



Celebrating Mother's Day

How to find the right gifts and celebrate Mother's Day this year. **Pages 10-11**

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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KNOW IT TODAY



Lions Club makes donations

The Polo Lions Club recently made donations to the Polo Fire and Police Departments. **Page 9**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
74 50	78 62
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
72 55	73 52
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
63 47	65 46

OBITUARIES

- James Myron Vagle
- Frances Pauline Strouse
- Michael J. Stahl
- Elizabeth (Betty) Corcoran
- Thomas "Tom" Edward Iizer
- Joseph "Joe" E. Casinger

See page 4

INSERTS

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

Byron students in new entrepreneurship program start employee appreciation business

WeAreWorkers: 'I never thought I'd do something like this in high school...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

BYRON — A new entrepreneurship program at Byron High School has yielded a small business startup named WeAreWorkers, created by students Westin Harrolle and Ole Wulf.

WeAreWorkers looks to improve workplace morale for local businesses by offering customized appreciation boxes aimed at showing employees that their efforts are valued. Each box is tailored to the business and contains a selection of gifts and treats to express appreciation and recognition for employees' hard work. Harrolle, a junior at BHS, said the idea came about after he heard his father, a union foreman, speaking about trying to reach employees.

"He'd notice that sometimes they would feel unappreciated," Harrolle said. "That gave me the idea of what if we gave them some form of appreciation to help them feel better about their company? And then they'd feel more appreciated and work harder. Our first product was called the essentials box and has things like chapstick, hand sanitizer and tissues. Just

little essential things to give to employees to thank them for their work. It has a little message on it with the company's branding."

Among the companies WeAreWorkers is working with is Dos Amigos, and Harrolle and Wulf dropped off its boxes on April 29. Gift cards and snacks can also be included in the boxes. WeAreWorkers talks with companies about what they'd like in the boxes and the startup purchases and packs the items.

In the BHS entrepreneurship program, students are tasked with identifying real-world problems and developing innovative solutions through entrepreneurship. The course is guided by the incubatoredu program, which also allows students to earn college credit.

Wulf, a sophomore at BHS, is an exchange student from Germany. He said the class has helped him to learn more about business culture in the United States.

"I've learned a lot," Wulf said. "We've learned about the global business world. The process has been the most fun part. We started at nothing and now we have a product to sell. It's the journey that's made it the most fun."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A new entrepreneurship program at Byron High School has yielded a small business startup named WeAreWorkers, created by Westin Harrolle and Ole Wulf.

Harrolle and Wulf have a desire to continue with the business after their time in the class ends. It may even be run worldwide after Wulf returns to Germany, they said.

See **BYRON** page 3

Foundation for Focus House names scholarship awardees

Local students Marschang, Rogers, Engelkes earn funds toward education

ROCHELLE — Foundation for Focus House recently released the names of three area students that will each be receiving \$1,000 scholarships from its 2024 application cycle.

The organization has given out two 1,000 scholarships each year to Ogle County residents or past/current Focus House residents pursuing post-secondary or vocational education that have made a positive change in themselves or their community. A third scholarship was awarded this year.

"We received a record number of Foundation for Focus House scholarship applications this year," Foundation for Focus House Executive Director Jeni Hardin said. "It was very difficult to narrow it down to just two so this year we added a third scholarship. There were many applicants who not only excel in their education but more importantly, they have given time to volunteering and helping their community. We want to express our gratitude to each and every applicant and encourage them to



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Foundation for Focus House recently released the names of three students that will each be receiving \$1,000 scholarships from its 2024 application cycle. The students are Mya Engelkes, Allissa Marschang and Braden Rogers (left to right).

apply again next year!" Allissa Marschang is a senior at Polo Community High School and was

awarded the F. Lawrence Lenz Scholarship. Allissa plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall,

studying engineering.

See **SCHOLARS** page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

SCHOLARS: Foundation for Focus House awards local students

From page 1
 “We chose Allissa because of her determination and her will to find strength in whatever card she is dealt,” Hardin said. “She has been a youth group leader, volunteered at Kidz Café since 2019, and more. She said that being a kind and caring person ‘is about carrying someone else’s bag when nobody is watching because it makes you feel good to know you

are helping someone.”
 As an Ogle County Circuit Judge, Judge Lenz elected to be the juvenile court judge. In this capacity he was one of the instrumental supporters of the opening of Focus House in 1975. From the bench he believed in the value of having community-based programs and was an advocate of Focus House until his death.
 Braden Rogers is a senior at Stillman Valley

High School and was awarded the LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams Scholarship. Braden plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to obtain a degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on environment and agriculture.
 “We are happy to present this scholarship to Braden who has given back numerous hours to his school and community,” Hardin said. “He was a

peer tutor, reading buddy, volunteered at the FFA petting zoo, and more... totally over 150 hours of making our community a better place.”
 A longtime resident of Ogle County, Mr. Adams sat on the Ogle County Board from 1972 until 2002. At the time Focus House was established in 1975, Mr. Adams was appointed and served as the chairperson of the county committee that


oversaw the operation of the program. Mrs. Margaret Franklin Adams was also very dedicated to the community and the youth at Focus House.
 Mya Engelkes is a senior at Oregon High School and was awarded the Foundation for Focus House Scholarship. Mya plans to attend the University of Iowa to pursue her degree in business with a major in business analytics and minor in finance.


“Mya impressed us with her list of extracurricular activities,” Hardin said. “But it was how many of them were dedicated to helping others that made us realize how much she gives back to our community. She actively seeks out opportunities for growth and says she has a dedicated and unwavering loyalty to her community and hopes to leave a lasting impact on everyone she meets.”

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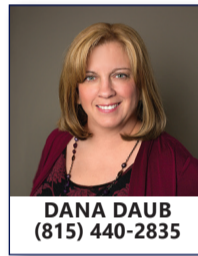
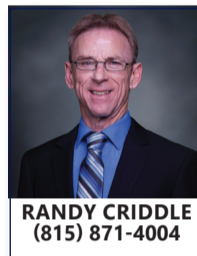
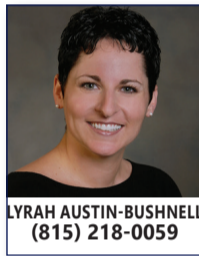


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LOCAL NEWS

BYRON: Entrepreneurship program leads to creation of WeAreWorkers

From page 1

On May 1, the entrepreneurship program held a shark tank event where students pitched ideas in front of investors. For the best pitch the process yielded a check towards their new business.

“This class has been great,” Harrolle said. “Even if you don’t want to do entrepreneurship later on in life, you still learn a ton of good lessons from this class. You practice making pitches in front of investors and it really helps you grow your skills as a person. It’s made me more likely to want to get into entrepreneurship later on in life. I’ve learned a ton from this class. It’s helped us to get out of our comfort zones. We’ve talked to seven businesses. And it’s just an idea we’ve created in this class. We’ve put a lot into it. I never thought I’d do something like this in high school before this class. The class made my thoughts blossom.”

Rich Wessel is the instructor of the BHS en-

trepreneurship course and praised Harrolle, Wulf and the rest of the students in the class for their work. The class is in its first year. He’s enjoyed seeing kids get out of their comfort zones and watching their ideas grow.

Other student businesses from the class include KidTrip, an Uber-like service to get kids to different activities safely, and KJK Woodburning, which makes signs out of reusable materials.

“It’s going great,” Wessel said. “These kids are learning soft skills that many students lack. I was in the business world before teaching and I saw the massive lack of people having the ability to get up in front of people and share and communicate. That’s why we’ve started this program. They learn intangible skills. They’ll be ahead with workplace readiness skills. They’ll be at an advantage. We’re all learning together with how new this class is. This first year has definitely exceeded my expectations as far as student work and



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Community leaders and businesses have gotten involved in the program. Members of the community have come in to serve as mentors to the students and give them strategic advice and some have even helped with funding. Wessel said that has helped the program to reach new heights.

the effort they’ve put into it and what they’re getting out of it.”

Community leaders and businesses have gotten involved in the program. Members of the community have come in to serve as mentors to the students and give them

strategic advice and some have even helped with funding. Wessel said that has helped the program to reach new heights.

BHS wants to instill entrepreneurial skills in students with the new program.

“In the past, education

in general has pushed students towards college,” Wessel said. “And I think that’s not necessarily the full message anymore. The ability to be valuable in the marketplace in any way you decide to do it is important. This program will help with college if

that’s their choice, but it also teaches grit and hustle. That can help people who don’t have college in mind. That’s OK and they can become valuable in the marketplace without college. If you put the time and effort in, you can be successful.”

RACF awards nearly \$140,000 in grants to local nonprofits, holds Granting Futures event

ROCHELLE –The Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) recently announced that it has granted nearly \$140,000 back into the community, supporting 34 nonprofit partners. The grants were awarded at RACF’s Granting Futures event, hosted April 24 at Luna.

“The impact that this makes on our community will be felt for many years,” Emily Anaya, RACF executive director, said. “These deserving nonprofits work tirelessly to provide services, programs, and projects that positively impact those in greatest need.”

This year’s grant cycle was highly competitive, with a total of 37 applications received.

“This year was extremely competitive,” Terry Dickow, grants committee chairman, said. “We were thrilled to see such a high level of interest and quality from local organizations, and we’re honored to support their work.”

Ashley Jackson, RACF board president, praised the efforts of the local nonprofits.

“The dedication and commitment of these organizations are remarkable,” Jackson said. “We are delighted to provide funding to help them continue their vital work in our community.”

RACF remains dedicated to its mission of fostering a thriving and prosperous community through philanthropy. By

supporting local nonprofits, the foundation helps to ensure that Rochelle and the surrounding areas continue to grow and flourish.

For more information about the RACF and its work in the community, please visit rochellefoundation.org.

Here is a list of all the grants awarded for the 2024 community needs grants.

Designated funds

The Ron “Stony” Stonebraker Police and Fire Memorial Fund is designated to the Rochelle Police Department and Rochelle Fire Department to use at their discretion. This year the fund totaled \$767 that is split between both departments. Every year this fund continues to grow and will forever support these two departments.

The Livingston Bible Church Scholarship Fund granted out \$4,900 in support of furthering education for our youth. Thank you to the Livingston Family and all they do.

The Dual Language Educators Scholarship Fund granted \$1,000 to further education in support of the district’s Dual Language Education program through the Elementary School District.

Donor-advised Funds

4C-Community Coordinated Child Care - Books for the Community in the amount of \$500. String Program in the

amount of \$741 funded by the Tyler “Smitty” Smith Memorial Fund.

Christian Food Pantry’s Protein Promotion program which was fully funded in the amount of \$15,000. The Jacobs Family Fund provided \$3,215 in combination with an anonymous donor-advised fund in the amount of \$11,785.

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library for their Home-

schooling Extravaganza in the amount of \$3,190. \$580 was funded by the Empowering the Community Fund and the remaining \$2,610 by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Chana Education Center’s Collaborating Through Hands-On Learning in the amount of \$3,636.46. The Steve Pfeiffer Memorial Fund gave \$1,000 in support of this program with \$2,636

coming from RACF Endowment Fund.

Chana Education Center’s Grief Kits in the amount of \$520 which was honored to have fully funded by the Ed and Ann Rice Giving Fund.

RTHS Alumni Association for RTHS Alumni Association scholarships in the amount of \$5,000. The Tobler Family Fund supported with \$563 in combination with an

anonymous donor-advised fund in the amount of \$4,437.

Vince Carney Community Theatre - Presents Us VCCT in the amount of \$3,500 funded by the HP “Jim” Walker Memorial Endowment Fund in the amount of \$2,000 in combination with the RACF Endowment Fund in the amount of \$1,500.

See RACF page 5

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Emailed photos* can be sent to cgrimm@oglecountylife.com.

Deadline is 2:00PM on Tuesday, May 14.

This special feature will be published on Monday, May 20, 2024.

Photos may be picked up at the Ogle County Life office after the May 20th publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

ENTRY FORM

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Forreston High School honors night, graduation information released

FORRESTON — Forreston High School will be holding its baccalaureate service for graduating seniors on Sunday, May 5 in the FHS gymnasium. The service will begin at 7 p.m.

FHS will be holding its annual honors night for graduating seniors on Wednesday, May 8 in the FHS gymnasium. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with a welcome from

Principal Heinz. This will be followed by presenting the class of 2024 with scholarships and awards.

The Forrestville Valley School District and Board of Education will be presenting diplomas to the 2024 graduating class of FHS on Sunday, May 12 in the FHS gymnasium beginning at 2 p.m.

Students, families, and community members are invited to attend.

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY LIFEWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO)

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) recently announced that it has granted nearly \$140,000 back into the community, supporting 34 nonprofit partners. The grants were awarded at RACF's Granting Futures event, hosted April 24 at Luna. This year's grant cycle was highly competitive, with a total of 37 applications received.

RACF: Foundation presents grant funds to local nonprofits

From page 3

Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center for Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies in the amount of \$3,330, of which \$380 was funded by the Tom Hall Giving Fund, \$1,358 from the Youth in Philanthropy Fund, and \$1,592 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Rescue Mission - Keeping persons in Rochelle and surrounding areas safe, warm, and comforted in the amount of \$8,350 is funded by an anonymous donor-advised fund.

Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming- "All Program Book Read" in the amount of \$4,000 of which \$1,590 was funded by the Berg-Burkholder Family Fund, \$1,290 from the Inspire Learning fund, \$1,120 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Field of interest funds Smississippi Centers, Inc. for the Rochelle Office Improvement Project in the amount of \$13,028. \$456 from the Kay and Jim Beardin Community Fund, \$383 from the Disaster Preparedness Fund, and \$12,189 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Elementary School District #231 for Supportive Student Social Emotional Learning Through Adult Professional Development in the amount of \$4,623 of which \$643.22 is funded by the Hintzsche-Hinkston Classroom Support Fund and \$3,979.78 is from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Northern Illinois Food Bank for their Mobile Markets Program in the amount of \$7,500 funded by the Rochelle Hunger Fund.

Habitat For Humanity of Ogle County for Habitat 2024 Housing Repairs & Mobility Projects in the amount of \$4,500 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Girl Scouts of Northern IL for the Hispanic Engagement in Girl Scout Leadership Excellence in the amount of \$2,745 of which \$880 is funded by the Jeffrey W. Cole Family Memorial and \$1,865 by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Community Action Network - CAN Backpack in the amount of \$4,398 funded by the Community Advancement Fund in the amount of \$1,156 and the RACF Endowment Fund in the amount of \$3,242.

Creston-Dement Public Library - Library-Book and Media Return in the amount of \$2,000 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund

Blackhawk Area Council's Boy Scouts of America-Leading the Way to Bright Futures - Scouting in Rochelle in the amount of \$2,000 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Flagg Township Museum - Getting Down to Business in Rochelle, Chapters 2 & 3 in the amount of \$3,200 funded by the Arts Enrichment Fund at \$1,133 and the RACF Endowment Fund with the remaining total of \$2,067.

Village of Progress, Inc.- Community Day Services Program - whiteboard in the amount of \$3,400 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival - Kid's zone, the strolling entertainment, and the free main stage entertainment in the amount of \$1,500 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Liberty Village of Rochelle-Activities Department in the amount of \$2,500 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - Lincoln Manor Affordable Housing in the amount of \$2,500 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund

HOPE of Ogle County - Painting to Create a Calm and Sustainability Project in the amount of \$1,677 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Hub City Senior Center - Fitness at the Hub in the amount of \$1,000 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Steward United Methodist Church - After Class Enrichment in the amount of \$1,750 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery - Rochelle Recovery Center in the amount of \$2,000 funded by the Human Services Fund in the amount of \$1,820 and the RACF Endowment Fund in the amount of \$180.

Creston Booster Club-Quiet Our House project in the amount of \$1,500 funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Byron Kiwanis Sack Lunch Saturday scheduled for May 11

BYRON — The first Byron Kiwanis pork chop sandwich sale for 2024 is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11 in the St. Mary Catholic Church parking lot, located at 220 E. Blackhawk Drive. A sack lunch is available for \$8 and includes a grilled Eichman's butterfly pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie, and a bottle of water. A single sandwich can be purchased for \$6. These delicious sandwiches sell out quickly so be sure to stop by early.

All proceeds benefit programs in our community. Some of the programs Byron Kiwanis supports include Mary Morgan Family Reading Night, youth education and sports, scholarships for high school seniors, Byron Elementary's PBIS program, Crossroads Blues Society, People Helping People Food Pantry, Village of Progress, and Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation. The club holds an annual breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus to benefit Operation Santa. It also sponsors the Builder's Club at Byron Middle School and the Key Club at the Byron High School.

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VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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Worried about the teacher shortage? Invest in your leaders

THE "State of Our Educator Pipeline 2023" report by Advance Illinois underscores the challenges in Illinois' education system and the urgent need to address the teacher shortage comprehensively. While recruiting more teachers is important, addressing teacher attrition, responsible for 90% of the demand, requires a deeper examination of root causes and strategies to retain high-quality educators.

Teachers often leave due to poor working conditions and inadequate support from school leaders. Competent school leaders can create a positive work environment, vital for addressing the teacher shortage. Investing in capable school leaders is vital to addressing the teacher shortage and establishing the necessary conditions for retaining high-quality educators, while effective district leaders play a key role in empowering principals.

Extensive research pinpoints four critical skills of effective school leaders: interpersonal skills fostering a positive school climate, instructional skills prioritizing teacher support, collaboration skills promoting teamwork and professional growth, and organizational skills for efficient management.

Diverse leadership has benefits, including increased teacher diversity and better outcomes for students of color. We urge the Illinois State Board of Education to prioritize: Funding the Aspire Fellowship program to support leadership candidates and recruit educators of color. Supporting another cohort of the New Principal Recruitment grant

for Arab, Indian, and Asian educators of color and under-resourced districts lacking staff with Principal Endorsements. Restoring state funding for New Principal Mentoring. Maintaining state funding for New Superintendent Mentoring. Allocating district capacity-building grants to assist districts in implementing programs centered on the school

leadership pipeline. Illinois must make a significant commitment to establishing a statewide system for preparing and developing effective leaders, crucial for retaining high-quality teachers who can meet students' learning needs and drive organizational and instructional improvements. Erika Hunt is director, lead hub; and Lisa Hood is research and evaluation director, lead hub, at Regional Office of Education #17 in Bloomington.



Erika Hunt



Lisa Hood

Andrew Chesney: A focus on agriculture

Northwest Illinois is home to some of the most fertile soil in the state, nation, and world, and the farmers who work this land are vital to this state's top economic driver - agriculture. Knowing this, when I was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 2018, one of the first things I did was form an Agriculture Advisory Committee. I was raised in this region, so I recognized at an early age the impact farming and agribusiness have had on people's livelihoods. Having grown up around the industry, I have a decent understanding of farming. However, this knowledge base pales in comparison to those who

are lifelong or generational farmers. Their expertise is valuable when I set annual legislative agendas that represent the people of the seven counties comprising the 45th Senate District. When forming the initial committee, I chose Lanark farmer Lou Lamoreux as chairman. He and his wife Sue, their son Nathan, nephew Dan, and Lou's brother John feed 2,250 head of fat cattle, run a 250-head cow herd, and farm 1,900 acres of corn, soybeans, pasture, wheat, and rye. Lou has served on the Illinois Corn and Illinois Beef Association boards and is a former member of the Carroll County Board. He is a respected leader

in this region and was the perfect pick to lead the Agriculture Advisory Committee. At the end of March, I joined Lou in Bloomington as he was recognized as a Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer Magazine. Of the thousands of farmers in this state, only four are chosen annually for this prestigious award. It was an honor to be with Lou as he was honored for exceptional agricultural production skills, commitment to family, and service to the community. Lou's leadership on the Agriculture Advisory Committee has been ex-

tremely valuable. When I launched the committee as a member of the House of Representatives, he helped recruit agriculture leaders from the five counties in my former House District. When I was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2022, he assisted with expanding the committee to enlist membership from the additional counties I now represent. This year, the committee was formalized so I could enlist assistance from Senate staff and utilize state resources to take this committee to the next level. We held our first meeting of 2024 on

March 26 at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau building. Farm Bureau President Steve Fricke hosted the group, and Illinois Director of Agriculture Jerry Costello joined us as the keynote speaker. The Director provided a brief update on the agriculture industry in Illinois and the role of his department, but more importantly, he engaged in an hour-long question-and-answer session with the more than 60 farming and agriculture leaders in the room. Regional leaders could direct their questions, comments, and concerns to Illinois's top state agriculture leader. They spoke about the estate tax and its harm to farming

families, animal-borne disease prevention and response, biosecurity, ethanol usage, and many other topics. Undoubtedly, Director Costello left the committee meeting with a greater understanding of the issues important to Northwest Illinois farmers. My Agriculture Advisory Committee will meet 3-4 times annually, and I look forward to our ongoing conversations about how we can ensure agriculture remains Illinois' top economic engine and how the state can enact policies that support our farming families. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is the Illinois state senator for the 45th district.



Andrew Chesney

Darin LaHood: Now, it's the Senate's turn

IN Illinois, working families and job creators make up the backbone of our communities — people who work hard and play by the rules. In 2017, we passed what I consider to be generational tax reform that lifted the middle class up and put more of the money earned by workers back into their pockets. Through that process, we learned that a pro-growth, pro-family tax code works. That's why it's critical that the Senate pass our bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, which passed out of the House by a vote of

357-70, builds on the tax reform we passed in 2017, bolstering the financial security of Illinois families and small businesses at a time when they need it most. As I've traveled throughout Illinois, I hear regularly from small businesses and workers about the negative impact of inflation, the rise in energy and grocery costs and lack of incentives to build a business in Illinois. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over all tax policy considered in Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues in a bipartisan way to write and pass this tax package. I am the proud lead

sponsor of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation to strengthen the low-income housing tax credit. Throughout its 37-year history of bipartisan support, the housing credit, established under Ronald Reagan, has financed the production of over 3.7 million homes nationwide. The need for affordable housing in Illinois is stronger than ever, and I fought to include provisions from my bill in this larger tax package to benefit affordable housing in our state. Additionally, the bill

includes sensible improvements to the child tax credit that give a boost to our rural communities and low-income families. The legislation increases the refundable portion of the child tax credit to allow families to claim more of the credit amount, as well as eliminate an unintended penalty currently in place that impacts families with multiple children. The bill also maintains important work incentives that will not only help families get out of poverty quicker, but also encourage individuals to get back into the workforce.

On top of important housing and pro-work, pro-family provisions, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act builds on growth-minded tax policy that will enable job creators in Illinois to stay competitive in the global economy. To support small businesses, we boost interest expense deductions and allow for the 100% expensing of investments in facilities and machinery. We also restore the immediate expensing of research and development investments made in America, incentivizing companies to stay in the U.S. and increasing our competitiveness against China.

The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act will provide relief for Illinoisans at a time when our communities need it most. With the cost of goods and services still high and inflation driving down wages, our bipartisan tax bill will help working families and encourage made-in-Illinois investments that will create jobs and lead to higher wages. It's time for the Senate to pass our historic, bipartisan tax relief bill and send it to President Joe Biden's desk so we can deliver for our communities throughout Illinois. U.S. Representative Darin LaHood serves the 16th District of Illinois.



Darin LaHood

Lindner: 10 tips to raise a good human

AS an educator, I'm constantly reminded of things that we as a society used to do decades ago that we don't need to do anymore. We don't go to the library to search the microfiche machine for information about a topic. We don't need spare change to make photocopies. We don't even have to go next-door to see our neighbor or leave the house to head to work. We can FaceTime or schedule a Zoom meeting. What is most disappointing is that we don't need to write personal notes or thank you cards because we have the ability to text or send an email. But just because we don't have to, doesn't mean that we shouldn't. While many of these changes streamline our life and they have made things easier, there are things from the past that we don't do anymore (or require our children to do) that really need to

become part of the fabric of our lives again. When I was five years old, my mother would give me a pre-printed card that said "Thank you for coming to my party. I love the gift! Love, Danielle." I sat there until the bump on my finger was red and sore making sure that every single person who attended my party would receive a thank you note. I remember telling my own children that when we go to our friend's house to visit, the rules that might be acceptable in our house may not be in their house. When we visit, we must respect the rules of the host. While my kids are allowed to take the couch cushions off my couch and build a fort, it does not mean that behavior is welcome or permitted at the house of the host. I would remind my kids to say please and thank you, to look someone in the eye when they are talking

to you and to always be respectful of those around you. Over the past few years, I've noticed that much of the customs and rituals revolving around respect and courtesy have fallen by the wayside. For the most part, kids sending a handwritten thank you is a thing of the past. I see parents at restaurants allowing their children to run around the table, throw food on the floor and disturb other patrons. I hear stories from upset friends and colleagues who have guests with young children over that the children did not respect their home. They jumped on their couches. They didn't clean up after themselves and they didn't listen to their parents when it was time to go. Once, when having lunch in a nice New York City restaurant, I saw a family sitting across from us with a little boy who was as adorable as could be.

However, the minute his mom told him he couldn't use an iPhone at the table and he had to eat his food, the adorable little boy disappeared. He picked up two glasses from the table and threw them across the restaurant. I thought to myself, "Wow, this little boy is going to be in a heap of trouble!" But I was wrong. The parents laughed and smiled and said "Come on now, eat your food and if you do, you can have the phone back." I thought for sure that John Quinones from the show "What Would You Do?" had to be hiding somewhere, ready to pop out and chastise all of the patrons for not saying something to these parents. But, no. It was just an example of parents who didn't understand that by accepting that type of behavior, it was only going to make their parenting harder down the line. I'm sure these things have happened many times

in the past. However, as the world gets busier and faster, we need to take the time to slow down and teach our children about being good conscientious, caring, and courteous little humans so they grow up to be good, conscientious, caring, and courteous adults. Here are a few things to remember that will not only make your life as a parent easier, but will also give your child the tools and foundation they need to become a good human. Ten tips to raise a good human:

1. Say "please" and "thank you."
2. Listen when others talk and make eye contact to show that you are interested.
3. Always share gratitude with others. Take time to write a thank you card and mail it!
4. Ask before you touch things that aren't yours and always put things back before you leave.

5. Solve problems by talking — not biting, hitting, or raising your voice.
6. Share your toys and take turns playing.
7. Use kind words with friends and family.
8. Follow the rules at school, home, or when visiting others.
9. Always say sorry if you hurt someone and try to make things right.
10. Be patient and wait your turn.

These things are simple. They're easy to remind our kids to do and they are easy for us to model. Kids will follow our lead and if we show that these things are important to us, they will be important to them. Danielle Lindner is an educator and author. As an educator, Danielle is noted for having founded London Day School and recently published Parent's Pocket Guide to Surviving the Preschool Years. To learn more, visit www.daniellelindner.com.

LOCAL NEWS

Locals named in CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2024

OGLE COUNTY — The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) is pleased to announce its 2024 scholarship awards: 260+ scholarships worth over \$540,000 to local students. The scholarships will support the post-secondary educational aspirations of 200+ local students. CFNIL's scholarships were created by individuals and organizations that recognize the importance of education. Donors establish the criteria for

each scholarship based on their interests and the community's need. Many of CFNIL's scholarships are memorials, which celebrate the life and passions of individuals. Thanks to the generosity of scholarship fund creators, since 2000 CFNIL has awarded over \$5,000,000 to local students. Most of this year's recipients are graduating high school seniors in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. Scholarships are

awarded to many kinds of students: academic achievers; non-traditional; those with financial need; athletes; all races and ethnicities; pursuing careers in education, STEM, business, fire science, and healthcare; and many more. Some of the scholarships are renewable for up to four years. Learn more about the CFNIL scholarship class of 2024 at <https://cfnil.org/2024-scholarship-recipient>

Local recipients included Marissa Arrequin of Stillman Valley High School (Class of 2024, Jan Stringer Scholarship), Anna Bradle (SVHS, Class of 2024, Jan Stringer Scholarship), Hailey Groharing (Byron High School, Class of 2021, Amber Huber Memorial Scholarship), Madi Groharing (BHS, Class of 2021, Amber Huber Memorial Scholarship and Rockford Products Corporation Foundation Scholarship), Alaina Haas (BHS, Class of 2023, David L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship), Fynn Rem-

hof (BHS, Class of 2024, Gene Bradford Memorial Scholarship), Braden Rogers (SVHS, Class of 2024, Rockford Products Corporation Foundation Scholarship), and Kane Young (BHS, Class of 2024, Daniel Edwards Memorial Scholarship).

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Polo Lions donate to Polo Fire and Polo Police

On Sunday, April 28 during the Polo Fireman's Breakfast, the Polo Lions donated \$500 to the Polo Fire Department. Shown is Assistant Fire Chief Brent Shipman, Polo Lions Club Vice President Nate White, and Polo Fire Chief Jim Ports. Polo Lions Club member Jeff Short recently presented a \$500 donation to the Polo Police Department. Receiving the donation was Polo Police Chief Matt Coppotelli.

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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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- June 8th
- July 13th
- Aug 10th
- Sept 14th
- Oct 12th

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 Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm
Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)
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MOTHER'S DAY

Great gifts for moms from all walks of life

MOTHER'S Day is an opportunity to show moms how much they're loved and appreciated. Though many moms may insist they don't want anything beyond spending the day with their children, gifts are a big part of Mother's Day.

No two moms are the same, and though standards like flowers and greeting cards will always have a place on Mother's Day, the following are some gift ideas that can put smiles on the faces of moms from all walks of life.

There's no end to the gift options for mothers who love to curl up with a good book. Of course, some new books may delight Mom, but gifts that can improve the reading experience also merit consideration. For example, an ergonomic backrest reading pillow can make bedtime reading sessions more comfortable and ensure Mom's neck and back get ample support as she reads the latest page-turner. A nightstand book holder also can be ideal for moms who can't seem to keep track of their bookmarks.

Some moms simply love to get in a good workout. Shoppers whose mothers or wives love to break a sweat might want to look into home gym equipment, as many fitness enthusiasts transformed part of their homes into exercise areas during the pandemic. If that sounds like the mom on your shopping list, then a suspension training system won't take up much room but can



provide an intense, full-body workout. A new yoga mat, some wireless Bluetooth headphones or a compression stretching mat are some additional gifts that might make exercise-loving moms smile this Mother's Day.

Moms whose children still live under the same roof may not have much opportunity to travel, but

empty nesters and grandmothers might. For such moms, a foldable, hanging travel bag can make it easy and convenient for mom to carry all of her toiletries and access them without taking up what's often minimal hotel room counter space. For moms who want to document their excursions, a leather travel journal encourages them

to note their experiences and gives them something they can revisit for years to come. Of course, some new luggage can make the perfect gift for newly retired moms who can't wait to start visiting places on their travel bucket lists.

Millions of moms manage to juggle the obligations of family life with a challenging career. Mother's Day can be a great

time to recognize that balancing act. A self-heating coffee mug can ensure Mom's morning cup o' joe doesn't go cold as she traverses her way through a hectic morning routine. Another great gift is a charging mouse pad that can charge all of Mom's devices even while she's working. If you want to

help Mom remain calm as she navigates her way through a day filled with personal and professional obligations, an essential oils diffuser can create a sense of relaxation on the most hectic of days.

No two moms are the same. Fortunately, great gifts can be found for moms from all walks of life this Mother's Day.

Mother's Day

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MOTHER'S DAY

Five inspirational gifts for Mother's Day

MOTHER'S Day is celebrated on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Mother's Day is devoted to expressing love and showing praise on mothers, step-mothers and any other figure in one's life who has taken on a motherly role. It is customary to lavish extra praise on moms come Mother's Day, and that often involves gift-giving. The following are five gifts that can ensure Mom knows her efforts and unconditional love have not gone unnoticed.

1. Prompt mindful thinking: The cards from Sunny Present Empowering Questions Cards pose questions to prompt meditation, journaling or simply to practice mindfulness during the day. They are a great way to encourage positive self-talk.

Each of the 52 cards feature a door in the Estonian city of Tallinn. Available through Amazon and www.sunny-present.com.

2. Motivational can-do candles: A little aromatherapy can treat any mother to an uplifting or relaxing fragrance in her special place in the home. But these inspirational candles from Bianchi Candle Co. feature names like "bravery," "joy" and "gratitude" and a motivational message. Purchase at bianchicandleco.com.

3. Inspirational coffee table book: Author and educator Natalie Friscia Pancetti wrote, "This Too... Life-Isms to Savor the Sweetness of Life and Calm You Through the Storms" to pay homage to her parents, particularly her father, who was fond of the phrase, "this too shall pass."

Pancetti says people often relate the phrase to rough patches in life, but it also can refer to cherishing all the moments that are fleeting. The book offers many inspirational passages and lessons that can be applied to all aspects of life. It can be a touching gift for a mom, grandmother or another special woman. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and at www.nataliefrisciapancetti.com.

4. Relaxing home spa experience: Many people have turned their bathrooms into home spas, particularly empty nesters who now have more time to relax and pamper themselves. Spending time in a relaxing shower is a way for Mom to clear her mind and unwind, and Shower Steamers from Body Restore can set the ideal



environment. Purchase on Amazon and include alongside additional home spa necessities like loofahs or a bathrobe.

5. Ancestry exploration: Foster greater bonds in the

family by giving Mom an opportunity to further trace her heritage. Popular genealogy companies include Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com and 23andme.com, enabling anyone to

enjoy a look back at the lineage that helped shape who they are today. These companies can help trace ancestors and even connect people with distant relatives.



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NURSES WEEK

The role of certified nursing assistants

THE nursing profession is vast and attracts an array of talented people. A career as a nursing assistant can be a rewarding path for those who want to get into the profession.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care jobs are expected to grow by 13 percent between 2021 and 2031, making a nursing career an attractive option.

According to Premier Nursing Academy, a certified nursing assistant is an entry-level step into the medical field. A CNA is not a nurse, but these individuals will work very closely under the supervision of licensed nursing staff, physicians and other

health care providers.

Many people are drawn to becoming a CNA because the job presents a start in a career in health care. While some are content to remain CNAs for the duration of their careers, other CNAs use the position as a way to get on-the-job experience that can help them decide if they want to go further in the field of nursing. CNA certification does not require extensive education. On average, it takes between four to 10 weeks to complete the necessary coursework to become a certified nursing assistant.

According to Indeed, a CNA can expect to perform these tasks on any given day.

- Administer medications to patients.
- Assist patients with activities of daily living.
- Bathe and dress patients.
- Check vital signs.
- Serve meals and help patients eat.
- Watch for changes in patients' behaviors or worsening conditions.
- Reposition bedridden patients.

CNAs work in many different settings, including at hospitals or in residential nursing homes. The BLS estimates that demand for certified nursing assistants will increase by 5 percent by 2031. Interested parties can expect to earn a median annual wage of \$30,290. Should one want to go on



to becoming a registered nurse, he or she can expect a salary of \$77,600. Certified

nursing assistants play important roles in the medical field. CNAs hone their skills

in facilities and can choose to stay put or go on to more advanced nursing careers.

How communities can recognize nurses

THE vital role nurses play in health care settings across the globe was perhaps never more apparent than in recent months. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020, nurses were on the front lines in the battle against the virus, and have remained there ever since.

In recognition of the sacrifices nurses and other health care workers have made to help the sick, individuals across the globe have placed signs in their yards thanking

essential workers. In addition, many more have taken to social media to highlight the lengths individual nurses have gone to while helping them or their loved ones who caught the virus or fought other illnesses. Communities can follow such individuals' lead by making collective efforts to thank the nurses who call their towns and cities home.

• Sponsor fundraising efforts. Town officials can help to organize a community-wide fundraising effort or a 50-50 raffle with the ultimate goal of donating to a charita-

ble organization chosen by local nurses. Health care facilities have been stretched incredibly thin during the pandemic, so a donation to a charitable organization that benefits health care workers can be a great way for communities to honor local nurses.

• Encourage residents to lend a helping hand. The work frontline medical workers have done during the pandemic has been endless and exhausting. In recognition of that, community organizers can promote volunteer programs designed to lift some of the burden off local health care workers' shoulders. Local hospitals, blood banks and health centers may need volunteers, and this is a great way for local residents to show health



care workers their efforts are appreciated.

• Celebrate holidays that honor nurses as a community. The American Nurses Association notes that National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12. Though National Nurses Week is not a fed-

eral holiday, communities can still come together during the week to highlight the work their local nurses do. Township or other local officials can encourage businesses in the community to offer special discounts to nurses during the week, while schools can take part in collective efforts to thank nurses. For example, students from all grades can work on a banner thanking nurses and then showcase the banner by the entryway to campus so passing motorists can see it.

• Highlight a local nurse each week on social media. Community leaders can ask resi-

dents to nominate a local nurse each week and then choose one nominee to highlight on social media. Students or local officials can interview the nominee, asking them about their careers, including what compelled them to become a nurse and their most interesting experiences on the job. Interviews can be posted on community social media pages so all residents can get to know the unsung heroes in their communities.

Communities can work together on a variety of collective efforts aimed at recognizing the extraordinary efforts made by local nurses every day.

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Oregon Junior High bowlers compete at IESA State Championships

OREGON — The Oregon JH boys and girls bowling teams competed at the 2024 IESA State Finals held at Joliet Town & Country Lanes on April 19-20. Several all-time OJH IESA State records were set or approached including the all-time high girls team score, boys high individual game, second highest individual 10-game girls score, fourth highest girls place finisher, fourth highest boys individual 10-game series score, fifth highest individual place finisher and sixth highest individual 10-game girls score.

The girls team, coming off a record-setting second-place finish behind Sycamore at the sectional the previous weekend, placed seventh in the state by recording the highest 10-game series total in school history, a 5,875 series, 43 pins ahead of Sycamore who finished in eighth. This is the second time OJH has placed seventh and the second highest place ever.

Leading Oregon was 17th place finisher, eighth-grader Carli Bailey with a 1,686 series, the second highest series



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Oregon JH boys and girls bowling teams competed at the 2024 IESA State Finals held at Joliet Town & Country Lanes on April 19-20.

ever and the 4th highest individual place winner. She was followed closely by seventh-grader Abi Kalnins with a 1,594 series in 27th place, the sixth highest series in history and the seventh highest place winner.

Also bowling all 10 games was eighth-grader

Savannah Nagy who finished with 1,448 series and a 48th place finish. In addition, fifth-grader Briannah West bowled eight games - 938 series and eighth-grader Whitley Key bowled two games - 209 series.

The boys team overall had a disappointing pre-

mature end to their season, not making the second day of the event with a 15th place finish. However, individually one person did advance to the second day, as eighth-grader Diego Hernandez set a school record with a 278 individual game enroute to recording the fourth

highest 10-game series ever, an 1,817 series. His 28th place finish is the fifth highest in history.

Also narrowly missing advancing to day two of the event was seventh-grader Ethan Rowe with a 667 four-game series - 12 pins from advancing. He was followed closely by

seventh-grader Layne Newberry with a 598 series and eighth-grader Asher Kramer with a 588 series. The IESA state bowling finals was created in 2011 and is a single class statewide event. In 2024, 162 girls and 166 boys competed at the state finals.

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LOCAL SPORTS

Rochelle hosts 50th Annual Ogle County Track Meet



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Runners from Stillman Valley High School race to the finish line during the 3200-meter relay at the 50th Annual Ogle County Track Meet at Rochelle Township High School on Tuesday evening.

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School held the 50th Annual Ogle County Invitational on Tuesday, with athletes from Oregon, Byron, Stillman Valley, Polo and Forreston all in attendance. Below are all of the notable results from the Ogle County schools in Tuesday's meet.

Forreston-Polo Boys

The Forreston-Polo boys finished first with 119.33 points overall. Noah Dewey took first in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.03 seconds and second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.74 seconds. Micah Nelson finished second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.32 seconds and Hayden Vinnedge finished third in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:17.75.

Esteban Salinas took third in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:27.23 and Noah Genandt took third in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:30.91. Lucas Nelson finished first in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.65 seconds and Eli Ferris finished second in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 44.38 seconds. Nelson finished third with

a time of 45.08 seconds.

Forreston-Polo won three relays including the 400-meter relay with a time of 44.38 seconds, the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:33.33 and the 1600-meter relay with a time of 3:33.40. Hunter DeWall took second in the discus with a throw of 36.54 meters and Eli Ferris took second in the high jump with a height of 1.70 meters. Billy Lowry finished first in the long jump with a mark of 5.74 meters and Peyton Crase finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 12.48 meters.

Forreston-Polo Girls

The Forreston-Polo girls finished first with 102 points overall. Bree Schneiderman won both the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.44 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.18 seconds. Kyla Lamm took third in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:51.51 and Courtney Grobe took fourth in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 19.10 seconds. Letrese Buisker won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 52.64 seconds and Laynie Mandrell was second in 52.85.

See TRACK page 3

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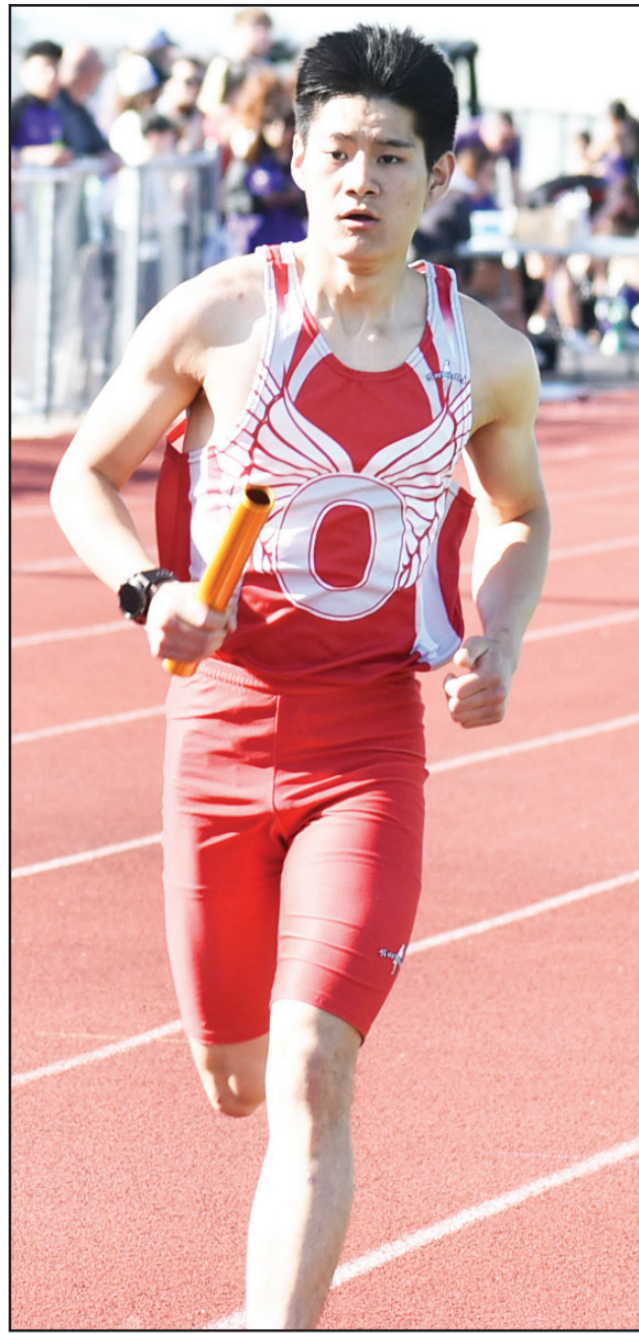
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LOCAL SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Runners from Byron High School and Oregon High School race to the finish line during the 3200-meter relay at the 50th Annual Ogle County Track Meet at Rochelle Township High School on Tuesday evening.

TRACK: 50th Annual Ogle County Invitational held Tuesday evening

From page 2

Forreston-Polo finished first in the 400-meter relay with a time of 52.20 seconds before taking third in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:56.03. Forreston-Polo took fourth in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4:49.31 after taking third in the 3200-meter relay with a time of 11:39.66.

Sydni Badertscher won both the shot put with a mark of 10.19 meters and the discus with a mark of 33.25 meters. Letrese Buisker took third in the high jump with a height of 1.50 meters and Bree Schneiderman took second in the long jump with a mark of 4.37 meters.

Byron Boys

The Byron boys finished third with 47.33 points overall. Dylan Springer won the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.23 seconds and Micah Hilliker finished fourth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:31.48. Liam Connell took fourth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 17.32 seconds.

Byron finished second in the 3200-meter relay with a time of 9:12.65 and fourth in both the 1600-meter relay with a time of 3:46.75 and the 800-meter relay with a

time of 1:38.56. Carson Buser won the high jump with a height of 1.75 meters and Carson Conderman took third in the pole vault with a height of 3.27 meters. Maison Brandt was fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 12.21 meters and Maverick Galster finished fifth in the discus with a mark of 33.68 meters.

Byron Girls

The Byron girls finished fourth with 58 points overall. Ashley Potter took first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:02.01 and Emma Franchi took third in the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:17.51. Gabriella Northup finished second in the 3200-meter run with a time of 15:09.14 and Malia Morton finished first in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.88 seconds.

Byron won both the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:51.72 and the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4:15.89. Byron finished second in the 3200-meter relay with a time of 11:30.22 and Neve Schilling took third in the high jump with a height of 1.50 meters.

Stillman Boys

The Stillman Valley boys finished fourth with

46.33 points overall. Memphis Rowe took fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.12 seconds and Evan Jones took third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.38 seconds. Braden Rogers won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 42.70 and Jacob Rhodes finished second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.69.

Stillman Valley took second in both the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:33.96 and the 1600-meter relay with a time of 3:36.20. Stillman Valley finished third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 45.45 seconds and fourth in the 3200-meter relay with a time of 9:43.45. Jacob Rhodes took second in the high jump with a clearance of 1.70 meters and Memphis Rowe took fifth in the long jump with a distance of 5.22 meters.

Stillman Girls

The Stillman Valley girls finished fifth with 51 points overall. Makinzie Lamb took third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.36 seconds and Nola Ivy-Friberg took fourth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:26.28. Dionyesia Cantu-Ramos finished second in the 100-meter hurdles with a

time of 17.07 seconds and Alyvia Bagg was fourth in shot put with a mark of 8.63 meters.

Stillman Valley finished second in both the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4:26.55 and the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:53.79. Stillman Valley took fourth in both the 3200-meter relay with a time of 12:17.64 and the 400-meter relay with a time of 54.95 seconds.

Sandra Brodersen won the long jump with a distance of 4.59 meters and Jessie Hagemann finished second in the triple jump with a distance of 9.19 meters. Hagemann took sixth in the high jump at 1.35 meters and Ella Pollock took fourth in the discus with a mark of 27.24 meters.

Oregon Boys

The Oregon boys finished fifth with 42 points overall. Aidan Guida took first in the

200-meter dash with a time of 23.69 seconds, third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.08 seconds and fourth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 55.28 seconds. Daniel Gonzalez won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:05.18 and Chase Buchanan finished fourth in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:30.97. Oregon's 3200-meter relay team took third with a time of 9:34.44.

Evyn Carreno finished second in the shot put with a mark of 13.71 meters and fourth in the discus with a mark of 34.83 meters. Leo Cardenas took second in the pole vault with a clearance of 4.03 meters and Xander Garcia was eighth in the high jump at 1.55 meters.

Oregon Girls

The Oregon girls finished third with 62 points overall. Rylie Robertson took third in both the

100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.68 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 56.62 seconds. Lorelai Dannhorn finished second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:48.37 and Skylar Bishop finished second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 28.95 seconds.

Lexi Ebert took fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.51 seconds. Oregon finished fourth in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:56.11 and fifth in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 5:09.25. Alease McLain finished fifth in the discus with a distance of 26.45 meters.

Grace Tremble won the high jump with a height of 1.55 meters and Sonya Plescia won the pole vault with a clearance of 2.97 meters. Daleanah Koertner took fourth in the long jump with a distance of 4.29 meters.

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon girls soccer shuts out Mendota

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team shut out Mendota 7-0 on Saturday, April 20. Anna Stender and Kennan Wubenna each scored twice, while Deb Schmid, Teagan Champley and Aniyah Sarver each added one goal. Stender, Schmid and Champley each recorded assists for the Hawks (9-1-0, 4-1 BNC) in the win.

Polo baseball splits doubleheader with AFC

The Polo High School varsity baseball team split a doubleheader against Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday, April 20. The Marcos fell 6-1 in the first game, with Scott Robertson recording two hits while Jeffrey Donaldson went 1-for-2 with one RBI.

Nolan Hahn pitched six innings and struck out seven batters, while Carter Merdian added two strikeouts in an inning.

The Marcos won the second game 7-3 behind a strong performance from Gus Mumford, who went 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs. Jeffrey Donaldson went 2-for-4 with three RBIs, while Scott Robertson and Lucas Nelson combined to strike out eight batters over seven frames.

Oregon softball sweeps doubleheader against AFC

The Oregon High School varsity softball team swept its doubleheader against Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday, April 20. The Hawks won the first game 15-4, with Brooke Halverson pitching a complete

game. Oregon took the second game 21-3 behind another complete game pitching performance, this time from Alexi Czochara. Abree Barker and Haleigh Burkhart each recorded three hits on the day, while Olivia Paul and Sarah Stevens both had multiple RBIs.

Polo softball takes doubleheader against AFC

The Polo High School varsity softball team won two games over Ashton-Franklin Center on Wednesday, April 17. The Lady Marcos took the opening game 12-2 in five innings, with Karlea Frey going 3-for-3 while Cheyenne Wilkins went 3-for-4 with a single, double, triple and two RBIs.

See SPORTS page 4

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LOCAL SPORTS

SPORTS: Local results from Ogle County athletic programs

From page 3

Allissa Marschang, Aylivia Danekas and Grace Miatke each added RBIs in the win. Camryn Jones pitched all five innings, striking out eight batters on four hits allowed.

Polo won the second game 13-8 behind four hits, including three doubles and three RBIs, from Karlea Frey. Cheyenna Wilkins totaled three hits and two RBIs, while Allissa Marschang had two singles and three RBIs. Sydnei Rahn added two hits and an RBI for the Lady Marcos.

Oregon girls soccer wins over Sterling

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team scored an 8-0 win over Sterling on Monday, April 22. Deb Schmid recorded three goals, while Anna Stender added two goals and one assist. Teagan Champley, Kenna Wubenna and Noelle Girton each chipped in goals for the Hawks (10-1-0, 4-1 BNC), while Stender and Champley as well as Mya Engelkes, Aniyah Sarver, Sarah Eckardt and Alese McLain each dished out assists.

Polo baseball loses against Fulton

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 12-2 against Fulton on Monday, April 22. Nolan Hahn had one hit and two RBIs, while Scott Robertson and Jeff Donaldson each added hits in the loss.

Polo softball falls against Fulton

The Polo High School varsity softball team lost 21-4 against Fulton on Monday, April 22. Camryn Jones had a single with one RBI, while Karlea Frey had a double and Cheyenna Wilkins had one home run and one RBI. Sydnei Rahn had a home run with one RBI, Grace Miatke had a single and Leah Tobin had one RBI.

Oregon softball edges Byron

The Oregon High School varsity softball team held on for a 6-5 win over Byron on Monday, April 22. Oregon got three hits from Haleigh Burkhart including a game winning RBI in the fifth inning. Alexi Czochara slammed the door on the pitcher's plate for Oregon with four strikeouts to get the win. Sarah Stevens and Madi Shaffer each added two hits for the Hawks who gained their 10th win of the season.

Oregon girls soccer

nets win over Mendota

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team defeated Mendota 3-1 on Tuesday, April 23. Deb Schmid scored two goals, while Anna Stender added one goal and one assist. Kenna Wubenna chipped in two assists for the Hawks (11-1-0, 5-1 BNC).

Polo baseball handed shutout from Eastland

The Polo High School varsity baseball team suffered an 11-0 shutout loss against Eastland on Tuesday, April 23. Gus Mumford went 2-for-3 to lead the Marcos in the loss.

Oregon softball downs Dixon

The Oregon High School varsity softball team downed Dixon 12-3 on Tuesday, April 23. Olivia Paul's three-run homer in the fifth broke the game open. Paul had four hits on the day with 5 RBIs. Gracen Pitts added a two-run home run in the sixth along with three hits.

Madi Shaffer and Sarah Stevens chipped in with two hits a piece and Haleigh Burkhart had a clutch two-RBI single in the fourth. Brooke Halverson got the win and Alexi Czochara struck out five in the final four innings to shut the door

for the Hawks.

Polo baseball defeats Eastland

The Polo High School varsity baseball team defeated Eastland 8-5 on Thursday, April 25. Nolan Hahn went 4-for-5 with two runs and one RBI, while Gus Mumford went 3-for-3 with two runs and one RBI. Scott Robertson recorded three RBIs for the Marcos in the win.

Polo softball blows out Eastland

The Polo High School varsity softball team totaled 18 hits in a 15-4 win over Eastland. Cheyenna Wilkins pitched the full seven innings, giving up only three hits and three earned runs with one walk and 11 strikeouts. Camryn Jones had two singles, two doubles and three RBIs, while Karlea Frey had two singles, one double and four RBIs. Allissa Marschang had two singles, one double and one RBI, Sydnei Rahn had two singles and one double, Cheyenna Wilkins had one single and one double with one RBI and Izabella Witkowski had two singles with two RBIs. Grace Miatke had a single.

Oregon girls soccer wins over Dixon

The Oregon High School varsity girls soc-

cer team won 3-1 over Dixon on Thursday, April 25. Anna Stender scored two goals and Kenna Wubenna added one goal, while Deb Schmid and Teagan Champley each had assists for the Hawks (12-1-0, 6-1 BNC).

Oregon softball takes doubleheader over Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity softball team scored a 16-5 win and a 18-4 win in a doubleheader against Rockford Lutheran on Thursday, April 25. The Hawks combined for 30 hits over the two games, with Gracen Pitts hitting three home runs and totaling eight RBIs. Hayleigh Heurman added a home run in the second game.

Polo baseball loses against Oregon

The Polo High School varsity baseball team lost 7-1 against Oregon on Saturday, April 27. Carter Merdian went 2-for-3 with one run scored for the Marcos.

Polo baseball falls against Forreton

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 6-2 against Forreton on Tuesday, April 30. Scott Robertson went 1-for-2 with two RBIs and Nolan Hahn pitched six and one-third innings, striking out five batters

while allowing only two earned runs.

Oregon girls soccer cruises over Rockford Christian

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team continued its winning ways with a 6-0 victory over Rockford Christian on Tuesday, April 30. Anna Stender led the Hawks (13-1-0, 7-1 BNC) with three goals, while Deb Schmid added two goals and an assist. Noelle Girton scored one goal and both Arianna Hammer and Kenna Wubenna added assists in the win.

Polo softball scores 10 runs in loss to Forreton

The Polo High School varsity softball team totaled 14 hits in a 12-10 loss against Forreton on Tuesday, April 30. Camryn Jones had one single and two doubles with one RBI. Cheyenna Wilkins had three singles. Karlea Frey had one single and one home run with two RBIs.

Izabella Witkowski had one single and one double with two RBIs. Sydnei Rahn had one single and one home run with one RBI. Avalyn Henry had a single and an RBI. Allissa Marschang had a single and one RBI. Forreton had 11 hits.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 11: A United States Postal Service Letter Carriers' Food Drive will take place in the Oregon and Chana areas on May 11. Put your non-perishable donation in a bag by your mailbox and it will be delivered to a local food bank.

May 11, 18: Eagle's Nest Art Group member Linnea Koch and her husband Wolf will give two digital photography workshops at the Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiques, and Americana, located at 124 N. 4th St., Oregon.

Linnea Koch is an artist

who has worked in the visual arts field for over 40 years, while Wolf Koch is a practicing engineer, former part-time educator and seasoned photographer.

The first workshop, titled "Digital Photography Fundamentals," is on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will guide participants to a clearer understanding of several variables that affect photos, such as light, aperture, shutter speed, and sensor sensitivity. Also, participants will learn more about how to select

unusual images and avoid common stereotypes with landscapes, cityscapes, wildlife and florals.

The next photography workshop titled "Mastering Smartphone Photography" will be on Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program will cover both cell phone and tablet cameras. The discussion will be include information about using photo apps and affordable tools such as phone grips, small tripods, lenses and small LED lighting.

Both workshops are free, but you must register

at the museum's website: Events - COLISEUM MUSEUM OF ART, ANTIQUES & AMERICANA (cmaaa.org). If you have questions, call the museum at 815-595-5810.

May 12: Treat the women in your life to something special this Mother's Day! Join the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce to a unique Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 12 at the River's Edge Experience, 103 S. 1st St., Oregon. Hours are 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event is appropriate for the

entire family. Brunch will be catered by Hazel's in Oregon and will include a menu of breakfast casserole, creamy chicken marsala, cheesy potatoes, fresh fruit bowl, yogurt parfaits with granola and fruit, juice, coffee and dessert. A cash bar will also be available. Special activities will include a bling pull, a gift for each mother, door prize drawings, silent auction and photos with mom. Tickets for the bling pull are \$20. Each person will receive a nice piece of jewelry and one lucky winner will

walk away with a pair of diamond earrings. This is a reservation-only event. Tickets must be purchased by May 5. Cost for tickets is \$35 for ages 13 and up, \$15 for ages 6-12 and \$5 for children ages five and under. Tickets may be purchased at several Oregon businesses including A&M Floral, JTI Salon and Spa, Hazels, Merlins Flowers and Otherside Boutique, Cork & Tap, the Chamber office and online. Contact the Chamber Office at (815) 732-2100 with any questions or to purchase tickets online.

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org/3d-printing/ for more information on how to submit your 3D print idea.
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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.
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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!

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.
RRVBC BLOOD DRIVE - MAY 6
10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
Donors call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 OR 815-965-8751. Appointments encouraged. Walk-ins welcome.
MAY 9 - "My Two

Elaines" Alzheimer's Caregiver Program
Thursday, May 9, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. Candid discussion on Alzheimer's caregiving. Advance Registration requested. Call 815-732-3252, or stop by RRC to sign up.
OUTING OF THE MONTH - MAY 10
Franklin Creek Grist

Mill. Limited Bus Seating. Register by May 8.
VA Rep on MAY 10
9:00 - 3:00 p.m.
CRAFT GROUP on MAY 13
9:00 - 10:00 A.M. Project: "Laced Up" Flower Pots
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 4 t h

Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 3 R D Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 1 s t 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.

Forrester Library

Book Sale
We will be holding our semi-annual book sale during regular library hours beginning Thursday, May 2nd through Saturday, May 18th. We have a huge assortment of books, dvds, games,

and puzzles for all ages and interests so you won't want to miss this sale!
Mixin' It Up Fundraiser
April 11th - May 13th. In an effort to offer a variety of programs for all ages, library supporters are hold-

ing 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, forresterlibrary.org, for more information.
Toddler/Preschool Storytime
Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite lit-

tle person to share in a time of stories, crafts, and activities every Wednesday that school is in session. This fun, relaxed program introduces children to the joy of reading and making new friends.
Community Room

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

Polo Senior Center

Silver Sneaker Exercise
Tuesday and Thursdays mornings, 9:00 and 10:15
Pound Cardio drumming
Wednesdays at 1:00pm
Chair Yoga/ Tai Chi

Wednesdays and Friday mornings at 9:00
Game day
Thursdays 11:00 am - Mexican Train - Euchre
Souper Thursdays
Every Thursday 11:00, soup or salad lunch served

11:00 until gone, donation only
Tea Party
May 10th 12:00 Downtown Abbey Mother's Day Tea party, live musical entertainment, dress up for fun. Everyone welcome,


please sign up in advance 946-3818
Bird Songs and Sightings
Presented by Polo Women's Garden Club (Public welcome) May 17th at 1:00 pm


Brain Wits
May 20 at 11:15
Wheel of Fortune
May 22 at 11:00
Monthly Luncheon
May 24 at 11:00 Hamburgers, Tator Tots, Fruit, dessert, Suggested dona-

tion \$5. Program TBA
Trip to Savannah, GA
Oct 20 - 26 \$999 per person dbl occupancy. Sign up now! call for details
Closure
We will be closed May 27 for Memorial Day

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LOCAL NEWS

Mt. Morris Public Library

Library Closure May 10-11

Mount Morris Library will be closed on Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11, due to building maintenance. We apologize for any inconvenience. Books may be returned via our return slot or renewed online using the Prairie Catalog website. Regular hours will resume Monday, May 13, at 11am.

Adult Book Club Meeting Monday, April 29th

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

Cookbook Club Next Meeting May 7th

Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Stop by to choose your recipe from this month's book, *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!

Story Time! Wednesdays at 11:15am

We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday, 3/13. Storytime is every Wednesday @ 11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

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.

Summer Reading Program!!!

Summer is coming and we are ready to get everyone reading more and more! *Read, Renew, Repeat* is our theme this year with lots of relaxing and renewing in the future! Registration for the Summer Reading Program will start on Tuesday, May

28th. We will be offering kids programs every week, raffle prizes for adults and kids, games, parties, and more all summer! Be sure to mark your calendar and join us this summer for an adventure!

Display Case Showings

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 mmlib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.

Memorial Gifts

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

Newspaper Available!

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

Curbside Service is available!

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

Additional Services Offered

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

Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend. The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054-815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Volume-based
6 Outcome
12 Spud
13 Key in again
14 Chalkboard accessory
15 Vineyard harvest
16 Classic soda brand
17 "Excuse me ..."
19 Tolkien creature
20 First lady of scat
22 Lith., once
24 Six-pack muscles
27 "Carmen" solo
29 Staffer
32 Employer's directive
35 Hideaway
36 Couturier Christian
37 Science guru Bill
38 Small tablet
40 Iowa city
42 Top card
44 Hotel chain
46 "Casablanca" role
50 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
52 Witty retort
54 Billie Eilish hit song

DOWN

1 Apple center
2 Beehive State
3 Count with an orchestra
4 Mineral suffix
5 Lipstick shade
6 Incite
7 Salon jobs
8 Depot (Abbr.)
9 Father of Helios

10 Serving customers
11 Try out
12 Stock holder
18 Hispaniola resident
21 Trail the pack
23 Cutting tool
24 100%
25 "Don't — stranger!"
26 Allowances
28 Perfume dispenser
30 Parched
31 Scrape (out)
33 Span. lady
34 Raw mineral

39 Dunkable treat
41 Egyptian peninsula
42 Both (Pref.)
43 "Misery" star James
45 Baseball legend Willie
47 Pride parade initialism
48 Actress Ward
49 "How — you?"
51 Mature
53 — jiffy

55 Allow
56 Small maps
57 Indian yogurt dish

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WORDS ENDING IN "ISH"

MAGIC MAZE

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

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

- Abolish
- Accomplish
- Crayfish
- English
- Finish
- Ghoulish
- Jellyfish
- Nourish
- Panfish
- Publish
- Selfish
- Silverfish
- Sunfish
- Swedish
- Wish

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Desk is moved. 2. Chalkboard isn't as wide. 3. Stripe is added to sleeve. 4. Cap is different. 5. Chair rung is higher. 6. Sneakers are different.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

WORDS ENDING IN "ISH"

ANSWER

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Oregon Public Library

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

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

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

Community Seed Library

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

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, May 8 at 12:30 to discuss *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, May 15 at 1 pm to discuss

Vampires of El Norte by Isabel Canas. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, May 19 at 6 pm at Chrissy's Corner (formerly Messie's). Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet at 7 pm on May 28th to discuss *Deadly Education* by Naomi Novik. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, May 23 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

Fundamental Yoga

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

Illinois Library Presents

The Many Lives of

Kal Penn – Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00pm. ACTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER, & WHITEHOUSE STAFF MEMBER KAL PENN. Penn will be joined in conversation by Bridget Petrites, Evanston Public Library, who will facilitate a unique and fun game show style experience featuring the myriad accomplishments of Penn's life and previously submitted audience questions. Questions can be submitted when registering at bit.ly/ILP_KalPenn. Kal Penn is an actor, writer, producer, and former Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. He is known for his starring roles in *Designated Survivor*, *House*, *Mira Nair's The Namesake*, the *Harold & Kumar* franchise, and the Christmas comedy *The Santa Clauses* for Disney+. Earlier this year, Penn wrapped production on the Bloomberg Green climate change docuseries, *Getting Warmer* with Kal Penn, and the Viacom/Paramount+ comedy, *Surina & Mel*. Following the departure of Trevor Noah from *The Daily Show*, Kal was named as an upcoming

guest host. His first book *You Can't Be Serious* was released in November 2021 and he narrates the audiobook. Register at: https://bit.ly/ILP_KalPenn

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, May 13th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Save the Date!

Read, Renew, Repeat! - Summer Reading Program Kick-off Party – Thursday, May 16th 4:00-6:00pm. Kick off your summer reading with the Oregon Public Library. This

summer's theme is Read, Renew, Repeat. This year's Kick Off party will be FOAM fun! Jason Kolum, the bubble guy, will be bringing foam to the library lawn. Registration requested, www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, May 21st at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot) - Scrapbook Paper Wreath. A great way to use new and/or old scrapbook paper. Each participant will leave with a wreath they made in class. This class is for Oregon Patrons Only. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Find A Character Ticket!

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

only once.

Oregon Writers Group

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

Passport Services

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

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

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story - *The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians* by Carla Morris. At the StoryWalk is *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin.

Julia Hull District Library

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.

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.

Summer Reading Program: Seas the Day!

It's only fair winds and following seas as we embark on our summer reading journey. We'll travel

to far-off destinations, meet new people and open our eyes to new ideas—through the transportive power of books. Register now for our 2024 Summer Reading Program: *Seas the Day!* You'll collect badges by logging your reading, completing fun activities and attending library programs...for a chance to win real prizes. It's fun. It's easy. It's free! Registration opens Monday, May 20. Register in person or with the Beanstack app.

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.

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed Monday, May 27 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Tween Scene: Cruise Ship: Portland

Pack your bags, we're hitting the high seas! Our first shore excursion on our tween cruise is Portland, Maine (you know,

the OTHER Portland). Don't worry, there are no clouds in sight! We'll enjoy games, crafts and snacks inspired by this cozy, artsy city. Ages 10-12. Tuesday, June 4, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Water Bins

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us on the library lawn for water play featuring a variety of sensory bins. Dress to get wet. Friday, June 7, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

DON'T GET SUCKED IN

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