Elementary School on March 21. (Courtesy photo)

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



(Courtesy photo)

McCombie launches Women in Ag group

SAVANNA – House Minority Leader Tony McCombie held a successful first “Women in Agriculture” advisory group, bringing together over a dozen women from across her 89th legislative district to discuss legislative updates relevant to the industry, and connect with similar minded women.

“I see this group as an opportunity for women to work together to gain a better understanding of legislation and programs that promotes Illinois’ largest economic driver.”

Tony McCombie

Bringing together women working in agriculture has been a priority for Leader McCombie. This first meeting was an introduction for members within the group, and an opportunity for them to hear from Leader McCombie on issues relevant in the legislature to farming, agricultural education, and funding.

and programs that promotes Illinois’ largest economic driver.”

Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello was also present for the first meeting to provide an overview of the Department and make his department accessible for questions or concerns on issues brought forward in discussion.

ships with schools through FFA and 4-H. Continued bipartisan efforts to expand opportunities for women in agriculture are critical and have our full support,” said Director Jerry Costello II, IDOA director.

McCombie’s group will continue to meet quarterly throughout the year and will feature additional guest speakers to bring added resources and insight to Women in Agriculture. With questions about the advisory group or for information on how to join as a participant, residents are encouraged to contact Leader McCombie’s District Office by email atmcmbie@ilhousegov.org.

“This meeting was a great introduction to a coalition that I have wanted to start for some time—to bring women together, celebrate their impact to agriculture and be a resource for each other,” said McCombie. “I see this group as an opportunity for women to work together to gain a better understanding of legislation

RSAC marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

OGLE COUNTY — April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling has so many things happening! A poster contest took place on April 5 from 11-1 p.m. in Rockford at Patriot’s Gateway. Mayor McNamara also made a proclamation during the event, proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Prizes were awarded and teens were able to express themselves through art while supporting survivors of sexual violence!

We are grateful to work alongside Jessica Cash, executive director of Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center for this presentation and thank the Rock River Center for hosting. We enjoy partnering with other agencies to help bring awareness and education to our communities.

are provided by RSAC for free with some even offering free CEUs for social workers and counselors. Please contact Michelle if you are interested to learn more about our professional training offerings. RSAC also took part in a trip to Springfield at the end of March to rally for more funding for rape crisis centers in Illinois. Please visit our website to learn more about the funding crisis for ICASA rape crisis centers and how you can help!

RSAC has continued to provide individual and school-based counseling services to those in need. We continue to take referrals and welcome any outreach opportunities to provide informational presentations to organizations or business in the Ogle County community.

Most recently, Michelle Pauley, Ogle County therapist & advocate, presented to the Ogle County Educational Cooperative (OCEC) on Trauma & The Window of Tolerance. This training and other types of trainings

If you are looking to get more involved, please contact us to volunteer on our board, or become a volunteer medical advocate. Help those in need when they need it the most.

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling.org
Oregon Office 815-732-0000
Rockford & 24/7 Crisis 815-636-9811

Free community garden plots available

BYRON — Free, ready-to-plant, composted and tilled, raised-garden plots are available behind the United Church of Byron at 701 W. 2nd St. There are 27 4x8-foot beds available, with mulched pathways.

church, with convenient parking and water available on site. A strip of native, perennial, prairie plants along one side of the community garden attracts pollinators.

Please call the church office at 815-234-8777 to claim one or more boxes for your summer gardening.



Area Girl Scouts thank volunteers

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. The area’s Girl Scouts would like to thank all our volunteers, especially the leaders of our troops in Mt. Morris, Oregon, Kings, Lindenwood, Rochelle and Steward. (Courtesy photo)

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



H.E.R.

What the heck! I’m not alone in wondering why I’m still here....staff and volunteers are puzzled too! I’m H.E.R., a friendly, upbeat gal with a winning personality. I love to rub my head on hands, faces and arms. I don’t know if it is because I am FIV positive that makes folks reluctant to give me a home, but it really isn’t that big a deal. I’m told I’m a genuinely happy cat who will make any home a happy place. Now that’s hard to beat. So come in and adopt me, please!!

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Christel Ackland 815-561-2153
or
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125



to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!

LOCAL NEWS

Celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with a night of comedy

DIXON — April represents Autism Acceptance Month, a time to foster awareness, understanding, and acceptance of individuals with autism. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability characterized by differences in social communication and behavior, and repetitive behaviors, interests, patterns, and activities. People with autism display a range of skills and levels of functioning. Many autistic people and their families embrace autism as an intrinsic part of who they are.

This year for Autism Acceptance Month, the White House called on all Americans to learn more about autism and create more welcoming, inclusive communities. April represents a time to embrace neurodiversity and celebrate the unique experiences, perspectives, and talents of autistic people who think, communicate, and experience

the world differently. Autism Acceptance Month encourages communities to create environments where individuals with autism can thrive and be valued for who they are.

One event that embodies the spirit of Autism Acceptance Month is the upcoming evening of comedy on Thursday April 25th at the Dixon Historic Theatre. Florissa and the Dixon Historic Theatre worked closely together to bring renowned autistic comedian, author, and TedX speaker Michael McCreary to the Sauk Valley. McCreary, known for his witty humor and insightful observations, has been captivating audiences with his comedy that brings a fresh perspective on everyday life. He invites audiences to embrace the quirks and complexities that make each person unique and highlights the humanity that unites us all.

This comedy event will wrap

up Autism Acceptance Month and provides an opportunity to embrace diversity, foster empathy, and create a more inclusive community. This event is supported by funding from the Dixon Historic Theatre, The Autism Program of Illinois, Kreider Services Foundation and the Kreider Alliance.

Due to this support, there is a minimal ticket fee of \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at dixontheatre.com or the box office at 815-508-6324. A book signing with Michael McCreary for his book "Funny, You Don't Look Autistic" will be held from 3:45-4:30pm at Books On First in Dixon. Florissa and the Dixon Historic Theatre asks you to join them for this unforgettable and inspirational night of comedy and to spread the message of awareness and acceptance this month.



Oregon Lion Roger Brunner receives community service award

On Wednesday, April 3, several Oregon Lions, and community members, gathered at the Grove in Mt. Morris to honor Roger Brunner's service to the Oregon community and his many years of dedicated service to the Oregon Lions Club. Oregon Mayor Ken Williams and Lions of Illinois Foundation Member Ron Fruit were among those who were present to thank Roger and present him with a Lions of Illinois Foundation Award. (Courtesy photo)



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Funny... You Don't Look Autistic

Free Will Donation accepted at the door

Thursday April 25, 2024
7:00pm (Doors open at 6:15pm)
@ The Dixon Historic Theatre
114 S. Galena, Dixon IL

Tickets: \$5.00 thanks to our sponsors. Tickets can be purchased at dixontheatre.com or call the Dixon Theatre box office 815-508-6324 and leave a message. Cash tickets purchased at the door.

FEATURING THE COMEDY OF **Michael McCreary**

Close up and Personal book signing with Comedian and Author, Michael McCreary -- Thursday 4/25: 3:45pm-4:30 at Books on First street, 202 W. 1st Street, Dixon IL 61021. Get a copy of Michael's book signed. Can't make it? Reserve your signed copy today by calling Books on First Street at 815-285-2665.

Funny... You Don't Look Autistic Comedy Night featuring Michael McCreary has been sponsored by your friends at:

Funding provided in whole or in part by The Autism Program of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Human Services

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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 8
At 8:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Chelsea D. Orr, 31, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration for no insurance. This violation occurred in the 200 block of East Washington Street.

April 11
At 11:05 a.m., Oregon's school resource officer issued one 15-year-old female of Mt. Morris a civil citation for possession of cannabis not more than 10 grams. This violation occurred at the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.
At 11:33 p.m., Oregon Police issued Brandon S. Watry, 37, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired

registration. This violation occurred in the 400 block of Franklin Street.

April 13
At 6:30 p.m., Oregon Police issued Frank Fenton, 59, Oregon, a city citation for violating the city ordinance of allowing a dog to run at large. This violation occurred near the intersection of 9th and Jefferson Streets.

Ten verbal warnings and 14 parking citations were issued during the week of April 8-14.

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

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Man transported to hospital after being struck by vehicle

OREGON — On April 10 at approximately 1 p.m., deputies responded to a pedestrian-versus-vehicle accident in the 10,000 block of West Pines Road in rural Polo. After an investigation it was determined that David Stouffer, 69, of Polo was walking to the mailbox and entered the roadway disregarding oncoming traffic. Stouffer was struck by a vehicle being driven by Lucy Chamberlain, 75, of Dixon. Stouffer was transported to KSB Hospital for injuries sustained.

On April 12 at approximately 10:50 a.m. deputies arrested Fazili Alonda, 27, of Rockford at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving on a revoked license (no bond). He appeared in court, was released, and will return to court on May 13 at 1 p.m.

On April 14 at approximately 9:28 p.m. deputies were dispatched to Casey's in Stillman Val-

ley (105 S. Rural Road) for a driving complaint. A concerned citizen reported that a female, operating a white Kia Soul, had almost struck a vehicle near the intersection of Rural Road and Roosevelt Street. The concerned citizen reported that the female had appeared intoxicated after witnessing her inside of the establishment. Upon deputies' arrival, contact was made with the female, identified as Sarah J. Schwartz, 37, of Oregon. Deputies conducted an investigation and subsequently placed Schwartz under arrest for driving while under the influence of drugs. Schwartz was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail. While at the jail, Schwartz was additionally charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance (two counts), possession of drug paraphernalia, and endangering the life or health of a child. Per the Pre-Trial Fairness

Act (SAFE-T Act), the aforementioned charges are not detainable, and Schwartz was released from the Ogle County Jail on a notice to appear. Schwartz has a return court date set for early next month.

On April 15 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies, the Byron Police Department, and the Byron Fire Department responded to the area of North German Church Road and North Kufalk Lane for a truck vs. farm equipment accident. After an investigation it was determined that Will Winterton, 18, of Byron, was traveling west on German Church Road in a skid loader when he was struck from behind by Eric Blackburn, 48, of Dixon. Winterton was transported to Swedish American Hospital for injuries sustained. Blackburn was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office releases general calls for service

POLO — The Polo Police Department recently released its General Calls for Service for the weeks of April 1-14.

Citizen complaints/assists: Five. Animal: One. Disturbance/domestic: One.

Fire/medical assists: Two. Alarm/open door: One. Traffic stops: Five. County assists: One.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

We extend our congratulations to

René Marks

as she retires after 11 years with Stillman Bank!



René joined Stillman Bank in February 2013 as a Teller at our Oregon office. In 2021, she was promoted to Teller Supervisor. After 11 years of service, she will be retiring on **Tuesday, April 30**.

If you would like to send well wishes to René, please feel free to drop off a card at any of our locations or mail to 1445 IL Route 2 North P.O. Box 9; Oregon, IL 61061.

Best Wishes René!



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Players taking their game overseas

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — Two Ogle County softball standouts are looking to take their talents overseas and compete against some of the best high school softball players on a global stage.

Polo junior Cheyenna Wilkins and Forreton junior Aubrey Sanders are two of a select group of high school softball players in Illinois who have been selected to participate in The Cup, an annual indoor softball tournament held in the Netherlands that features some of the best young players in the world. Wilkins and Sanders, who both compete for the Midwest Aftershock softball club, are raising money in order to make the trip abroad and represent the United States.

“Playing in the Netherlands was an experience I will never forget,” said Sanders, who participated in the 2024 edition of The Cup as a member of the USA Avengers. “I was so proud to be able to represent my country over there and I will never forget the level of experience that I witnessed while I was there. It was truly amazing and it meant so much that I got to go.”

The Cup is an annual softball tournament that has existed for over 25 years. The tournament is hosted in Schiedam, Netherlands and features elite high school athletes from several European countries including the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Belgium, France, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Denmark and the Czech Republic. The next edition of The Cup will be held from Jan. 17-19, 2025 and 16 teams will play a total of 48 games over a three-day period.

“I am looking to raise money to help contribute to the traveling and hotel expenses while there,” Wilkins said. “This experience means a lot to me as it will bring my softball skills to a higher level as I will be playing against some of the most elite players around the world.”

Both Wilkins and Sanders have been playing softball

for most of their lives. Wilkins began playing softball when she was in fifth grade, eventually starting travel softball in seventh grade. The Polo junior is in her third year with the high school softball program and is primarily used as a pitcher and an outfielder. Wilkins is also in her third year with the Midwest Aftershock.

Some of her favorite softball memories include earning All-Conference First Team honors as a sophomore and helping her travel team win a USSSA National Championship last year.

See BALL page 2



Above right, Polo junior Cheyenna Wilkins has been selected to participate in The Cup, an annual softball tournament held in the Netherlands. Wilkins is raising money to help cover the costs of her trip overseas. (Courtesy photo) At left, Forreton junior Aubrey Sanders has been selected to participate in The Cup, an annual softball tournament held in the Netherlands. Sanders is raising money to help cover the costs of her trip overseas. (Russell Hodges photo)

TORCHBEARER 2024

Rebecca Hazzard
RE/MAX of Rock Valley

We are thrilled to announce that Rebecca Hazzard, Real Estate Broker & JD Gieson, Real Estate Broker earned membership in the elite group of 2024 RE/MAX Torchbearers! RE/MAX identifies top real estate agents, all under the age of 40, across the U.S. and Canada and welcomes them to the elite RE/MAX Torchbearer group. Each year, this select group of individuals represents the entrepreneurial spirit of the RE/MAX network in service to homebuyers and sellers.

TORCHBEARER 2024

JD Gieson
RE/MAX of Rock Valley

Mortgage Rate Realty Check

- 1975 - 9.17%
- 1980 - 14.42%
- 1985 - 13.06%
- 1990 - 10.13%
- 1995 - 8.79%
- 2000 - 8.26%
- 2005 - 5.77%
- 2010 - 5.00%
- 2015 - 3.72%
- 2020 - 2.77%
- 2024 - 6.97%



NEW LISTING

2416 S. Ridge Rd., Oregon \$395,000
Call Rebecca

SPACIOUS HOME IN THE COUNTRY! This custom build 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is situated on 1.34 acres just minutes from town. With nearly 4,000 square of living space, you will fall in love with the grand living space in this house. Living room features oversized windows, wood burning fireplace and is open to the kitchen with an eat up island and dining space. Main floor laundry room along with spacious mudroom are added perks. There are also two spacious bedrooms on the main floor with large closets. Upstairs you will find the master suite complete with double vanities and his and her closets. Finished, walk out lower level with additional 4th bedroom, full bathroom and hook ups for a wet bar. Attached and finished 3 car garage. Backyard with wonderful country views from your oversized deck or patio. New roof 2022.

NEW LISTING

1527 Eadens Place, Dixon \$189,000
Call JD

Welcome to this beautiful, well maintained ranch townhome, offering rare direct river frontage and access. Built in 2020, this modern residence is designed for accessibility and ease of living. Step inside to discover a stylish kitchen with soft closing cabinets and stone countertops, adding both elegance and functionality. With main floor laundry and an attached garage as additional convenience. Outside, the stone paver patio installed last year, provides the perfect spot to soak in the serene river views and breathtaking sunsets. Another added feature includes two, full glass storm and screen combination doors that provides a ton of additional sunlight, air flow, and practicality. Move-in ready and meticulously cared for, this home invites you to experience waterfront living at its finest. Agent related.

NEW PRICE

2874 E Orchid Lane, Oregon NOW \$499,000
Call Carla

PAMPERED PERFECTION Exquisite taste is evident in this stunning all brick custom built home sitting on a 1.95 acre wooded lot. There's 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, Over 2300 sq ft on the main floor plus the walkout deck overlooking the inviting patio area that's great for entertaining or just relaxing! The inviting luxurious owner's suite accommodates the most lavish furnishings with French doors that lead to the deck, plus a huge private bath with walk in shower and jacuzzi tub and walk-in closet! You'll love your address as much as living in this exceptional home. The custom backyard with its own waterfall and pond with a private wooded backyard with impressive landscaping. The oversized 3.5 car garage offers extra storage. Fiber optics high speed internet for your streaming needs. You must inspect this one to appreciate it! This is definitely where you'll want to be! Located just off of Rt 64 with easy access to I-39 and I-88. You'll love this location with it being only a few minutes from downtown Oregon. There's 5 state parks nearby, the Rock River for fishing and boating fun and so much more to offer in the quaint community of Oregon.

721 Oaks Lane, Byron \$304,900
Call Lori

Parade home, granite countertops in bathrooms, formal dining room, great room, breakfast room, split bedrooms, 6-panel oak doors, first floor laundry. Large master bedroom, walk-in closet, whirlpool bath. Two full baths, new carpet throughout, calcoat plaster walls throughout including garage, stacked ledger stone fireplace with double tier oak mantle, water softener, Aprilaire humidifier, water purifier, new water heater. New gas stove, new microwave, new dishwasher. Fenced in backyard, deck off kitchen and master bedroom. Excellent neighborhood in beautiful Byron Oaks Estates, Byron schools, low taxes.

523 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron \$699,000
Call Becky

Calling Investors!!! Great investment opportunity with two means of income - Successful existing restaurant with a 3 year lease plus a 5 unit apartment building (long term renters) - great cash flow. Restaurant has been remodeled & kitchen updated. Apartments have 2 bedroom & laundry in each. Lots of paved parking for both the restaurant and apartments. Great central location on the state highway and in the busy business area with a traffic count of 10,600 daily. (business not included - only building and apartments) Outdoor covered patio not included in the sale.

401 Lillemor Lane, Oregon \$950,000
Call Rebecca

ONE OF A KIND! Custom built with no expense spared, this remarkable 2x6 stucco construction home is the true definition of luxury. Boasting tremendous curb appeal, you will be amazed the moment you pull onto the paver brick driveway at all this property has to offer. Featuring over 5,000 square feet of living space on the main floor with additional square footage in the basement, this home offers plenty of fabulous space indoors and out. Open concept living space with grand kitchen featuring custom cherry cabinets, dining area with custom built ins and living room with gas fireplace. Oversized windows and sliding doors with custom blinds and grand views of your own private oasis. Antico porcelain tile and crown molding can be found throughout the main floor. Dedicated master suite with large walk in closet, en-suite bathroom, exercise room and heated, outdoor shower for year round use! Grand four season room with tall ceilings and views of the professional landscaping done by Crimson Valley. No longer worry about snow removal or mowing the yard as this yard is entirely permeable and the entire driveway is heated! There is also a heated garage and workshop. Two staircases lead to the basement also has 2 framed in bedrooms and additional bathroom along with a full bathroom, laundry area and ample storage. Call for a full amenity list and your private showing today!

401 S. Barber Avenue, Polo \$199,000
Call Jennifer Rybicki

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

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SPORTS NEWS

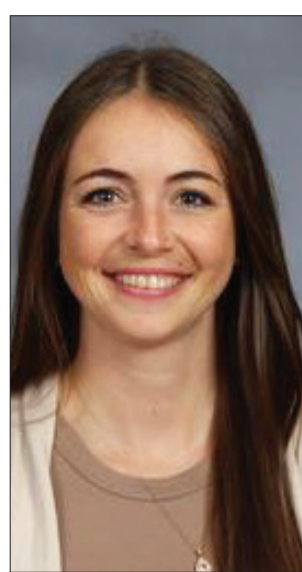
OHS hires Reynolds as new head girls basketball coach

OREGON — Oregon High School recently announced that Ms. Angela Reynolds has been approved by the O.C.U.S.D. #220 Board of Education as the new head girls basketball coach at OHS.

"We are excited for Angela to get started," Oregon Athletic Director Mike Lawton said. "Angela is energetic and passionate about the opportunity to lead our girls basketball program. With her having been a former player here not that long ago on successful Oregon teams, she definitely understands what it takes and is willing to put in the time and effort towards success. We are looking forward to the future of Lady Hawk basketball under her guidance."

Reynolds has been the junior varsity coach with the Oregon program for the past several seasons. She is a 2014 graduate of OHS and was a multi-sport athlete at the school during her time as a student-athlete. She was a member of the 2014 girls basketball team which won the IHSA Class 1A Regional Championship that season. Reynolds is a 2019 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and has been employed as a math teacher at OHS since 2019.

"I am extremely grateful and excited for the opportunity to take over this program," Reynolds said. "We have a great group of girls and I look forward to putting in the work with them this off season to prepare for next year."



Angela Reynolds

BALL: Girls taking donations to help fund trip

From page 1

"I enjoy spending time with my teammates during both high school and travel softball," Wilkins said. "This sport has also taught me a lot of life lessons like teamwork and discipline."

Sanders began playing softball when she was 5 years old and joined her first travel team when she was 8 years old. The Forreton junior has played varsity softball since 2022 and has been with the Midwest Aftershock for the last two years. Sanders, who plays multiple positions including pitcher, third base, first base and outfield, was a member of the Forreton team that took third at the IHSA State Championships in 2022 and won an IHSA Regional in 2023.

"The things I enjoy the most about the sport are the connections and relationships I have with other players and their parents, coaches and the community," Sanders said. "More times than not, I get to see many past and present players and coaches during high school softball. These are relationships that I will have for the rest of my life. Through playing softball, I have learned the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for the game, athletes and coaches."

Wilkins is currently accepting donations via Venmo (<https://venmo.com/u/Chey-Netherlands-25> last four digits 5050) and Cashapp ([https://cash.app/\\$cheynetherlands25](https://cash.app/$cheynetherlands25)). Donations to Wilkins can also be made directly to First State Bank with the memo "Cheyenna Netherlands 2025". First State Bank is located at 211 S. Division Ave. in Polo with the zip code of 61064.

Donations for Sanders can be made via Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Aubrey-Sanders-25>. All donations made to Sanders and Wilkins will help fund their travel costs to compete overseas.

Donations for Wilkins can be made at First State Bank of Polo, 211 S. Division St., Polo, IL 61064. Include the memo "Cheyenna Netherlands 2025."

Donations for Sanders can be made via Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Aubrey-Sanders-25>

AREA SPORTS

Oregon girls soccer shuts out Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team shut out Rockford Lutheran for an 8-0 win on April 4. Deborah Schmid finished with three goals and two assists, while Anna Stender scored four goals with one assist. Teagan Champley dished out two assists and Kenna Wubbena totaled one goal and two assists for the Hawks (5-0, 1-0 BNC). Mya Engelkes chipped in an assist.

Oregon softball takes down Dixon

The Oregon High School varsity softball team won 13-1 over Dixon on April 5. The Hawks tallied 10 hits, with Madison Shaffer, Kaelin Shaffer and Emma Schlichtmann each recording two hits while Ella Dannhorn and Olivia Paul each smacked home runs. Schlichtmann and Brooke Halverson combined to throw a no-hitter in the pitcher's circle.

Oregon girls soccer defeats Genoa-Kingston

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team scored a 5-1 win against Genoa-Kingston on April 5. Teagan Champley recorded two goals, while Anna Stender had one goal and one assist for the Hawks (6-0, 2-0 BNC). Deborah Schmid scored one goal and both Mya Engelkes and Arianna Hammer dished out assists.

Polo baseball splits doubleheader with Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity baseball team played a doubleheader against Milledgeville on Friday, April 5. The Marcos won the first game 5-0 behind a complete-game shutout from Nolan Hahn, who fired a no-hitter with 10 strikeouts and only two walks. Dawson Foster went 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI to lead the Polo offense in the opener.

Milledgeville won the second game 10-8 despite two RBIs from Jacob Monaco and two-hit outings from Dawson Foster, Nolan Hahn, Gus Mumford and Jeffrey Donaldson.

Polo baseball loses against Bureau Valley

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 16-1 against Bureau Valley on Saturday, April 6. Gus Mumford went 1-for-1 with one RBI and Nolan Hahn scored one run in the loss. Scott Robertson and Gage Zeigler each went 2-for-2 to lead the Polo offense.

Polo softball falls against Bureau Valley

The Polo High School varsity softball team lost 11-1 against Bureau Valley on Saturday, April 6. Sydney Rahn went 3-for-3 with a double and two singles, while Grace Miatke and Cheyenna Wilkins each singled in the loss.

See SPORTS PAGE 3

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SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS: Area sports scores

Oregon softball splits double-header with Lena-Winslow

The Oregon High School varsity softball team pounded 15 hits and three homers in a 12-2 win in the first of two games against Lena-Winslow on Saturday, April 6. Gracen Pitts and Maddi Shaffer had three hits each to pace the Hawks. Ella Dannhorn, Olivia Paul and Emma Schlichtmann all blasted home runs during the game. Kaelin Shaffer also had two hits and Abi Fletcher had a key two-RBI single to help break the game open. Freshman standout pitcher Brooke Halverson held down the fort on the pitcher's plate for the Hawks, striking out seven.

Halverson continued her stellar pitching in game two coming in relief with the Hawks trailing 7-1. She struck out 11 batters allowing zero earned runs in five and one-third innings to keep the Hawks in the game until the very end. Gracen Pitts helped complete the Hawks effort at a full comeback by doubling in the lead run in the top of the eighth putting Oregon up 10-9. The Oregon defense faltered throughout the game with six errors and four unearned runs allowing the pesky Panthers to hang around. An error allowed for an 11-10 walk-off win for Le-Win.

Ella Dannhorn, Gracen Pitts and Olivia Paul had three hits in game two. Madi and Kaelin Shaffer each had one hit in the game for Oregon.

Oregon High School hosts Gebhardt-Worley Invitational

Oregon High School hosted the Gebhardt-Worley Invitational on April 6. The Polo-Forreton boys track and field team took fourth with 63 points and the Oregon boys track and field team finished seventh with 37.5 points. The Polo-Forreton girls track and field team placed second with 92 points and the Oregon girls track and field team took fifth with 74.5 points.

Notable first-place finishers include Polo-Forreton's Letrese Buisker (53.14 seconds in the 300-meter hurdles) and Polo Forreton's Sydni Badertscher (34.06 meters in the discus throw) as well as Oregon's Sonya Plescia (2.59 meters in the pole vault) and Oregon's Leo Cardenas (3.66 meters in the pole vault).

Second-place finishers included Polo-Forreton's Bree Schneiderman (4.92 meters in the long jump and 13.11 seconds in the 100-meter dash), Polo-Forreton's Eli Ferris (1.78 meters in the high jump), Oregon's Rylie Robertson (17.60 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles), Oregon's 800-meter re-

lay team (Lexi Ebert, Daleanah Koertner, Grace Tremble and Miranda Ciesiel) and Polo-Forreton's 400-meter relay team (De'Angelo Fernandez, Brody Schwartz, Brock Soltow and Noah Dewey).

Third-place finishers included Polo-Forreton's Bree Schneiderman (28.75 seconds in the 200-meter dash), Polo-Forreton's Eli Ferris (16.82 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles), Polo-Forreton's 400-meter relay team (Elsa Monaco, Bree Schneiderman, Letrese Buisker and Ennen Ferris), Polo-Forreton's 800-meter relay team (De'Angelo Fernandez, Brody Schwartz, Brock Soltow and Noah Dewey), Polo-Forreton's Sydni Badertscher (9.62 meters in the shot put) and Oregon's Grace Tremble (1.47 meters in the high jump).

Oregon girls soccer nets win over Stillman Valley

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team scored a 4-1 win over Stillman Valley on Tuesday, April 9. Four players including Deb Schmid, Teagan Champley, Alease McLain and Mya Engelkes scored goals in the win, while Champley dished out two assists. Schmid added one assist for the Hawks (7-0-0, 3-0 BNC).

Oregon softball takes down Genoa-Kingston

The Oregon High School varsity softball team won over Genoa-Kingston on Tuesday, April 9. Emma Schlichtmann and Olivia Paul both had doubles off the wall in a seven-run second inning.

Paul and Ella Dannhorn had three hits each. Brooke Halverson started for Oregon in the pitcher's circle, going five innings and striking out three batters. Kaelin Shaffer and Gracen Pitts added two hits apiece for Oregon.

Polo baseball shut out by Amboy

The Polo High School varsity baseball team suffered a 10-0 shutout loss to Amboy on Tuesday, April 9. Jeffrey Donaldson recorded the team's lone hit in the loss.

Polo baseball falls against Orangeville/Aquin

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 8-3 against Orangeville/Aquin on Wednesday, April 10. Lucas Nelson and Gus Mumford each recorded RBIs, while Nolan Hahn went 2-for-3.

Oregon girls soccer scores win over Winnebago

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team won 4-1 over Winnebago on Thursday,

April 11. Deborah Schmid and Teagan Champley each scored two goals for the Hawks (8-0-0, 4-0 BNC) while Anna Stender and Mya Engelkes both added assists in the win.

Polo baseball concedes loss against Amboy

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 5-2 against Amboy on Thursday, April 11. Nolan Hahn pitched six innings for the Marcos, striking out 12 batters and allowing one earned run on two hits. Gus Mumford and Jeffrey Donaldson each recorded two hits for the Polo offense.

Polo softball edged out in loss to Amboy

The Polo High School varsity softball team fell just short against Amboy on Thursday, April 11, falling 8-7. Karlea Frey hit a second-inning home run and Cheyenna Wilkins added a two-run triple for the Lady Marcos. Cam Jones added an RBI.

Oregon Junior High bowling teams compete at IESA Sectional in Dixon

The Oregon Junior High boys and girls bowling teams competed in the IESA Sectional bowling tournament at Plum Hollow Family Center on April 13. The Oregon boys team finished in third place with 1,869 pins, led by second place individual place winner Ethan Rowe with a 552 series (217,169,166). All four bowlers finished in the top 23 including Asher Kramer, 13th with a 461, Layne Newberry, 19th with a 436 and Diego Hernandez, 23rd with a 420.

The Oregon girls team finished in second place with 1,435 pins, led by seventh place individual place winner Abi Kalnins with a 424 series (136,121,167) and ninth place medalist Carli Bailey with a 400 series. Also bowling was Savannah Nagy with a 310 series and Whitley Key with a 301 series. Both teams advanced to the IESA State Finals April 19th & 20th at Joliet Town & Country Lanes.

Polo softball plays double-header with Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity softball team played a doubleheader against Milledgeville on Saturday, April 13. The Lady Marcos lost the first game 11-10 before falling 13-11 in the second game. Karlea Frey hit three home runs across both games.

In the first game, Karlea Frey had three hits including two home runs, a single and four RBIs. Sydnei Rahn had a single and a double, while Allissa Marschang had a single and one RBI. Cheyenna Wilkins had

a single and Izabella Witkowski had a single and one RBI. Camrynn Jones was the starting pitcher, pitching three and one-third innings with four strikeouts. Karlea Frey came in as relief and pitched three innings.

In the second game, Sydnei Rahn had four hits including two singles and two doubles with four RBIs. Izabella Witkowski had 2 singles and one RBI, while Karlea Frey had one single and another home run with one RBI.

Camrynn Jones had

two singles and Allissa Marschang had one single and one double with three RBIs. Grace Mitake had two singles, while Cheyenna Wilkins had two singles and Aylivia Danekas had a single. Cheyenna Wilkins pitched five and two-thirds innings with eight strikeouts.

Oregon softball team shuts out Forreton

The Oregon High School varsity softball team scored a 15-0 win over Forreton on Saturday, April 13. The

Hawks were led by senior catcher Sarah Stevens and shortstop Gracen Pitts. Pitts had two hits and Stevens had a clutch two-out, two-run double in the fourth to propel Oregon to a 10-run inning.

Brooke Halverson added two hits and two RBIs and also pitched a four-inning shutout, striking out five in the process. Lead off batting speedster Abree Barker was on base four times and Madi Shaffer also had two hits for the Hawks, who earned their seventh win.

Be careful predicting the future

In 2011, I compiled a lengthy feature on declining enrollments in north-west Illinois and the impact it was having on participation in sports.

A total of 60 high schools from north-west Illinois were analyzed with enrollment in 1966 and again in 2011. There was a 34-percent drop from 9,908 students to 6,529 in that 45-year period.

Some of the reasons given were loss of industry, decline of family farms, lack of adequate transportation and globalization.

There was also growth, with location being a key component. Byron, Genoa-Kingston, North Boone, Stillman Valley and Winnebago all added students. Being close to Interstate 90 and Rockford helped fuel that growth. The Exelon plant also put Byron on the map.

In 1966, Oregon (490) and Mt. Morris (340) each had more students than Byron (200), Stillman (285) and Bago (325). Today, the combined enrollment of Oregon/Mt. Morris is less than each of those schools.

If you took Forreton and Leaf River collectively in 1966 and combined them in 2011, you'd see a 34-percent drop, while Polo fell 16 percent. Even Rochelle, with its robust business climate only saw a seven-percent increase from 1966-2011.

High-school enrollment topped out in the mid 1970s with the peak of the Baby Boomer generation was making its way through.

What about enrollment trends from 2011 to 2024?

Byron 556 to 449 (-19%). Forreton 252 to 239 (-5%). Oregon 529 to 417 (-21%). Polo 277 to 178 (-36%). Rochelle 961 to 861 (-10%). Stillman 615 to 504 (-18%).

As expected, sizes of sports teams continue to decline, though Ogle County schools are likely ahead of the statewide norm for percentage of students involved in extra-curriculars.

Don't expect these figures to improve, as a more serious issue than jobs, transportation, farms and globalization has come

to the forefront. That is a declining birth rate as people are having fewer children than ever before.

With how complicated life has become, it is a lot harder to be a parent now compared to earlier generations when kids didn't need to be supervised as much and there wasn't a morass of safety regulations hanging over them.

In the old days, mom and dad didn't have to worry about chaperoning kids, driving them everywhere, ponying up mucho dollars for traveling sports teams or buying designer clothing.

Times used to be more optimistic, with a stronger desire of wanting to bring children into the world.

Today's message is more about pessimism. Why subject a child to an environment of doom and gloom, some so-called experts espouse. Another school of thought is that life is better enjoyed without the responsibility of raising children.

It is a free world and I certainly am not going to get into the debate on this matter. But, we need to be careful about what the authority figures are telling us. There were grave warnings in 1970 about over-population and how we would all soon be starving.

A half century later, that dire alarm has taken a 180-degree turn, as more people are dying than being born.

Instead of too many people on planet Earth, now we have the problem of not enough of them. It goes to show that no one can predict the future.

What does this mean for the local high-school sports scene?

If trends hold true, teams will continue to have a harder time filling rosters. We have already seen quality of play go down in some sports because of limited competition for starting spots or not as much talent.

However, as past lessons have taught us, we must be careful in predicting the future.

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



Andy Colbert

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LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

Responding to Disclosure

(Presented by Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling). Thursday, April 25. 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Advance registration requested.

Bingocize

Bingocize® combines the game of bingo with low-impact fall prevention exercises. April 26 & 29; 2:00 -2:30 p.m. Advance registration requested.

RRVBC BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, May 6. 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Donor Appointments Preferred. By calling Rock River Center at 815-732-3252; Online at rrvbc.org or by calling 815-965-8751 or 877RRVBC-99. Walk-ins are welcome and may result in a short wait time. Appointments are encouraged to help us be more efficient.

RRC TRANSPORTATION REMINDER

Rock River Center Transportation would like to remind our riders to schedule your appointments between 9 AM and 1 PM. Remember to call for your Rockford ride (3) business days prior to your appointment, and for your local rides (2) business days prior to your appointment. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUPPORT GROUPS @

ROCK RIVER CENTER

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 4th Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3RD Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 1st Wednesday of the month. Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

LOW VISION GROUP

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Virtual trip

Tuesday, April 23rd – take a Virtual Trip to Germany! We love to travel so join us at 2:00 pm for the trip to Germany and a German treat.

Jam Session

Come enjoy a good jam session with area musicians and stay for lunch. Wednesday, April 24th at 10:30 am. Cost is only \$5.00.

Game night

Love to play board games? Come join us on Friday, April 26th for Community Game Night! Starting at 6:00 pm this evening is for all ages and all are welcome. Popcorn will be provided but feel free to bring a snack to share.

Ribbon Cut-

ting and Open House!

Tuesday, April 30th. Join The Center and the Oregon Chamber of Commerce and come see what the Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center is all about and what it can do for YOU. The entire community is welcome.

Bus trips

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

POLO LIBRARY NEWS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Tot Time Tuesdays

Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., for ages 0 to 3, social time for the littles and grown ups, many hands-on activities, arts and music, and of course, storytime & snack!!

Storytime Saturday

3rd Saturdays, Storytime Saturday @ 10:30 a.m., April 20th & May 18th

Book clubs

Kids' Book Clubs ending the first week of May (5/2). Will resume in June with Summer Reading Program (TBA).

ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Book discussions

2nd Fridays, May 10th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Senior Center, book discussion will be "Predictably Irrational" by Dr. Dan Ariely. June's book discussion will be "Murder at Mallowan Hall #1" by Colleen Cambridge.

3rd Thursdays, April 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library, Book 2 Movie. Book discussion will be "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer. May's book discussion will be

"Death on the Nile #17" by Agatha Christie.

4th Mondays, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library, book discussion will be "What Alice Forgot" by Liane Moriarty. May's book discussion will be "Black Widows" by Cate Quinn.

Book club brunch

4th Saturdays, April 27th at 10:30 a.m. at the Polo Library, NEW! BOOK CLUB BRUNCH

(for Young Adult to Adult), book discussion will be "home front" by Kristin Hannah.

DNA Genealogy Assistance

1st Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 3rd Saturdays monthly, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (next dates - Saturday, April 20th & Wednesday, May 1st. Donna Baumann will be here to help you with genealogy questions, DNA questions or just help research your genealogy with any resources she has access to.

Yoga with Becka is back!

Wednesday, April 24th, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., downstairs children's library area. Encouraged to bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required, space is limited. Yoga will be held

on the last Wednesdays, monthly.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU PROGRAMS!

3rd Thursday, April 18th & May 16th, NEW Drop-in Wellness Series, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., going through May, every 3rd Thursday of the month, A speaker will be at the library covering different topics of self wellness to benefit your overall health care. This month's topic is "Massage Therapy" with Riley Peterson. May's topic will be "Thinking Well: Dealing with stress, anxiety and depression effectively".

Fit class

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, May 7th & 21st at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., NEW FIT class - DrumFIT with Terra. This is a choreographed type fit class where participants use drum sticks in combination with buckets and exercise ball workout to target various areas of the body, legs, arms. Registration is required, for ages 12 to adult.

Reminder

Visit pololibrary.org to access the online catalog, to see what programs and services we offer, and for the latest public events held here at the library. Call us at 815-946-2713 for more information.

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came out and donated blood at the library's blood drive on April 4; it was the best drive the library has ever had! We surpassed our goal for units of blood collected, and these donations will help save 105 lives.

Did you know

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

Creative Studio

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

pm, Wednesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App

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

Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org 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!

Senator Andrew Chesney launches 2024 Summer Reading Program

FREEPORT — To keep young minds active during the summer break from school, Senator Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is offering first through sixth grade students from the 45th District an opportunity to participate in his summer reading program.

"Summer reading is a key factor in the achievement gap between struggling and successful students, and those who do not read over the summer can lose as much as three months of reading comprehension skills," said Chesney. "The 'summer slide' is a real thing, and it's never too

late to instill a love a reading in a child."

Students entering first through sixth grades are challenged to read eight books over the course of the summer. Books over 200 pages may count as two books. Once a student has completed the readings, a summer reading form should be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. The form can be accessed at <https://senatorchesney.com/Chesney-SummerReading>.

Completed forms should be mailed to:

State Senator Andrew Chesney

50 West Douglas Street, Suite 1001 Freeport, IL 61032

"Those who complete my summer reading challenge will receive an official certificate of recognition from the Illinois Senate and an invitation to an ice cream party," added Chesney. "I hope to have strong participation by students who recognize the value of a great book."

Forms should be returned by Aug. 4 to be eligible for the recognition. For additional information, please contact Senator Chesney's district office at (815) 232-0774



Membership Rates

BASE RATES

(All memberships include cart unless otherwise stated)

COUPLE - \$1,259

(Family add \$25 per child under 18)

SINGLE > 35 - \$916

SINGLE < 35 - \$687

JR WITH CART - \$393

(Age 18 - College grad)

JR NO CART - \$169

(Age 18 - College grad)

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LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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!

Adult Book Club Meeting

Monday, April 29th
The April book, *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*, by Allison Pat-aki, 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, *The Complete America's Test Kitchen TV Show Cookbook: 2001-2017*, and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on May 7th, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Gardening with Julie Program

Wednesday, May 8th
Come talk with Julie as she shows us how easy and rewarding it is to have a garden! Julie will go over some of the best ideas for what to plant, how to nurture the plant, and the many great ways you can use the harvest! Plan for an evening of tips, tricks, and delicious ideas!

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!

Lego Club

Thursday, May 16th
Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Stop by on May 16th, from 6-7pm! Bring a friend and build some fun with Lego bricks! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

Display Case Showings

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

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois 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

FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

Mixin' It Up Fundraiser

April 11th - May 13th. In an effort to offer a variety of programs for all ages, library supporters are holding a fundraiser through Midwest Mixes, one of America's premiere sites for gourmet veggie dips, olive oil blends, rubs and other great products. With over 50 dips, sauces, and rubs to choose from, there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 or visit our website, forrestonlibrary.org, for more information.

Toddler/Preschool Story-time

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

Recycle Eclipse Viewers

Don't throw away those eclipse glasses/viewers! Please bring them to the library by July 15th and we'll send them to Eclipse Glasses USA to be used by students in Latin America during their eclipse in October.

Community Room

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

Soft Plastic Recycling

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 22

The Ogle County Historical Society in Oregon will have a monthly meeting, Monday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the carriage house annex building on Franklin Street which is behind (east of) the Nash House Museum at 111 N. Sixth St. We are seeking new members and we have many opportunities to volunteer in 2024. We would love to have you join us.

April 25

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, April 25 from 10-11:30 a.m. The truck will be located at Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Mobile pantries will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month through October, and will be held at Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris for the remainder of the year. Loaves & Fish Food Pantry is located on the lower level

of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, and is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, and no proof of income is required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message.

April 27

Retired State Police Detective Sam Thomas and insurance investigator Seth Gelandier recently interviewed an Oregon depot board member with the initials CM about his lifelong Oregon experiences. CM has served as Ogle County treasurer, as Oregon mayor, as a board member for the Oregon Park District, as a board member for the Oregon depot and much more. Come find out who this mysterious CM might be.... The depot presentation will be held at the Oregon Illinois Depot Saturday April 27 at 10 a.m. Plan on coming! For more information about this program or other programs, please contact Roger Cain 815.757.9715, Chris Martin 815.742.8471 or Otto Dick 815.440.0639.

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

May 4

The Leaf River Lions are having their pork chop dinner on May 4 this year. The dinner includes one or two chops, baked beans, applesauce, dinner roll and beverage. The chops are being prepared by the Ogle County Pork Producers. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. in the Bertolet Memorial building. A one chop meal is \$10 and a two-chop meal will be \$15. Come and have a delicious pork chop and visit with friends. Supporting this event will help the Lions with their community projects.

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LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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.

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Thursday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM Laura Ingalls started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse when she was barely 16 years old. How was school different in the 1880s? How was it the same? What was so wonderful about learning in a one-room schoolhouse, rather than a modern building with one room for each class? Come and learn about the extraordinary adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder and how they did differ from the (fictional) books.

MOVIE

Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 AM This

movie tells the wondrous story of how a young dreamer named Willy becomes the world's greatest inventor, magician, and chocolate maker. {from the back of DVD cover}

LEGO Club

Monday, May 6th at 5:00 PM We've got tubs of bricks for you to choose from for our LEGO Club. Show us what you can create!

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? We have several books on display with titles that start with the letter

"H." Pick one out to fill in your A to Z Reading Challenge list!

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 do-

nation. *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

Good Half Gone by Tarryn Fisher
The Wild Side by Fern Michaels
The New Couple in 5B by Lisa Unger (LP)

Picture Book

The Umbrella by Beth Ferry (Vox Audio Book)
Just a Toy by Mercer Mayer

Chapter Book

Ready, Set, Dough! by Kelly Baptist

DVD

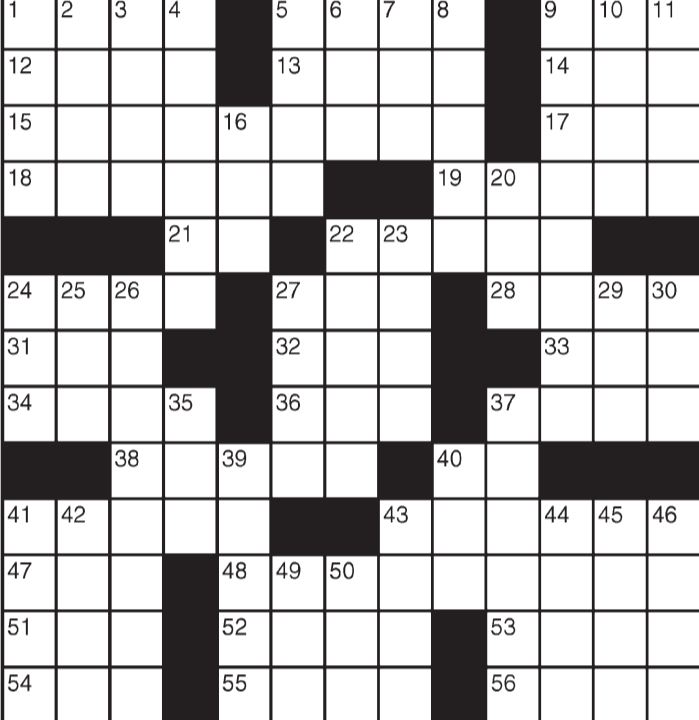
1923: Season One

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

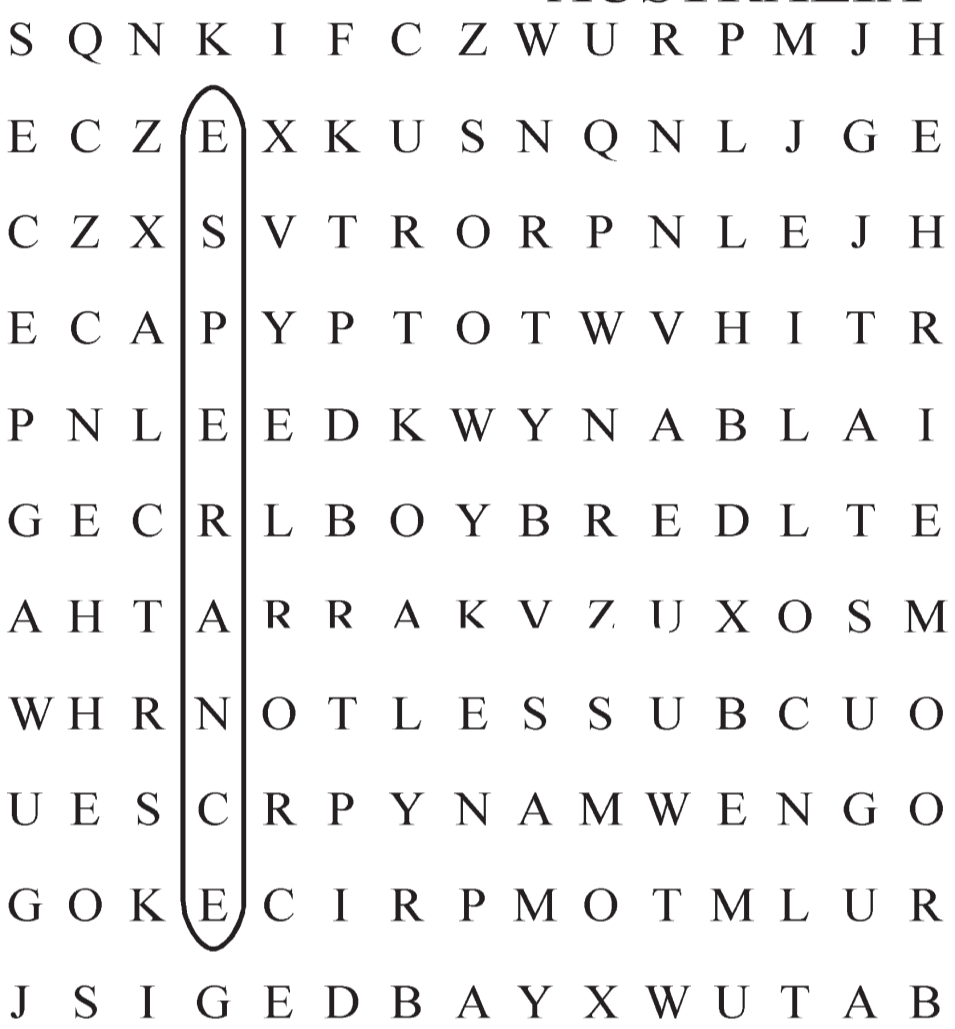
- 1 "House" actor Omar
- 5 Nick and Nora's dog
- 9 Mountain pass
- 12 Mend socks
- 13 "— to differ!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Marmaduke, for one
- 17 Allow
- 18 Realm
- 19 Protuberances
- 21 French article
- 22 Filled fully
- 24 Gear teeth
- 27 Understood
- 28 Hoodwink
- 31 Scary cry
- 32 Flying saucer
- 33 Perch
- 34 Attempt
- 36 Knock
- 37 School support orgs.
- 38 Object (to)
- 40 Battery size
- 41 Ibsen's Gabler
- 43 Golfer Sorenstam
- 47 Land in la mer
- 48 Bruce Springsteen hit
- 51 JFK regulator
- 52 "Her" actress Rooney



- 53 Taj Mahal site
- 54 Unwell
- 55 Melville mariner
- 56 Detergent
- DOWN**
- 1 Rim
- 2 Italian cheese, for short
- 3 Ready, as for surgery
- 4 Slowpokes
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Govt. loan agcy.
- 7 Toe count
- 8 Representative
- 9 Pricey powder
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Favorites
- 16 Three, in Rome
- 20 British ref. work
- 22 To date
- 23 Perched on
- 24 "NCIS" aier
- 25 Sound of delight
- 26 Bargain
- 27 Mentor
- 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 30 Roswell visitors
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 37 Bamboo eaters
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 Some
- 41 LP player
- 42 Israeli airline
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 Shakespeare villain
- 45 Actress Sedgwick
- 46 Pronto
- 49 — -di-dah
- 50 Mouths (Lat.)

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MAGIC MAZE

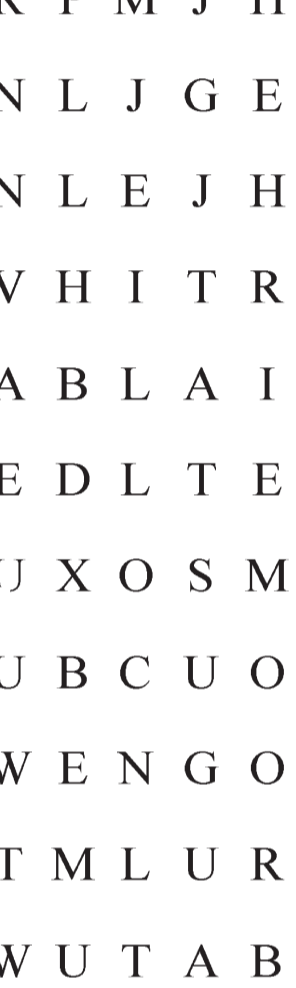


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: LASSIE'S BREED

- Albany
- Augusta
- Broome
- Bunbury
- Busselton
- Derby
- Esperance
- Geraldton
- Harvey
- Karratha
- Newman
- Perth
- Tom Price
- Two Rocks
- York

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PLACES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



- 1 Albany
- 2 Augusta
- 3 Broome
- 4 Bunbury
- 5 Busselton
- 6 Derby
- 7 Esperance
- 8 Geraldton
- 9 Harvey
- 10 Karratha
- 11 Newman
- 12 Perth
- 13 Tom Price
- 14 Two Rocks
- 15 York

Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers
King Crossword



Answers
Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

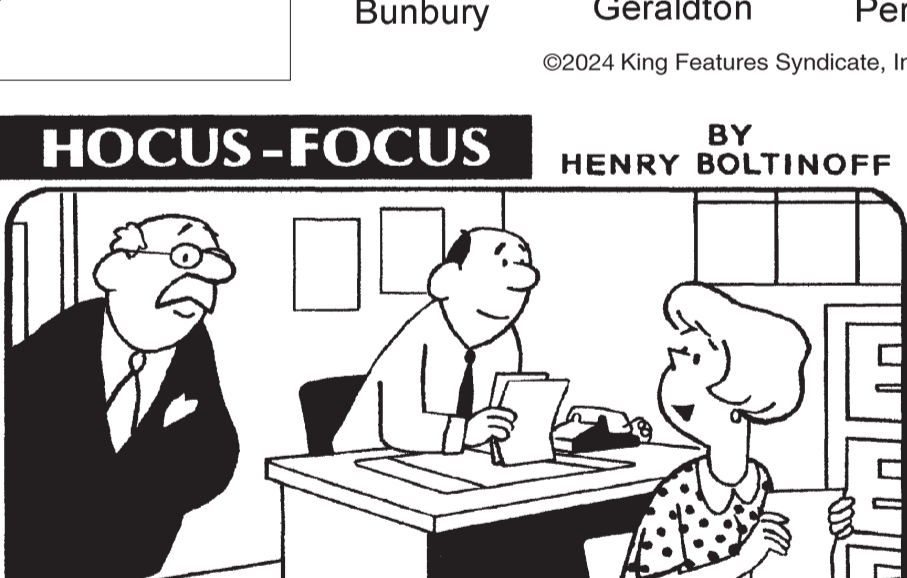
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Paper is missing. 2. Foot is missing. 3. Collar is added. 4. Phone is moved. 5. Desk legs are longer. 6. Man is standing straighter.

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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY

Storytime at the Library

Join us in person at the library for songs, stories and crafts! Ages 2-5. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Who Was Lilly Pulitzer?

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

Toddler Time: Scarves and 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.

Tween Scene: Yarn Painting

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

Cricut Lab: Felt and Your Cricut

Experienced Cricut users will learn the best practice for cutting felt, including: blade, mat, and felt compatibility. Thursday, May 9, 6

p.m. BYO Cricut Explore or Maker, mat, cords and device with Cricut app installed. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Genealogy: Community Workshop

The life of a researcher can be lonely—why not head to the library and share your findings? During this program, we'll have time to do research surrounded by fellow genealogy-enthusiasts, discuss other resources and share some of our favorite discoveries! Registration required: Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teens: Name That Tune!

Come show off your music knowledge in this fast-paced game. See if you can guess the artist and song from different genres and decades, and compete against your friends for bragging rights. DJ Kelly will be spinning the tunes. Thursday, May 16, 6 p.m. Ages 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Minute to Win It Games!

Think you can win it, with only a minute? Kids will need all their speed, flexibility and strategy to find out! Come compete in a variety of silly tasks to see just how skilled you are. Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Young Critics Book Club

Join us for a discussion and hands-on craft/activity all about the graphic novel "Baloney and Friends" by Greg Pizzoli. Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m. Ages 7-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.



(Courtesy photo)

4-H Day of Dabbling held Feb. 24

OREGON — Over 40 youth participated in the 2024 4-H Day of Dabbling held in Oregon on Feb. 24. This event allowed youth to explore numerous areas of 4-H project work hands-on.

Twelve workshops were offered, and participants could choose three that interest them. Project areas included visual arts, food and nutrition, electricity, woodworking, leather stamping, Cloverbud projects, science, candy knots, and friendship bracelets. As a result of the workshop, participants took home creations ranging from an extension cord and cinnamon bread to homemade harmonicas and gourmet dog treats.

4-H volunteers and



youth conducted workshops, including Andy and Lisa Hinrichs, Oregon; Anne and Bethany Kennedy, Davis Junction; Katie and Lydia Sherburne, Byron; Bode Martin, Allissa Martin, Oregon; Debbie Harris, Beloit, Wis.; Immanuel Arellano, Mt. Morris; Rachel Toth, Stillman Valley; Natalie Coy, Mt. Morris and University of Illinois Extension staff in-

cluding Kathy Dombeck, 4-H program coordinator, Katie Williamson, 4-H program coordinator, and Johnna Jennings, University of Illinois Extension educator.

Assisting in a variety of ways were Bernice Zandoni, Stillman Valley, and Andrew and Jacob Hickman, Byron. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and energy to make this event possible.

4-H is a program of the University of Illinois Extension. For more information about 4-H, contact the Ogle County Extension Office, 421 W. Pines Road, Suite 10, Oregon, IL 61061, (815) 732-2191 or visit us online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo>.

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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.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

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Pastor Billy Hardy
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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
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815-738-2205 leafriverbr@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!

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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

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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 Peddicard

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MOUNT MORRIS

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 Reinfort 779-861-3700

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church
Pastor Jesse Allen EOCCOGministries@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!

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2997 N. German Church Rd., 815-732-6133
3 miles east of Oregon on Rt. #64 then 2 miles north on German Church Rd. • Rev. Josiah Youngquist
www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061
Pastor Craig Arnold ~ 812-236-1213
Sunday Service @ 10:45 AM "contemporary style worship with coffee and doughnuts in our cafe! Online worship is also available via Facebook.
We believe in sharing the 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 & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon
732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Website: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saintbride.church@gmail.com
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

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Crove Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.
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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, IL
815-645-2526 | www.therebrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 Forreton, IL 61030 Dated March 21, 2024 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0405 (April 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

NOTICE
NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THE LAW FIRM OF ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE
BYRON BANMK, an Illinois State Bank, Plaintiff,
v.
COREY M. ARN, UNKNOWN OWNERS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, UNKNOWN HEIRS, and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants
Case No. 2023FC62
AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder. A The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Matthew M. Hevrin, ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC, 839 N. Perryville Road, Suite 200, Rockford, Illinois 61107, Tel. (815) 414-5529.
B. The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 4 E. Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054.
The legal description of the real estate is: Lot 6 and 7 in Block 20 of the Original Village of Mount Morris, Ogle County, Illinois; according to the Plat thereof recorded November 9, 187 5 i.J.1 Book A of Plats, page 172, as Document No. 66439. PIN Nos.: 08-27-437-005
C. A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Three bedroom 2 bathroom single family home approximately 2780 sq ft.
D. The time and place of sale will be May 17, 2024, at 10:00 A.M., Ogle County Sheriff's Office 202 S. 1.51 Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061.
E. The terms of the sale are: Ten Percent (10%) due by cash or certified funds at the time of the sale and the balance is due within 24 hours of sale. The property offered for sale is subject to all real estate truces, special assessments or special truces levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality of the title and without recourse to the Ogle

County Sheriff's Office and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. No refunds. F. Title will be conveyed subject to the following liens and interests: all general real estate truces, special assessments, if any, easements and restrictions of record, and the interests, if any, of any tenant in possession. G. The property will not be available for inspection. H. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of subject premises. I. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1). J.IF YOU ARE THE MORGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. Dated April 10, 2024 BYRON BANK, an Illinois State Bank, Plaintiff,
By: ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE LLC
By: Matthew M. Hevrin One of Its Attorneys PREPARED BY: Matthew M. Hevrin (ARDC #6256083) hevrin@aghlaw.com ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC 839 N. Perryville Road, Suite 200 Rockford, Illinois 61107 P: 815-265-6464 No. 0416 (April 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
G. MARTIN LENOX, JR., Deceased.
PROBATE DIVISION
No. 2024 PR 18
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given of the death of G. MARTIN LENOX, JR. Letters of Office were issued on March 21, 2024, to Marjorie Lynn Lenox of 12853 N. Kennedy Hill Road, Byron, Illinois 61010, who is the Independent Executor of the Estate. The attorney for the Estate is Derek B.N. Seyller of HARDYMAN I DIVERDE, 124 N. Water Street, Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois 61107. Any claims against the Estate may be filed on or before October 22, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the Estate must be filed with the Office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division

at the Ogle County Courthouse, 106 South Fifth Street, Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois 61061. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need further help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office - Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the Estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. DATED: April 12, 2024 Marjorie Lynn Lenox, Independent Executor Attorney Derek B.N. Seyller - ARDC# 6334524 HARDYMAN I DIVERDE 124 N. Water Street, Suite 100 Rockford, Illinois 61107 (815) 964-8888 dseyller@hardymandiverde.com Attorneys for the Estate of G. MARTIN LENOX, JR., Deceased No. 0417 (April 22, 29, and May 6, 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.

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MERIDIAN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 223 OGLE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School Board of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223, Ogle and Winnebago Counties, Illinois, that a tentative amended budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 207 W. Main St., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 in this School District, from and after 4 p.m. on the 11th day of April, 2024. Notice is further here-by given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6 p.m., on the 13th day of June 13, 2024 at 207 W. Main St., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 in this School District. Dated this 11th day of April. By Tim DeVries Secretary No. 0418 (April 22, 2024)

NOTICE
SCOTT TOWNSHIP SALT SHED BID
Scott Township is accepting bids for a salt shed.
1. Construction includes the demolition of the existing shed down to the existing cement walls and removal to a recycling facility or approved waste facility.
2. A 20 foot cement addition will be added to the existing structure.
3. 26 gauge steel roofing and siding with Kynar paint finish to be used.
4. Stainless steel fasteners to be used for roofing and siding.
5. Inside walls to be lined with marine plywood above cement walls.
6. Building height to be high enough to dump salt from semi-dump trailers.
7. Contractor to pay prevailing wages.
8. Contractor must provide insurance prior to beginning of construction.
9. Bids to be received by May 17, 2024. Bids to be mailed to: Scott Township 11993 Illinois Route 72

PO Box 91 Davis Junction, Ill. 61020
10. Bids to be marked on envelope with - Salt Shed Bid Bids to be opened May 20, 2024@ 7:30 pm
11. Building construction to be completed by October 1, 2024
12. Scott Township Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Any questions - please call (815) 494-2988 No. 0422 (April 22, 2024)

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.

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6331 11th Street, Rockford 815-262-3900

103 AUCTIONS
GARY HINDE ESTATE MULTI-DAY AUCTION
Large Live Auctions!
14479 Saunders Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61063
Saturday, April 27th - 10:00 A.M.
Featuring Century 2045 FWA Utility Tractor; Farm Wagons-Wooden Flare Boxes-Flat Racks; King Kutter 3 pt. Mowers-Tillers-Blades-Auger; Semi & Alum. Storage Trailers; Utility & Car Haul Trailers; Roadmaster Tow Dolly; Recreational & Outdoor; Firewood; Shop Equipment & Tools; Generators & Air Compressors; Yardsport 5700 4x4 UTV & ATV's; Vehicles; 1984 Corvette; 2007 Gulf Stream Sun Voyager Class A Motor Home; 1996 Dodge Ram 3500 Stake Truck; Many Other Great Items!
Hinde Estate Auctions also scheduled: May 4. Watch for Details!
Hack's Auction & Realty Service Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436 www.hacksauction.com I.A.F.L.#44000128

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.
SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

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

305 GARAGE SALES
Furniture Moving Sale
1458 W. Indian Heights Dr., Oregon
Friday, April 26 8:00-5:00
Saturday, April 27 8:00-2:00
2 Navy Leather Sofas, Microwave Carts, Queen/King Headboard/Nightstand Combo W/Lights, T.V. Consoles, Computer Desk, Hutch, China Cabinet, Vintage Record Cabinet, Record/CD/Radio Player, Counter Height Stools, Bar Stools, Charis, Tables, Some Antiques, Tools, Bud/Bud light Glasses and more!

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Byron CUSD #226 Openings
Lunchroom Supervisors (Elementary and Middle School)
Special Education Paraprofessional (Elementary)
3rd Shift Custodian (High School)
Please apply online at www.byron226.org
Click on the 'About Us' Tab
Click Employment Opportunities
All postings are listed there!

Buy! Buy! Buy!
SELL! SELL! SELL!
Sell!

HUGE SALE!
5720 E Husking Peg Rd., Chana
Friday, April 26th 8am-5pm & Saturday, April 27th 8am-3pm
Antique dresser w/mirror and table with drawer, recliner, wood desk, Tupperware, household, black/white graniteware, lawn care, lawn aerator, lawn roller, grapevine wreath tree 5.5 foot, bench and wooden swing, Mische purses/liner, Stampin' Up products, too much to list.
Rain or Shine!

Garage Sale
109 N. 14th Street, Oregon
Thursday, May 2 - 3PM-6PM
Friday, May 3 - 8AM-5PM
Saturday, May 4 - 8AM - Noon
Kids Clothes, Toys, Longaberger, Decor, Furniture, Kitchen Items, Bedding Linens, Outdoor Items, Books, Shoes, Kids' Bikes.

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A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham (815) 297-4595
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Oregon VFW Post 8739 & Mess Hall

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815.732.6851
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changescounselingllc.com

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100 Jefferson St., Oregon
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815.562.3801
sinnissippi.org

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Oregon Park District

Nash Recreation Center

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