

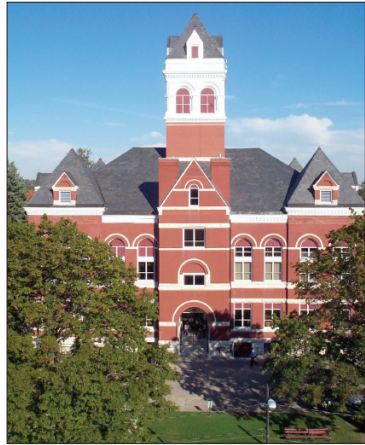


Casino opening in August

The Hard Rock Casino in Rockford will be opening on Aug. 29, 2024. Page 12

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

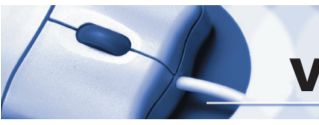
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 14

MONDAY
June 17, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Students of the Month named

Oregon Elementary School named its students of the month for May 2024. Section B

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
93 73	90 72
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
90 73	90 71
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
85 64	76 61

OBITUARIES

- Richard L. Coffman
- Joretta K. Wolf
- Constance 'Connie' Miller

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Byron County Market
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Snyder Pharmacy

Sheriff: 3 Ogle ERT members, barricaded individual shot after incident in Lost Nation

2 ERT members treated and released, 3rd expected to make full recovery, suspect undergoes surgery

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

LOST NATION — Three Ogle County Emergency Response Team members and one barricaded suspect were shot late Wednesday morning at a residence in Lost Nation in the rural Dixon area and survived after being transported to area hospitals, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said in a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

The barricaded man was identified as Jonathon G. Gounaris in a Wednesday night press release. The names of the involved law enforcement officials have not been released. Two law enforcement officers were transported by ground to KSB Hospital in Dixon and were treated and released, VanVickle said later on in a phone interview.

See **SHOOTING** p. 11



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Three Ogle County Emergency Response Team members and one barricaded suspect were shot late Wednesday morning at a residence in Lost Nation in the rural Dixon area and survived after being transported to area hospitals, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said in a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

Kohler restoring 1926 Memorial Fountain in Mt. Morris

'We are so grateful and feel very lucky to have found the Kohler Foundation'

MT. MORRIS — The Kohler Foundation Inc. (KFI), in Kohler, Wisconsin, is restoring the Veterans Memorial Fountain in Mt. Morris.

The fountain, on the northeast corner of the campus square, was a project of Mt. Morris Post 143 of the American Legion, presented to the village and dedicated on Nov. 14, 1926, to honor Mt. Morris veterans of World War I, and the five local soldiers who were killed in action. Resident Heathcote Mann designed it, and all work not requiring skilled labor was done by local legion members. The fountain is made of stones sent by American Legion Posts, organizations, and individuals across the U.S., inscribed with many donor names.

The Kohler Foundation

learned of the fountain when it was contacted by Paula Diehl, executive director of the Economic Development Committee (EDC), and Rob Urish, the EDC chairman. They called Kohler looking for someone to appraise the fountain. As the conversation continued, Diehl mentioned that the nearly 100-year-old fountain needed refurbishing.

"I was stunned when they said, 'Did you know that's what we do?'" Diehl said. "We had so many dead ends looking for someone to appraise it, and the right direction to go for restoration. When they said they could have it appraised and restored, I was astonished. After that, everything just fell into place."

See **KOHLER** page 2



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Kohler Foundation Inc. (KFI), in Kohler, Wisconsin, is restoring the 1926 Veterans Memorial Fountain in Mt. Morris.

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LOCAL NEWS



Local students receive DAR Good Citizen awards from Rochelle Daughters of the American Revolution

The Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, presented the DAR Good Citizen award to one student at each of five local schools. These seniors are selected through a process that involves both the teachers and the members of the senior class, because they exemplify the traits of a Good Citizen which are Dependability, Service, Leadership and Patriotism. One of these five DAR Good Citizens was further selected to represent the chapter at the district level competition. Shown with Rochelle DAR Good Citizen Chairman Lydia Roberts are Jacob Rhodes, Stillman Valley High School (top right), who was also chosen to advance to the district level; Addison Shaw, Amboy High School (also shown with Rochelle Chapter Regent Debby Katzman) (bottom left); Lauren Stone, Ashton-Franklin Center High School; (bottom right) Alyssa Leary, Oregon High School (top left); and Alivia Henkel, Rochelle Township High School (top middle). (Courtesy photos)

KOHLER: 1926 Veterans Memorial Fountain being restored

From page 1

"We are so grateful and

feel very lucky to have found the Kohler Foundation and that they've agreed to take

on this project," Diehl said. "They're experts, so we know it will be done right.

And they appreciate the history and artistry."

"Kohler Foundation is honored to invest in the conservation of the Veteran's Memorial Fountain, an important piece of Mt. Morris' history as well as vernacular art," Beth Wiza, preserva-

tion project manager for the Kohler Foundation, said. "Families and other American Legions contributed memorial stones to create this monument to fallen soldiers."

Heritage Restoration and Design, masonry con-

servators from Peoria, was selected by KFI for their expertise in the material. The work began May 28 and includes thoroughly cleaning the surfaces, tuckpointing each joint, and reattaching any fallen elements. The beloved sculpture will return to its original aesthetic to honor the soldiers lost in World War I.

"For over 30 years Kohler Foundation has preserved art environments across the country — from Maine to Kansas and many places in between," Wiza said. "It's exciting to increase access to the arts and build community through art preservation projects."



Tim Hintzsche's
Celebration of Life will be
4:00pm-6:30pm on
Saturday, June 22 at the
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River Road, Byron, IL.
There will be a prayer service/
memory sharing at 4:15pm.

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, a grand opening event was held for Luna at 531 S. 7th St. in Rochelle. The event included a ribbon cutting, appetizers & drinks, and live music. Luna, formerly named Salt 251, recently underwent a rebranding and renovations including two new patios with gas fireplaces, gazebos, sitting furniture and outside bars.

Grand opening held Friday, June 7 for Luna in Rochelle

'I want to thank the community because without it, we wouldn't be here'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Friday, a grand opening event was held for Luna at 531 S. 7th St. in Rochelle. The event included a ribbon cutting, appetizers & drinks, and live music.

Luna, formerly named Salt 251, recently underwent a rebranding and renovations including two new patios with gas fireplaces, gazebos, sitting furniture and outside bars. The front of the business has seen changes including landscaping and the addition of retaining walls. The interior of the bar and dining area and ballroom

have been renovated as well.

Friday's event featured speeches by Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh, State Rep. Bradley Fritts, Luna Owner Jim Withers and Luna General Manager Maria Hueramo.

"On behalf of the chamber, we'd like to welcome Luna," Herrera said. "We've been fortunate to see this process since the beginning. Jim was very straight up about his vision and what he wanted to do and where he wanted to take this place. We've watched it progress every step of the way and it's

beautiful. It's amazing inside and out and we hear compliments all the time. We're very excited to celebrate many events here with you. This is the vision you told us about when you purchased this location. We're happy to have a quality place for food, service and a beautiful venue."

Fiegenschuh spoke about meeting with Withers after he purchased Salt 251. A development agreement was worked out with the city for improvements.

"If you look at this facility, it's a thousand times better than it was a year and a half ago," Fiegenschuh said.

"I have a lot of admiration and respect for the commitment that's been put into this and the reinvestment back into Rochelle. Thank you for investing in Rochelle. You and your staff are a great part of our community and we love having you here."

During his speech, Fritts said that the bar, restaurant and ballroom facility located on Fairways Golf Course has served as a pillar for events in the community for years.

"It's so great to be a part of this today with the rebranding and face lift that have taken place," Fritts said. "I thank you

for choosing Rochelle and keeping the investment going within the community here. You've always been great to me with hosting events here and you've been great to a variety of people and I think that's a testament to everyone who's here today to congratulate you and your team on a well-deserved reopening. I wish you the best of success and I look forward to continuing to come to events here."

Hueramo gave those in attendance insight into the Luna name. She said it's based on coming out of the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic and serving as a light for

patrons and those who attend events there.

Withers thanked the community, city, chamber, the Rochelle Rotary Club and his staff.

"Without our staff and the people we have and the hard work and dedication they put into everything, we wouldn't be here today," Withers said. "We've seen a lot of compliments on the changes and we thrive on that. We want to make it a place that's welcoming for everyone in the community. And we're trying to bring the surrounding area into Rochelle. We've put a lot of hard work into this for the community."



Friday's event featured speeches by Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh, State Rep. Bradley Fritts, Luna Owner Jim Withers and Luna General Manager Maria Hueramo.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

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LOCAL NEWS

Serenity Hospice & Home named 2024 Hospice CAHPS Honors Elite recipient

OREGON — Serenity Hospice & Home has been named a 2024 Hospice CAHPS Honors Elite Award recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst, a leading provider of CAHPS and bereavement survey programs for home health and hospice agencies. This prestigious annual review recognizes agencies that continuously go above and beyond in providing high-quality care for patients and compassionate caregiver experiences. It acknowledges the highest-performing agencies by analyzing the performance of the Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey satisfaction and quality measures.

To be considered for the Hospice CAHPS Honors Award, the hospice agency must have scored above the HEALTHCAREfirst National Performance Score on the Hospice CAHPS Willingness to Recommend question. If that criteria is met, performance is evaluated utilizing a set of 23 ad-

ditional quality indicator measures. These scores are then compared on a question-by-question basis to a national performance score calculated from all partnering hospices contained in HEALTHCAREfirst's Hospice CAHPS database. Special recognition, Honors Elite, is awarded to those hospices that score above the national performance score on 100%, or all 24, of the evaluated questions.

"We began our Annual Hospice Honors Award program more than ten years ago as a way to highlight those agencies that are truly leading the way in providing and demonstrating quality patient care," Jeremy Crow, head of RCM and CAHPS Survey, Home Health and Hospice, said. "We congratulate Serenity on this recognition and are so proud and honored that they have chosen to partner with us in helping drive success for their agency."

"Quality hospice care with Serenity is not about simply providing com-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Serenity Hospice & Home has been named a 2024 Hospice CAHPS Honors Elite Award recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst, a leading provider of CAHPS and bereavement survey programs for home health and hospice agencies.

fort; it's about creating a sanctuary where patients

find dignity, compassion, and support to live their

final days with peace and grace," Lynn Knodle,

CEO of Serenity Hospice & Home, said.

Forrestville Valley School District celebrates end-of-year honors

FORRESTON — On Thursday, June 6, Forrestville Valley CUSD 221 held its annual end-of-year awards and recognition ceremony.

Mr. Matt Hanley was announced as Teacher of the Year. Mr. Hanley teaches math at Forreston High School and began teaching in the district in 2012. Mr. Hanley coaches high school golf and baseball. Mr. Hanley was recognized for his pursuit of excellence and dedication to student growth. Forreston Junior Senior High School Principal Travis Heinz states: "Matt Hanley works extremely hard to have his students solve problems on a daily basis. Instead of just leading his students to the correct answer, he ensures students actually learn how to use math to solve the problem. He works very hard to have his students meet and exceed his standards. FJSHS is lucky to have Mr. Hanley and we are excited to be able to take time to honor him."

Mr. Brent Smith was announced as the 2023-24 Support Staff of the Year. Mr. Smith is the director of lawn care services as well as a bus driver for the district. Mr. Smith plays a vital role for the district and his sense of humor, and dedication are greatly appreciated. Mr. Smith was recognized for his patience with students and his willingness to help in any way he can. Heinz states: "Brent Smith is always willing to do whatever is need-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Travis Heinz (FJSHS principal), Heather Politsch (GVGS principal), Chip Braker (board president), Brent Smith, Alexia Ulses, Renna Zumdahl, Cathy Williams, Pam Greenfield, Matt Hanley, Kyle Zick (FJSHS activities director/assistant principal), Sheri Smith (superintendent), Ryan Schrader (FGS principal).

ed to keep Forrestville Valley moving forward. Driving a bus for students of all ages to school and extracurricular activities, assisting maintenance when needs pop up, and always making sure our grounds and sports fields are ready to go for any and all events we host."

Mrs. Alexia Ulses was named Newcomer of the Year. Mrs. Ulses is a kindergarten teacher at German Valley Grade School. German Valley Grade School Principal Heather Politsch states: "Mrs. Ulses makes teaching kindergarten look easy, when in reality it

is a very hard job. She communicates with her students and all those around her in a very calm and gentle way, which makes her classroom a very pleasant place to be. It was clear to me each time I walked in her room or observed Mrs. Ulses with her students that she had quickly developed a very close bond with each of her kids. Our district is fortunate to have Mrs. Ulses on our team to get our young learners started on a positive path toward excellence."

Pam Greenfield was recognized for receiving the 2023-2024 Illinois

Athletic Director's Association Administrative Assistant of the Year Award. FJSHS Activities Director and Assistant Principal Kyle Zick states: "For the past 20 years Pam Greenfield has worked extremely hard to maintain strong extracurricular performances through her many duties as athletic secretary. Her list of responsibilities are too great to number, but she manages these with a smile on her face and personality that is infectious. It is with great honor I am able to award Pam with the Illinois Athletic Directors Association

Administrative Assistant of the Year award."

The district also recognized and honored two retirees from the district: Cathy Williams, trans-

portation secretary, 31 years of service. Renna Zumdahl, Forreston Junior High School math teacher, 29 years of service.

NIU Spring 2024 graduates named

DEKALB — Over 2,200 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in May. Included among the graduates were the following students from the area:

Byron: Brix Byers, Master of Business Administration MBA. Caleb Denton, Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering. Madelyn Gluck, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry-Biochemistry. Lindenwood: Callianne Isley, Master of Arts, Communicative Disorders - Speech-Lan-

guage Pathology. Bachelor of Music, Music - Performance. Davis Junction: Hannah Anderson, Bachelor of Science, Psychology. Forreston: Alexandra Magaña, Bachelor of Science, Communicative Disorders. Katrina Stevens, Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education with Preschool Special Education Approval. Leaf River: Konur Kivisto, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry-Biochemistry. Stillman Valley: Nathan Grobe, Master of Business Administration MBA.

guage Pathology. Bachelor of Science, Human Development & Family Sciences: Child Development. Stillman Valley: Nathan Grobe, Master of Business Administration MBA.

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE entered by the Court in *Community State Bank of Rock Falls v. Joseph D. Smith, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants*, Case No. 2023FC80 Ogle County, Illinois, on March 15, 2024, the property hereinafter described will be sold to the highest bidder.

(A) The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate are Amy B. Young, Financial Service Officer, Community State Bank of Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 (815) 284-8500.

(B) Both the legal description of the real estate and the common address is as follows:

1. Part of the West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, Township 23 North, Range 8 East of the of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Ogle County, Illinois, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, and running thence South 1 degree 24 minutes 58 seconds West (assumed bearing) on the East line of said West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, a distance of 300 feet; thence South 89 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds West, parallel with the North line of said Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, a distance of 150.00 feet; thence North 1 degree 24 minutes 58 seconds East, parallel with the East line of said West Half (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27, a distance of 300.00 feet to the North line of said Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 27; thence North 89 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds East on said North line, a distance of 150.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; situated in the Township of Buffalo, County of Ogle and State of Illinois. PIN: 14-27-100-002

2. Common address or location of mortgaged premises: 11 773 West Henry Road, Polo, Illinois 61064.

(C) The improvement on the real estate is a residence.

(D) The real estate may not be inspected prior to the sale.

(E) The time and place of the sale are as follows: The Ogle County Sheriffs Office, 202 S. First Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061, at 10:00 a.m. on July 26, 2024.

(F) The terms of the sale are ten percent (10%) down at the time of the sale, payable in certified funds, and the full balance within seven (7) days.

(G) The case title, case number, and the Court in which the foreclosure was filed are specified above.

(H) No other information is required to be disclosed.

COMMUNITY STATE BANK OF ROCK FALLS, Plaintiff By EHRMANN GEHLBACH BADGER & CONSIDINE, LLC
By Courtney E. Kennedy
Courtney E. Kennedy (6322625), Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300, Dixon, IL 61021, (815) 288-4949, (815) 288-3068 (FAX), kem1edy@egbclaw.com

No. 0608 (June 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

The Ogle County Life is a division of
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On July 1, 1984, the Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees the voluntary rating system for movies, introduced its new rating of PG-13, indicating material that "may be inappropriate for children under 13 years old" and "may contain very strong language, nudity (non-explicit), strong, mildly bloody violence or mild drug content."

* On July 2, 1992, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking broke British publishing records when his book "A Brief History of Time" held its place on the nonfiction bestseller list for three and a half years, selling more than 3 million copies in 22 languages.

* On July 3, 1887, Clay Allison, an eccentric gun-fighter and rancher who displayed odd tendencies even in his youth, was believed to have died in a freak wagon accident in Texas. When the Civil War began, Allison had joined the Confederate Army but later received a rare medical discharge for a condition doctors described as "partly epileptic and partly maniacal," which may have been the result of an early head injury.

* On July 4, 1965, more than two dozen LGBTQ activists demonstrated in

front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall in one of America's earliest gay rights protests. While the "Reminder" demonstration drew little mainstream media coverage at the time, it is now seen as an important predecessor to the broader gay liberation movement.

* On July 5, 1950, near Sejong, South Korea, 19-year-old Private Kenneth Shadrick became the first American reported killed in the Korean War when he looked up to check his aim and was cut down by enemy machine-gun fire.

* On July 6, 1933, Major League Baseball's first All-Star Game, dreamed up by a determined sports editor, debuted at Chicago's Comiskey Park. The event was designed to support the sport and improve its reputation during the bleakest days of the Great Depression.

* On July 7, 2005, suicide bombs were detonated in three crowded London subways and one bus during the peak of the city's rush hour. Thought to be the work of al-Qaida, the explosions killed 56 people, including the bombers, and injured another 700 in the largest attack on Great Britain since World War II.

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Federal boondoggles threaten our privacy; Attorney General Raoul must protect us

WITH cyberattacks on the rise, our data privacy has never been in greater peril. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's work helping keep that information safe has been welcome, including his recent call for Meta to step up efforts to thwart hackers. Unfortunately, even with the best intentions, protections can go too far. And now we need his leadership to set things straight.

Last year, when the Illinois Supreme Court ruled against White Castle in a biometric data case, many were hopeful that the decision would spur businesses to enhance consumer protection. Since the decision, however, litigation has become unwieldy and unhelpful. Today, nearly anyone can sue a company or its employers for collecting biometric data. Worse, they're incentivized to do so, sometimes in frivolous cases, because the

15-year-old law that White Castle violated authorized high-dollar settlements.

Now, Democrats and the Illinois business community are teaming up to plot a responsible path forward—one that ensures data protection without throwing responsible companies under the bus. The good news, if you can call it that, is that beyond our experience in Illinois, we now have on clear display an illustration of how *not* to handle concerns about consumer privacy. The Department of Justice (DOJ) just announced its intention to bring an antitrust against Apple explicitly on the grounds that the company's data privacy efforts impede competition.

The Justice Department's new suit *claims* to be filed in pursuit of the public interest. But the substance of the complaint, made under the guise of antitrust,

comes down to little more than a cobbled-together litany of unconnected, minor, and "solution in search of problem"-type allegations. The government, for example, alleges that Apple deploys several tactics to prevent users from switching to other devices or technologies, when, in reality, the very guidelines and policies the DOJ is targeting are the foundation of Apple's strong privacy and security features. Without them, consumer data would not be nearly so safe.

And that's my underlying concern: DOJ is signaling that it will go after companies almost regardless of the underlying merits of its efforts elicit headlines. And that's why we need Attorney General Raoul to take a stand. By declining to sign on—by pragmatically working to protect data

and eschewing expensive, frivolous lawsuits—he can point the way forward.

Not all antitrust suits are meritless. The Justice Department's suit against Microsoft in the 1990s centered on a real concern—namely that the software giant's deliberate effort to prevent customers from using competitors' services harmed consumers. The Apple case, by contrast, targets a company for keeping consumer data safe. It's a publicity stunt. And it's beneath the dignity of Attorney General Raoul's office. He is doing a great deal already to aid in the effort to protect data. And I'm confident he will see the wisdom in staying the course.

Lindsay Mark Lewis has been the executive director and a board member of the Progressive Policy Institute since 2010. Prior to joining PPI, Lewis spent more than 20 years working for U.S. policymakers and campaigns.



Lindsay Mark Lewis

The power of a local food system

WE thank the Illinois General Assembly for renewing its commitment to the Illinois Local Food Infrastructure Grant (LFIG). Thanks to lawmakers' support, farmers like me can feed even more folks through better infrastructure to scale production and manage our operations effectively. This support is a turnaround for rural farm communities like mine and life-changing for people living in urban and rural food deserts.

At the same time, the IL-EATS program, funded by the USDA and administered by the state Department of Agriculture, provides a direct market for produce grown by farmers. Together, LFIG and IL-EATS empower hundreds of Illinois family farmers to feed families without access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food. We receive a living wage for our products, which we then aggregate, sort, and distribute to families in need at no charge, making a significant impact on our

community.

It's making a powerful impact.

Since March, 32 family farmers I work with in Down at the Farms across central Illinois have grown and distributed 52,425 pounds of produce, meat, dairy, eggs, and grain to hundreds of families.

Last week, a recipient of our weekly food delivery shared that our efforts dramatically improved their health. The heartfelt note explained, "Without sounding cliché, you kind of changed my life. My health, for sure."

This week, a Native American chef from Chicago traveled several hours to our farm to buy fresh local foods for his community in the city. Tomorrow, we are hosting a delegation from South America who are keen to learn about our transformative local food system. Next week, I meet with a new farmer eager to nourish his community and contribute

to something larger than himself.

These interactions speak volumes about the power of a local food system. They go beyond transactions; they are relationships built on trust, good faith, reciprocal actions, and our social and ethical responsibilities to each other.

As my friend and fellow Illinoisan, Professor John Ikerd, has said, "Sustainability is ultimately an ethical issue, for there is no financial reason to do something for future generations other than it's the right thing to do."

We need public-private partnerships to create a sustainable, equitable food system for ourselves and the next generation.

While our needs are modest, they are crucial—we need the ability to offset costs for communities in need without the family farmer going out of business.

The ripple effects of the IL-EATS and LFIG benefit

everyone. Strengthening our local food system will make healthier, nutritious food more affordable and accessible to everyone—in restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes, schools, and beyond. The return on investment for local food farmers and the whole system is generational and enormous.

You can be proud to know you live in a state where family farmers are dedicated to nurturing the soil, caring for our communities, and collaboratively serving others. Congress now can solidify the future of the USDA program that funds IL-EATS by passing the Expanding Access to Local Foods Act of 2024 (S. 3982).

Together, these initiatives catapult Illinois to a place where family farmers are staying in business, supporting their communities, and confidently facing the future.

Marty Travis is a seventh-generation food farmer and co-founder of Down at the Farms, LLC, in Fairbury, Illinois.



Marty Travis

Letter to the Editor: Flag Day

DEAR editor, Flag Day isn't a national holiday. Most people don't fly the US Flag to celebrate the day. And those people who do, don't show the proper respect for it by following flag etiquette. Are you really demonstrating your patriotism and love for your country when you don't even show the proper respect that the flag should receive?

How many people know the history of our flag? With the exception of veterans and scouting groups, how many people even care? One of the first lessons in school was to learn the Pledge of Allegiance. No, we should not ask that to return to public schools because the Supreme Court has ruled.

We do have a freedom of speech and are able to criticize our government and its representatives and a freedom of religion, so we can decide whether we choose to worship a God. Seems to me there's

something called the Bill of Rights and a US Constitution and a Declaration of Independence. Why would we want to honor a symbol of such things?

Yet when I recall the pledge I have made so many times, I recall I have pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Within my heart I feel my love of this country, pride for those things that we have gotten right, and hope that we will continue to strive for a more perfect union—feelings I get whenever I see our flag.

How can we achieve such a goal when we don't demonstrate respect for our government and its institutions or respect for we the people (no self respect nor respect of our fellow citizens)? Let alone our flag.

Marcia Bradlee
Mt. Morris



LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication. During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks. Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

Where you can go to get help for your mental health

ARE you having trouble finding places to get some assistance for your mental health?

Nowadays, many places have waiting lists, and some places can be very expensive. This can be very frustrating when you need help right away.

As a result, here are some options you can use to start the process of getting some assistance as quickly as possible.

Contact your doctor: Your doctor is a great source in finding available mental health resources in your area. Explain your situation to your doctor and ask if he or she knows of anyone that can help you. Chances are your doctor will be able to give you some referrals.

Go to the nearest hospital: Your local hospitals can give you immediate assistance for your mental health issues. The

people who work at a hospital know of other professionals in your area that can provide you with additional treatment. In addition, some hospitals may offer various mental health services that are available to the public.

Talk to the insurance companies: Your insurance company can provide a list of mental health services and other treatment programs that are covered in your health plan. If you do not have health insurance, you could still contact some of those companies and see if they can point you in the right direction regarding your current circumstances.

Talk to the local churches: Your local churches may know of programs in your area that you could go to in overcoming your anxi-

eties and stresses. Many churches offer mental health and addiction programs that anyone can take advantage of. A priest or minister can also provide additional advice to your situation.

Find a support group: There are all kinds of mental health support groups that can help you with your issues. Go to a support group in your area and meet people who are also struggling with addiction and depression. A person can go on the internet or talk to some of the local mental health organizations to get more information about what is in their area.

Network with others: Many people have dealt with fear and anxiety sometime in their life. Talk to the people that you trust to see if they have any suggestions on where

you can go for some assistance. Make sure that your friends can keep things confidential and do not get into the habit of giving out too much personal information to others.

Contact your local mental health organizations: There are many private, public, nonprofit, and governmental organizations that specialize in various mental health services that you can talk to for some assistance. The people at these places can give you some ideas on where you can find some mental health programs and counselors that can help you right away.

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>



Stan Popovich

LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Ribbon cutting held for Byron Edward Jones office of Charles Schaeffer

The Byron Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 6 at the Byron Edward Jones office of Charles Schaeffer. Charles recently relocated offices from Stillman Valley to Byron along with his Branch Office Administrator Mary Hilliard. Charles holds CRPC, AAMS, and CEPA designations and is currently working towards obtaining his CFP. Since moving to Byron last year Charles has updated the office, sponsored many events, and been elected to the chamber's board of directors. He looks forward to being in Byron for many years to come.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Forreston Junior Senior High School eighth grade Students Liam Setterstrom and Brennan Byers along with seniors Micah Nelson and Jenna Greenfield were also named winners of the IPA Leadership Award.

Forrestville Valley School District announces IPA Leadership Award winners for 2024

FORRESTON—Forreston Grade School fifth grade students Charlotte Gallagher and Jackson Doyens were recently named the winners of the Illinois Principals Association's Leadership Award. Charlotte is the daughter of Shaun and Anne Gallagher of German Valley and Jackson is the son of Chris and Tabitha Doyens of Leaf River.

Forreston Junior Senior High School eighth grade Students Liam Setterstrom and Brennan Byers along with seniors Micah Nelson and Jenna Greenfield were also named winners of the IPA Leadership Award. Liam is the son of Carl and Danelle Setterstrom of Ridott and Brennan is the son of Natalie Althoff and Matt Byers of Forreston. Micah is the son of Shawn and Jennifer Nelson of Forreston and Jenna is the daughter of Daryl and Erika Greenfield of Harper.

Students were selected by the faculty of Forreston Grade School and Forreston Jr/Sr High



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Forreston Grade School fifth grade students Charlotte Gallagher and Jackson Doyens were recently named the winners of the Illinois Principals Association's Leadership Award.

School for displaying leadership, character and achievement daily. Winners attended a brunch at the Dixon Elks Club sponsored by the North-

west Illinois Principals Association. Mr. Thomas Mahoney, superintendent of Oregon School District, was the keynote speaker.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline **800-452-7990**
 Smississippi 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**
 Smississippi 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**



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Chicago-based classic rock & roll band, the Rockin' Fendershirts, return to play a free concert on the campus bandshell for the third show of the Mt. Morris Jamboree on June 21 from 7-9 p.m.

Rockin' Fendershirts to play Mt. Morris June 21

MT. MORRIS—Chicago-based classic rock & roll band, the Rockin' Fendershirts, return to play a free concert on the campus bandshell for the third show of the Mt. Morris Jamboree on June 21 from 7-9 p.m.

Put on your Blue Suede Shoes and Rock Around the Clock to your favorite rock and roll oldies. That'll Be The Day The Rockin' Fendershirts come to town. Great Balls of Fire! There'll be a Whole lotta Shakin' Goin' On. You'll dance, you'll sing, you'll laugh. You'll get All Shook up. Who knows, you might even Twist and Shout!

They'll be Dancin' in the Streets and all around the campus, so don't miss this lively and dynamic show!

Concessions for the evening will be provided by the Let Freedom Ring Committee, who will be serving sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, soda, water and homemade baked goods. Just 4 Fun Ice Cream will be there, and the MM Senior and Community Center often offers popcorn, too. All starting at 6 p.m. Ewe and Me Acres will have a fresh produce stand with a variety of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, jams, jellies and dog treats on the campus along with

other craft and plant vendors as well, from 5-8 p.m.

On either side of the bandshell The Student Art Show continues in the Sandstone Encore Art Gallery, and the new location of the Mt. Morris Historical Museum in the newly renovated College Hall will both be open during the concert.

Please bring a blanket or chair, or enjoy the new benches and join the fun on our beautiful, historic campus in the center of Mt. Morris, two blocks south of Illinois Route 64 on Wesley Avenue and enjoy the free rock & roll concert.

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On June 5 at 8:32 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of Byron Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 72 and Mill Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Misti List, 42, of Leaf River, for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. List was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On June 6 at approximately 10:53 a.m., Robbie Brown, 31 of Rockford, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Brown posted bond and was released with no further court dates.

On June 6 at approximately 11:53 a.m. deputies arrested Dillon Berg, 33, of Freeport. Berg was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. Berg was unable to post bond and will appear in court on June 7 at 1 p.m.

On June 6 at 10:41 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of South Mulford Road and East Creston Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Derrick Pryor, 36, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended.

Pryor was released on a notice to appear court date of June 21 at 9 a.m. Pryor was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration.

On June 6 at 9:52 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of East Illinois Route 38 and South Mulford Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Eric Pondell, 42, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Pondell was released on a notice to appear court date of June 21 at 9 a.m. Pondell was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration.

On June 7 at 12:59 p.m. deputies stopped a white 2005 Ford Five Hundred bearing California registration 8HWM686 for expired registration. While speaking to the sole occupant of the vehicle, Jahshawn H. Howard, 21, from Dixon, it was learned that his driver's license was suspended. Howard also had a valid Whiteside County warrant for failure to appear/driving while li-

cence suspended. Howard was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail. Howard was issued a warning for the expired registration and a citation for driving while license suspended.

On June 7 at approximately 9:51 a.m. deputies responded to the intersection of East Illinois Route 72 and Marrill Road for a two-vehicle accident with injuries. After a brief investigation it was discovered that Jennifer Marshall, 33, of Stillman Valley, was operating a dark green Jeep and failed to yield a stop sign with oncoming traffic. The green Jeep was then struck by an oncoming Chevrolet Avalanche at the intersection. The driver of the Chevrolet was transported to St. Anthony Hospital for suspected minor injury. Marshall was transported to Swedish American for minor injury. Marshall was cited for failure to yield from a stop sign. Both vehicles were towed from the scene due to disabling damage. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Byron Fire

Department and Stillman Valley Fire Department.

On June 8 at approximately 1:10 a.m. deputies, Byron EMS, Stillman Valley EMS, and Byron Police responded to a one-vehicle accident with injuries in the 2,000 block of East Water Road. During the initial investigation, deputies learned a red Ford Mustang was traveling westbound in the 2,000 block of East Water Road when it traveled into the eastbound lane and began skidding sideways. The Mustang then continued to skid sideways back into the westbound lane and off the north side of the roadway before striking a tree and coming to a stop. The vehicle was driven by Deston Montgomery, 21, of Byron. Montgomery was transported by React Helicopter to a Rockford area hospital for life-threatening injuries. The passenger, Elizabeth Wurster, 22, of Stillman Valley, was also transported to a Rockford area hospital for serious injuries by Stillman Valley EMS. Montgomery was later issued citations for

improper lane usage, too fast for conditions, and driving under the influence of alcohol. Montgomery was given a future court date and released on a notice to appear. The accident remains under investigation.

On June 9 at approximately 10:47 a.m. deputies responded to the intersection of North Meridian Road and East Holcomb Road for a two-vehicle accident with injuries. Upon further investigation it was determined that Stella Kosari, 49, of Buffalo Grove, was operating a grey Mazda SUV when she failed to yield at the intersection to oncoming traffic. Kosari was then struck by an oncoming Honda Pilot at the intersection. Both drivers and a passenger were transported to Rockford-area hospitals for suspected injury. Kosari was later cited for failure to yield at an intersection. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Stillman Valley EMS, Byron EMS and Lynn Scott Rock EMS.

On June 9 at approximately 2:47 p.m. dep-

uties responded to the 7,200 block of West Pines Road for the report of a two-vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival, deputies discovered that Larry Mein, 72, of Mt. Morris, was operating a red Hyundai SUV when he failed to yield and improperly turned into oncoming traffic, colliding with a gray Toyota SUV. Both vehicles sustained disabling damage and were towed from the scene. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Polo Fire Department. Mein was cited for improper left turn into oncoming traffic and given a future court date.

On June 10 at approximately 10:06 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of North Kennedy Hill Road. After further investigation Celso Gerardo Morales-Perales, 50, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Morales-Perales was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OREGON POLICE REPORT

June 3

At 10:44 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of West Washington Street in reference a citizen complaint resulting in the arrest of Garrett C. Hoffman, 35, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Hoffman was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was

processed and released with a notice to appear.

June 5

At 8:58 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 900 block of West Washington Street involving a 2020 Ford driven by Eldred H. George, 78, of Elgin, and a 2016 Jeep driven by Christopher S.

Corcoran, 67, Mt. Morris. No citations were issued.

At 11:59 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Lover's Lane resulting in the arrest of William S. Mongan, 30, Oregon. Mongan was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice

to appear.

June 7

At 7:30 a.m., Oregon Police issued Derek R. Weegens, 46, Polo, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 3rd Street.

June 9

At 9:45 a.m., Oregon

Police arrested Cassandra L. Day, 32, Rock Falls, for driving while license suspended. Day was also issued a citation for operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration. Day was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. These viola-

tions occurred in the 900 block of West Washington Street.

Eleven parking citations were issued during the week of June 3-9.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 21: The United Church of Byron will be having their next Outdoor Family Movie Night on Friday, June 21 on the front lawn of the church. As always, movies are free and open to the community! We will be showing "Lilo & Stitch". We'll again be offering snacks that will be available for a freewill donation. You are also welcome to bring your own snacks. The movie will begin at dusk, and if weather does not permit being outside, we will move it inside the fellowship hall and it will begin at 8 p.m. Please visit our Facebook page or our

website www.unitedchurchofbyron.org for more information and upcoming movie dates. We hope you can join us!

June 22: Come and join us at Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Market on Saturday, June 22 from 8 a.m. to noon! Featuring seasonal produce, baked goods, perennials, honey and a large variety of crafts. We have more vendors than ever before this season. We look forward to seeing everyone! For more information or to become a vendor, please contact Taryn Bradley at (815) 985-6042, by email at craflab23@

gmail.com or at the Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Facebook page

June 25: The Leaf River United Methodist Church is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 25. Staff from the Rock River Valley Blood Center will draw blood between noon and 5 p.m. All registered donors will receive a coupon for a free item from the Dairy Queen in Oregon. If that isn't a good reason to donate, then other reasons are - Because they like to help others - and because giving feels amazing. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy,

meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we - and your body - do all of the work. Remember, blood is a gift - straight from the heart. *Your heart.* Please share it today! If you are at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you should be eligible to donate blood. Join us in sharing the Gift of Life. For more information or to schedule an appointment,

you can find the Leaf River United Methodist Church on Facebook or contact Laura at 815-276-5773 (call or text), or the Rock River Valley Blood Center at 815/965-8751, toll free at 877-RRVBC-99 or on the web at www.rrvbc.org. Thank you!

June 29: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lindenwood will be offering free vacation Bible school (VBS) to children (ages 3 through sixth grade) on Saturday, June 29 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by an optional cookout for the whole family.

This year's VBS theme is "Run the Race: Look-

ing to Jesus!" (Hebrews 12:1-2). We will focus on how we look to Jesus as we run the race of this life, for He has already won the victory for us. In addition, this VBS will be complete with singing, playing games, crafts, and snack time.

For more information and to register, please go to our website Immanuel-lindenwood.org or check us out on facebook. We are located at 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Our email is office@immanuel-lindenwood.org and phone number 815-393-4500.

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www.oglecountylife.com
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS POLICE REPORT

MT. MORRIS — On May 20 at approximately 9:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 10 block of East Front Street for the report of a wanted subject. Police made contact with that subject, Kristopher M. Mockovak, 23, Mt. Morris, and arrested him on a Stephenson County warrant for failure to appear. Mockovak was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On May 26 at approximately 9:10 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded

to the 200 block of East Hitt Street for the report of a retail theft. After a brief investigation, Christopher D. Strite, 32, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with retail theft. Strite was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear.

On May 27 at approximately 12:05 a.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to the 300 block of East Hitt Street for the report of an attempted break-in. After a brief investigation, Christopher D. Strite, 32,

Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass to property. Strite was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear.

On May 28 at approximately 7 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of East Lincoln Street. The driver, Sandra L. Parks, 63, Mt. Morris, as arrested and charged with driving while license suspended. Parks was transported to the Ogle County Jail where

she was given a notice to appear.

On May 31 at approximately 7:25 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block East Hitt Street. The driver, Jasmine A. Benson, 26, Freeport, was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration. Benson was given a notice to appear.

On May 31 at approximately 11:25 p.m. Mt. Morris Police made contact with a subject in the 10 block of East Front Street.

The subject, Justin W. Coltrain, 43, Mt. Morris, was arrested on an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Coltrain was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On June 3 at approximately 6:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 200 block of Barbara Street for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, James E. Skala, 57, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Skala was transported to the

Ogle County Jail.

On June 5 at approximately 8:05 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 10 block of East Front Street. The driver, Jesus M. Valdivia, 20, Rockford, was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration. Valdivia was given a notice to appear.

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

POLO POLICE REPORT

POLO — On June 6 at 10:45 a.m. Erica L. Morgan, 28, Polo, was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Morgan

was released on a citation.

On June 7 at 11:53 p.m. Frank C. Malston, 29, Polo, was cited for speeding 41 miles per

hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone, operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration and driving while license

is suspended. Malston was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear.

General calls for service

for the weeks of May 27-June 9: Citizen complaints/assists: 10. Disturbance/domestics: Four. Fire/medical assists: five. Lock

outs: One. 911 hang ups: Two. Traffic stops: Six.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Byron Museum Quilt Show scheduled for July 12-14

BYRON — The Byron Museum's 37th Annual Quilt Show will be held during ByronFest July 12, 13, and 14. The museum is seeking area quilters and collectors to display their fabric works of art.

Quilt show hours: Friday, July 12 5-8 p.m., Saturday, July 13 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First-place winners in 10 categories will win cash prizes. Quilt registration opens June 26 and ends on July 10 at 3 p.m. Entries will be accepted at the museum during normal museum hours Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost to enter the Quilt Show is \$5 for each item to be judged, there is no fee to

enter *Just For Show* items that will not compete for awards.

Items will be selected for awards by a judge and viewers will also have an opportunity to vote on their favorite quilt or wall hanging to win a "People's Choice" award at the end of ByronFest. The main categories include: Antique Quilts, Wearable

Art, Wall Hangings, Just For Show, and quilts identified by technique, such as Hand, Machine, and Commercially Quilted. Cash Prizes and Blue Ribbons will be awarded for first place in each of categories and ribbons awarded to second and third place winners.

Volunteers are needed to help over that

weekend by greeting visitors. If you are able to volunteer or have any questions, call the museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday 815-234-5031 or send an e-mail to director@byronmuseum.org. The Byron Museum of History is located at 110 N. Union St. in Byron, Illinois, 61010. Our

website address is www.byronmuseum.org.

The mission of the Byron Museum District is to create an awareness of and appreciation for the historical development of the Byron area through a commitment to preservation of our past for the education of our future. "Preserving Our Past for Our Future!"

2024 Ogle County Fair exhibitor registration is open

OREGON — Have you always wanted to show a project at the fair? You don't have to be in 4-H to show at the fair. Part of the Ogle County Fair, established in 1853, is to have a competition for local community members.

We have classes for all ages. Our junior shows of live animals including beef, dairy, goats, horses, poultry, rabbits, sheep and

swine, are for exhibitors between the ages of 8-20.

The exhibit building has Junior and Open Show project areas for all ages young and old (including under age eight and over age 20). Community members can enter over one hundred types of projects including Clothing, Foods, Beekeeping, Visual Arts, Natural Resources & Environment,

Horticulture, Crops & Soils, Electricity, Mechanical Science, Woodworking, Life Skills/Computer Science, Photography, Animal Science, Fruits & Vegetables, Floriculture, Crafts, Quilting, Painting & Drawing, and more. Artists, quilters, and craftsmen are encouraged to enter your creative work and have it displayed during the county fair.

For a small fee, projects enter the competition to win first, second, or third place and receive a place ribbon along with a cash prize in each category. You do not need to be present to win.

Check out our fairbook on the website, oglecountyfair.com, to find the classes available, rules for how to enter your projects, project check in days

& times, and the schedule for the fair. Online registration is now open at <https://www.blueribbonfair.com/BRFairProd/BlueRibbonStart.aspx?ID=2031>. Projects must be pre-registered online by Wednesday July 17th. If you have more questions, call Brenda Holm, fair board secretary, at 815-732-6962 or for exhibit building project specific

questions email Chris Carter, exhibit building superintendent, at ocfatickets@gmail.com.

Ogle County fair averages approximately 10,000 people through the fair gate during the county fair week. The fair is proud to support our families and friends of the community by providing a place to show off the amazing talent of our county.

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At approximately 8:39 a.m. Wednesday, the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received information from a family member of the suspect at 402 Wild Rice Lane in Lost Nation, who said that her son had threatened suicide and homicide. The Ogle County ERT was activated at 9:18 a.m. and a hostage negotiator arrived on scene and attempted to make contact with the individual.

SHOOTING: Ogle County ERT members injured after incident in Lost Nation

From page 1

The third was flown to OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford and went into surgery and is expected to make a full recovery. Gounaris was in surgery at KSB Wednesday afternoon and VanVickle said he was unsure of his condition.

The Ogle County Emergency Response Team is made up of individuals from different agencies including the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Police Department and the Byron Police Department as well as SWAT medics from the Rochelle Fire Department.

At approximately 8:39 a.m. Wednesday, the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received information from a family member of the suspect at 402 Wild Rice Lane in Lost Nation, who said that her son had threatened suicide and homicide. The Ogle County ERT was activated at 9:18 a.m. and a hostage negotiator arrived on scene and attempted to make contact with the individual.

"The information we got from the family member was that this was very likely going to be suicide by cop-like situation," VanVickle said. "There was nobody else in the residence. The family member that called was not at the residence. The suspect was in the residence by himself and we had that confirmed by the family member. We believed his intention was to harm police officers. That's the information the family member told us."

The first call to Gounaris' cell phone by the hostage negotiator was made at 10:40 a.m. and VanVickle said over 50 phone calls were made in various forms to the residence. All of them went unanswered, he said. Additional resources were provided into the home at 11:09 a.m. in an attempt to make contact with Gounaris with no success.

"At 11:51 a.m. due to the lack of communication, it was determined that our emergency response team would enter the house and determine the well-being of that individual," VanVickle said. "Immediately upon entering the house, our deputies received gunfire from inside the house."

ERT members then returned fire, incapacitating Gounaris, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release said.

VanVickle said Gounaris was armed with two handguns, a fixed-blade knife, pepper spray and ballistic armor. A search warrant has been obtained for the home and a search inside is planned and had not taken place as of Wednesday evening.

VanVickle said the warrant will determine if drugs and alcohol were involved as well.

The Illinois State Police will be conducting the investigation into the officer-involved shooting.

Charges against Gounaris stemming from the incident are pending and dependent on the ongoing investigation and review by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office. A potential arrest would not be made until Gounaris is released from the hospital, due to the fact that the sheriff's office would take on the cost of medical bills if an arrest was made before then, VanVickle said.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Dixon Rural Fire Department, Dixon City Fire Department, Oregon Fire Department, Mt. Morris Fire Department, Polo Fire Department and helicopters from REACT and OSF. VanVickle thanked those agencies in a Wednesday night press release and described the day to the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader.

"I'm trying to catch my breath after today," VanVickle said. "We're a small, rural agency and it was the middle of a Wednesday morning. We had people that had just come off shift at 5 a.m. and we used all the resources we had. We had to use some of our command staff. We had a lieutenant who was in the response along with myself. That was the need and how serious we took the situation. We train a lot on this type of stuff. We were prepared. We had the ambulances and an emergency room doctor here. We had our SWAT medics and all the right equipment. This was just a really bad situation and a no-win situation from law enforcement. Our people did exactly what we asked of them."

Mental health resources have been made available to those involved and members of the responding departments, VanVickle



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Dixon Rural Fire Department, Dixon City Fire Department, Oregon Fire Department, Mt. Morris Fire Department, Polo Fire Department and helicopters from REACT and OSF. Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle (left) thanked those agencies in a Wednesday night press release and described the day to the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader.

Extensive training is done on responding to potential incidents like Wednesday's, VanVickle said. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office and other area law enforcement organizations spent Monday and Tuesday training with active shooter drills at Byron High School. That training came into play Wednesday. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office hasn't seen an officer-involved shooting since the 1970s.

"We put in a ton of work to make sure everybody goes home every day," VanVickle said. "One deputy took a round in the vest. We spend a lot of money on equipment to make sure they have the best equipment to go home to their families. Today's a testament to that. We had someone barricaded inside a door that essentially ambushed the deputies. And they're all going home to their families. We always tell our deputies that the risk is always there, no matter if it's a barricaded subject or a traffic stop. We train as much as we can and try to provide the best information and tactics we can."



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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The highly-anticipated opening of Rockford's long-desired casino is almost here. On June 12, Hard Rock International revealed the grand opening date for Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility will be Thursday, Aug. 29 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in Hard Rock tradition.

Hard Rock Casino Rockford reveals grand opening date for permanent facility

ROCKFORD – The highly-anticipated opening of Rockford's long-desired casino is almost here. On June 12, Hard Rock International revealed the grand opening date for Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility will be Thursday, Aug. 29 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in Hard Rock tradition. The doors will open to the public at approximately 3 p.m. "I'd like to thank the Rockford community and State of Illinois for

welcoming Hard Rock and our unique brand of world-class entertainment to the greater region," Jon Lucas, chief operating officer at Hard Rock International, said. "The economic impact of this casino will provide hundreds of new jobs and boost the entertainment options for anyone living near or visiting Rockford. We are thrilled to welcome this new property to our global portfolio of over 300 Hard Rock venues."

The new casino, located immediately off the Interstate 90 State Street exit at 7801 E. State St. in Rockford, boasts more than 175,000 square feet of gaming, entertainment, and hospitality space, featuring a diverse array of attractions including nearly 1,300 slot machines, 50 live table games including a poker room, a state-of-the-art sportsbook, six unique restaurants, and a Rock Shop offering authentic Hard Rock merchandise

and more. "We are extremely proud of our team members who helped make our initial Opening Act location a success, and we welcome all those new to the team who have worked so hard preparing for this long-awaited day," Geno Iafrate, president of Hard Rock Casino Rockford, said. "It's been 30 years in the making for Rockford and the wait is over. We are excited to welcome guests to our house to showcase and

expand the legendary Hard Rock brand." One of the highlights of the new casino is the Hard Rock Live entertainment venue, spanning 23,000 square feet, accommodating up to 2,000 guests for concerts and performances. Hard Rock is hiring more than 400 additional people to staff its new casino. For those interested in joining the band, visit GoToWorkHappy.com. Hard Rock Casino Rockford currently op-

erates from its temporary site at 610 N. Bell School Road and has since November 2021. The casino has hosted more than 1.25 million guests from all 50 states and 28 countries, averaging 50,000 monthly visitors. Hard Rock Casino Rockford donated over \$1 million to 96 local organizations and events in the past year. The permanent Hard Rock Casino Rockford entertainment destination will open Labor Day weekend.

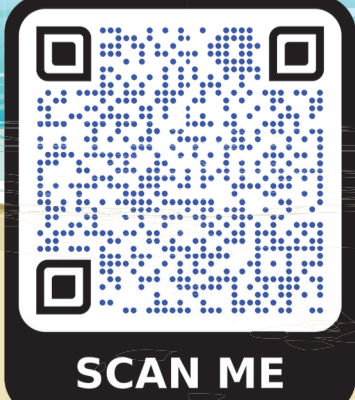
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Oregon Elementary School May 2024 Students of the Month named

Oregon Elementary School May 2024 Students of the Month were recently named. They include: Summer Bettner, Lillyan Seidelman, Wesley Hawkins, Madelyn Danielson, Piper Waugh, August Wetzal, Arya Runyon, Oakleigh Withers, Linkin Cheever, Ella Jones, Leah Sotelo-Tapia, Anastasia Powell-Spann, Bailey Crawford, Tatum Lee, Addison VanRaalte, Brynnyel Huels, Wyatt Harvey, Kayleen Ketchum, Dean Merriman, Scarlett Roberts, Amaya Woodson, Madison Armbruster, Regan Jimenez, Lily Anderson, Violet Carlson, Enya Sachurski, Marie Ramirez, Jackson Cook, Warren Meiners, Ava Villarreal, Riley Boyden, Brooklyn Mueller, Isaac Moore, Kinzleigh Miller, Zoey Manees, Mairanni Zavala, and Matty Emmons. (Courtesy photo)

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NEW LISTING

6514 Timberleaf Ct. Unit 1, Loves Park
\$134,900 Call Jennifer Rybicki

Welcome to this charming, well maintained 2 bedroom 1 bathroom condo located in a friendly, convenient location! This condo has been well taken care by current owner of 15 years. New hardwood floors throughout, new AC in 2024 as well as updated kitchen appliances. The main living area provides an open, inviting concept with a great view from new patio door with access to backyard. The spacious main bedroom includes a walk-in closet perfect for your belongings. Unique to this unit, you'll find exclusive access to attic storage in the 1 car attached garage with additional parking for guests. Don't miss out on this great opportunity, schedule your showing today!!



NEW LISTING

2657 Lynnville Court, Lindenwood
\$192,500 Call Taylor

Welcome to this meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom gem, perfectly nestled in the Country View Estates neighborhood in Lindenwood. The area boasts excellent schools and a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. The property backs up to mature woods, providing a picturesque and private outdoor space perfect for relaxing and unwinding. Conveniently located for easy access to Rockford, DeKalb/Sycamore, and Rochelle, this home offers a balanced commute to the surrounding communities. The home also features a partially finished basement, a versatile space ready for your personal touches. Recent updates include a reverse osmosis system for pure, clean drinking water, washing machine, refrigerator, and a brand-new hot water heater. This home is ready for its new owner to move in and enjoy all it has to offer. Don't miss the opportunity to make this charming house yours!



NEW LISTING

1045 Turkington Terrace, Rochelle
\$199,900 Call Carla

Don't Miss out on this all BRICK Ranch Beauty in Rochelle! Three large bedrooms, with the primary bedroom having its own private primary bathroom! Hardwood flooring throughout most of this sweet offering in Rochelle! Oversized kitchen with all appliances staying including the washer and dryer! Located on a gorgeous lot in the heart of Rochelle. Very large living room, huge sunroom with ceramic tile flooring off the back of the house. The backyard hosts the large deck and paver patio with its own firepit! Gas forced air furnace and central air. Just minutes to I-38 Don't delay, call today!



NEW LISTING

10289 Flory Road, Lanark
\$499,900 Call Rebecca

YOUR OWN SECLUDED COMPOUND! Watch trophy whitetails & turkey right outside your windows at this remarkable property located 1.5 hours from Chicago. Escape from the everyday hustle at this charming bungalow that includes well-maintained outbuildings, including a separate summer kitchen and separate guest quarters, all nestled in the center of hardwoods timber, evergreens and apple trees. Fall in love with the lodge feel complete with floor to ceiling stone fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, loft, vaulted ceilings & jeweled stained-glass windows and doors. Two brand new, luxury spa-like bathrooms with slate floors, slate showers, stone walls, and mood lighting. Many unique touches throughout including iron gates, deck railing, and exterior/interior ironworks are from Senator Scott W. Lucas' home in Havana, IL. This 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is situated on 5+ acres with an additional 5+ acres with outbuildings, well, electric and heated workshop available for purchase. There are trails throughout the acreage with over 200 white and 200 walnut trees that were planted in the last 4 years. Many updates including kitchen appliances, well pump, AC, furnace, gutters, driveway, roofs on all outbuildings and a sensational Cedar Shake roof on the main home. This property would serve as a great home, escape or potential Airbnb. Located in the desirable Eastland School District, unique parcels like this do not come for sale every day. Call for your own private showing and full amenity sheet today.



NEW PRICE

401 S. Barber Avenue, Polo NOW \$179,900 Call Jennifer Rybicki

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



NEW PRICE

103 W. Wesley, Mt. Morris NOW \$74,500 Call Lori

Looking for a place to live and work? This building has a 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom unit on the upper level and the first floor is set up for office/commercial use. Great, affordable option for someone looking for a place to live. Live in the apartment and rent out the first floor for office space. The apartment has tall ceilings and laundry hook ups. The building has been well maintained by well known local contractors. Large enclosed porch for the upper level. Interior staircase in the front, outdoor in the rear. The rear of the building has on site parking and a wonderful porch, with the housing shortage, this property makes sense for you!



NEW PRICE

401 Jackson St., Oregon NOW \$209,000 Call Jessica

Charming four-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bathroom Tudor Style house brimming with character. This residence offers a blend of original finishes and modern updates, including an upgraded 100-amp, circuit breaker panel, ensuring safety for today's technology needs. The living spaces are adorned with unique architectural details that echo the history and care poured into this home. The tall ceilings, and original hardwood floors travel throughout the entire home along with original light fixtures and coffered ceilings. The family room is large, warm and inviting with built-ins and a beautiful fireplace, providing a comfortable environment for family living and entertaining guests. The kitchen, practical and well-appointed, offers ample counter space and storage. Adjacent to the kitchen, the dining area serves as a cozy spot for family meals or morning coffee where copious amounts of sunlight stream through the windows. Upstairs, four bedrooms are well-sized and bathed in natural light. The master bedroom features a large, adjacent sunroom, perfect for enjoying a peaceful afternoon read or is the textbook spot for a work-from-home office. Outside, the garage offers a heavy-duty, custom-built workbench. The property includes a manageable yard, and is the idyllic place for relaxing summer evenings enjoying the neighborhood views.

The Wealth-Building Power of Homeownership

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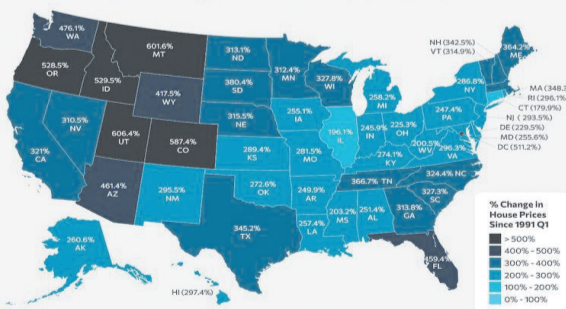
... homeownership is more than just having a place to live -- it's also a key way to build wealth. As you pay off your mortgage loan, your equity in the home grows, and any increase in the home's value also adds to your net worth.

The Motley Fool

To show how just the home price appreciation piece alone can grow your wealth over time, check out this map:

Home Values Have Tripled Since 1991

Percent Change in Home Prices, Q1 1991-Q1 2024



National Average: 315.7%

... homeownership remains an important driver of wealth accumulation and the largest source of total wealth among most households.

Ksenia Potapov, Economist at First American

Home equity is one reason owning your own place can really pay off in the long run. When you're ready, let's connect.

Sources: The Motley Fool, FHFA, First American

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LOCAL NEWS

Colbert: Apparently, sports never end

TIME to wrap up another year of writing about high-school sports until the calendar kicks off again later this summer. However, as I rode my bike by the Blackhawk Center the evening of June 3, I noticed cars and school buses in the parking lot. With school done for the year, what could be going on? No sooner did I poke my head inside, when a familiar face in Forrester basketball coach Jake Groom walked by. Didn't I just see you at the boys state track meet, I asked? Yes, but now it's time for basketball, as each court at the Blackhawk Center was filled with boys teams from 12 area schools playing a summer league. Apparently, sports never end. Since it was a low-key

affair, I sauntered over to end of the Rochelle bench and sat with grizzled roundball observers Russ Zick and Don Romes. Neither was coaching, but decided to make the trip over to Oregon to spend a summer night watching varsity ball. Quite frankly, I didn't have anything better to do either, so I spent the rest of time taking in a summer-league Rochelle-Oregon game. Sometimes, you don't know where the day will take you, but it was fun interacting with old friends like Russ and Don and being mildly entertained by the performance on the court. Don is quite a local story in that he has matriculated from coaching at Rochelle in the 1970s to currently at the Steward grade school, with many other stops in

between. Mentally, he's still got game and there is probably no reason he won't be coaching again this winter. With his first hitch in Iowa, he might be approaching 60 years of sharing his hoops experience with young people. High school sports have quite a fraternity of characters. Working in the regular business world, you don't have that. That's one reason I continue to cover it. It's a fun environment to be around and the impact a coach can have on young people is enlightening to observe. Oregon Superintendent Tom Mahoney had a retirement gathering recently and I heard

testimonies from former athletes of his at Rochelle of how much impact he had on them. It's the same all over, with coaches holding more influence over young people than administrators do. It was a sad day in Polo last week when John Gavin passed away. Again, that is one of the treasures of being around sports – getting to know someone as dedicated as John to providing pertinent information on radio broadcasts of Marco football and basketball games. His knowledge definitely expanded well past the Polo area and onto the rest of the state. I will miss listening to him on a transistor radio I took to whatever football game I

was at on a Friday. Lately, I've begun to question how much longer I can do this. As senior citizens, we aren't as mentally sharp anymore and it becomes more of a chore to leave the comfort of home to cover a game, especially in inclement weather. Besides John Gavin, there are all kinds of outstanding radio broadcasters for listening to area games. While us in the newspaper business have regressed in our coverage of the local sports scene, radio continues to hold its own. Perhaps that has also tarnished my desire to cover sports. Sports writing does not have the same communal feeling anymore. Gone are the days when you would see handful of other reporters

and papers were full of local copy. There was a quite the banter among us sports reporters, as we'd head back to the newsroom after a game to file copy. That all but disappeared with the advent of transmitting online (making life easier) and with the reduction in staffing. I worry about newspapers and their inherent ability to keep government (somewhat) honest and their commitment to the area high-school sports. Anyway, if Don Romes can keep coaching as an octogenarian, I plan to be back for the 2024-25 school year. See you in August. *Andy Colbert is a long-time Ogle County resident with years of experience covering sports and more for multiple area publications.*



Andy Colbert

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

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6:30-8:00 PM ON TUESDAYS

Bring your lawn chair, blanket, picnic basket and wear your dancing shoes! Enjoy a variety of music on Tuesday evenings at Park West. We thank the local business sponsors for bringing great entertainment to the park for the enjoyment of all ages! Food vendors are available on site if you would like to purchase dinner, a snack or beverages.



JUNE 18



That Gurl SPONSORED BY **Stillman BANK**
 THAT GURL is a unique all-inclusive, interactive musical group. Their playlist includes your favorite funk, disco, and rock of the GROOVY 70s. Whatever the event, THAT GURL will have your guests reminiscing, laughing, cheering, singing, and dancing all night long!

JUNE 25



Blue Steel SPONSORED BY **Etnyre**
 Blue Steel was forged in the fire of two music styles: country & rock. The result is a flawless blend of music with an undeniable edge, a truly entertaining show that you will not want to miss! Formed in the fall of 2017, the award-winning Blue Steel are some of the finest musicians that will keep you coming back for more!

JULY 9



Buzzed by sonSET SPONSORED BY **Central Bank ILLINOIS**
 A local rock band playing an assortment of covers from all the decades. Expect to hear lots of Fleetwood Mac, Led Zeppelin, and all the 90s chick songs you forgot you loved! Band members are: Lead Guitar – Seth Gittleston; Vocals & Bass – Ellen Becker; Drums – Tony Kettleston.

JULY 16



Three Good Men SPONSORED BY **OREGON ILLINOIS**
 Three Good Men is a well-established band based out of Rockford, IL, specializing in great dance music popular with all ages and audiences. At every performance you're likely to hear classic songs spanning several decades of music. The Men will mix it up and get the party going!

JULY 23



The Beaux Band SPONSORED BY **Coilcraft**
 The Beaux are a Classic Rock Cover Band serving Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa singing songs from over 100 rock artists.

JULY 30



Burn N Bush SPONSORED BY **WOODS**
 Back by popular demand! Burn N' Bush is a two-piece acoustic band featuring Rod Burnette (Vocals, Cajon & Percussions) and Dave Bushman (Guitar & Vocals). They have been playing a variety of Rock, Country and Oldies, and their brand of fun/sing-a-long/standards throughout the area since 2009.

*No concert 7/2. In the event of threatening weather concerts will be moved to River's Edge Experience in Oregon. Updates can be found on the OPD Facebook page.

LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program
Thursdays, June 13th - July 18th at 10:30 AM Each week of our Summer Reading Program will have you on a new adventure. Will you be in outer space or underwater? Come find out!
A to Z Reading Challenge

We're almost halfway through the year! Are you halfway through your A to Z Reading Challenge?
June Book of the Month
Vicki is sorting through the news of a newly discovered illness. Brenda has lost her job due to improper relations with a student. Melanie discovers she is

finally pregnant and her husband is having an affair. The three escape to Nantucket for the summer to relax and find peace. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your copy of Barefoot by Elin Hilderbrand.
June Craft
Welcome in spring and our summer reading program with this simple to

make lantern. Kits are available at the circulation desk.
Card Making
Card Making supplies are always available for you to create with. Call ahead for room availability.
Plastic Recycling
We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the dona-

tion. *No animal feed bags are allowed* Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.
NEW RELEASES:
Adult Books
Stuart Woods' Smolder by Brett Battles
Camino Ghosts by John Grisham

Chapter Books
I Survived: The Great Alaska Earthquake, 1964 by Lauren Tarshis
Oregon Trail: Danger At the Haunted Gate by Jesse Wiley
Picture Books
Finding Fire by Logan Kline
What Should Danny Do? by Ganit Levy

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know
That there's more to the Byron Library's "Library of Things" than just WiFi hot spots? Use our portable turntable to listen to albums from the library's vinyl collection, or try Netflix, Disney+ or Hulu by checking out one of our Roku streaming devices. Use our Dungeons and Dragons kit to start your own DnD group, or check out one of the many STEM kits offered in the teen and children's departments. A full list of equipment available in the "Library of Things" can be found at <https://www.byronlibrary.org/library-of-things/>.

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

am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.
Check out Our Mobile App
Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!
Curbside Delivery
The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.
Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!



To kick off the sound of Summer, presenter Gary Wenstrup discussed the history of the Beach Boys. He discussed their beginnings from the formation of the band, up until present day. Many interview clips were shown as well as their songs played.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Library Closings
Wednesday, June 19th, 2024 for Juneteenth Holiday. Thursday, July 4th, 2024 for Independence Day
Summer Reading Program!!!
Summer is here 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! We offer 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!

Summer Reading Program Schedule June 17th-22nd
Water Cycle! Program Monday, June 17th, 1pm.
Salt Painting Drop-In Craft Monday, June 17th, 2pm-7pm, while supplies last. *Recycled Squid, Take-N-Make* Tue-Sat, June 18th-22nd, while supplies last. Family Night, *Lego Night!* Thursday, June 20th, 5:30-7pm
Story Time! Wednesdays at 11:15am
We will be reading books and the children will create a craft this Wednesday. Story time is every Wednesday @ 11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!
Lego Club Thursday, June 20th
Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. This month it is a Family Night! Join in the fun with all the family as they build and create together. Families can start their builds on Thursday, June 20th at 5:30 - 7pm! All children and parents are invited

every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.
Adult Book Club Meeting Monday, June 24th
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 June 24th at 3:30pm.
Cookbook Club Next Meeting July 2nd
Join us as we explore The Cookbook Club! Wonderful recipes combined with friendship creates something both beautiful and delicious! Come in, choose your recipe, and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Join us on July 2nd, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!
Display Case Showings
Lights! Camera! Action! We have a new display put on by the local PAG! Come see all their wonderful memories of plays past. 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.
Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections
Donation boxes for eyeglass recycling are available at the library. When the boxes are full, they are picked up by local Lions members and dropped off at collection depots. These recycled eyeglasses are given to people in need, with the help of various medical missionaries, in Central and South America and around the world.

When the eyeglasses arrive in these countries, doctors and technicians conduct eye exams and provide a free pair of prescription eyeglasses that are as close as possible to that person's sight needs. When donating HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.
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.
Axis 360 is now BOUNDLESS
Your library's Axis 360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.
Adult Programming
We would love to hear from you. Do you have any program ideas? Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have a program you would like to share/lead? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at mmllib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.
Memorial Gifts
Give a gift that lasts, brings joy to many, and doubles in value. Your memorial gift to the library is matched by the Mt. Morris Library Foundation, doubling your generosity!

Many thanks to all who gave memorial gifts in 2023.
Newspaper Available!
We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!
Curbside Service is available!
We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your

vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.
Additional Services Offered
We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer

without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!
Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.
The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054 - 815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

2024 Summer Reading Program

Read, Renew, Repeat! June 3- July 26. Registration has begun and brochures are available! Free to residents, 3-17 years old of the Oregon Public Library District. Activities and programs are available. Registration is required. Come in, call or check our Facebook page or website to find out more.

Mystery Photos

Began June 3 and will be changed out every Monday. Come to the Library to enter. I Spy Hunt in the Library may be played once a day. Guess the Book! Try and figure out the title of the shredded remains of a book...

Week of June 17 - June 27

Registration is required for all programs. Monday, June 17, Story Time 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.) Tuesday, June 18, Activity Time, 1:30 pm (grades 1st & up) DIY Spiral Wind Catchers. Thursday, June 20, Behind the Scenes at Nachusa Grasslands, 10 am-noon (grades 7th & up) Come explore & learn about The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands from the experts! Visit the science & seed room. Learn about controlled fire burns. Catch a glimpse of the bison. Participate in helping to restore the prairie. Come see one of the most successful restorations in

the world for yourself! Thursday, June 20, River's Edge Farmers Market 5:00-7:30 pm. The most magical evening at the market! Learn about Oregon Public Library and make bubbles of all sizes with Jason, the Bubble Guy! Monday, June 24, Story Time 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.). Tuesday, June 25, Activity Time, 1:30 pm (grades 1st & up) Puzzle Play. Thursday, June 27, Lego Club, 2 pm (2nd grade & up) The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence.

Adult Summer Reading Program

June 1st through August 10th. Join others who are "too old" for the Children's Summer Reading Program (yes, that includes 18 and up!) for a low-key stress-free Adult Summer Reading program. Give the library a call or stop by for more information. We have brain game packets available again this year. Brain game packets completed will be entered into the drawing for the Adult Summer Reading prizes at the end of the program. Follow us on Facebook, join our e-newsletter and visit our website for more information about programs. All brain game packets and book logs must be turned in by the end of the business day on August 10, 2024. **Story Time (18 months-6 yrs.)** Mondays, 10 am. Story Time is back! See you on Mondays...

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

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

Join U of I Extension for Homegrown Healthy

Mondays 5:00pm-6:00pm- began June 3rd. This is a 10-week program where participants learn how to grow a garden, get an introduction to hydroponics, and can try new foods made with garden produce. Individuals and families are invited to register for the program. Please commit to the full series of classes. Funding provided by CDC ACTION Grant. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate, please contact jsaglier@illinois.edu or call 815-544-3710. To register, go to go.illinois.edu/homegrownhealthy.

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 Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, June 19 at 1 pm to discuss Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, June 23. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, June 28 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss Happy Place by Emily Henry. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet June 18 to discuss The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, July 10 at 12:30 to discuss The Shack by WM. Paul Young.

Functional Yin-Yasa

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

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, June 17th 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

Try It Tuesday
Tuesday, June 18th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot)- Fourth of July Gnome Jar. Make this festive gnome for your holiday decoration, candy jar, or just for fun. Each participant will leave with a 4th of July themed gnome jar 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-You Are Part of the Wonder by Ruth Doyle. At the StoryWalk is One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul

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. **Brain Health on June 17**

10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

Advanced Registration Requested. **Activities with Mary** Tuesday, June 18. Floral Creations: 1:00 - 1:45. Drumming: 1:45 - 2:30. **Crocheting & Knitting** Thursday, June 20. 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. All skill levels welcome. **Line Dancers** Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome.

Rock River Center June 19 Holiday Hours

Rock River Center will close on Wednesday, June 19, in recognition of Juneteenth. No transportation or activities will take place when the Center is closed. Please plan accordingly. Rock River Center wishes you a safe and happy holiday. **2023-2024 NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM** NICOR GAS sharing

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

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP - NEW TIME

Meets: 1st Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 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.

appointment call 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252. **SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER** **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** Meets: 4th Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** Meets: 3RD Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

The following events are happening at the Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center! **Trivia & Tacos** Thursday, June 20th at 6:00. \$2.00 for Trivia and

\$2.00 each for the Tacos. Join us for a friendly competition! **Diamond Painting** We added another day of Diamond Painting. 11:00 am on Friday, June 21st.

No skill required - just a lot of fun. **Game Night!** Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center has been rebranded to include the entire COMMUNI-

TY! Come play games on Thursday, June 27th with other members of the community. Popcorn will be provided but feel free to bring a snack to share. Games start at 6:00 pm.

Bus trip Interested in our upcoming bus trip? Contact Melissa at 815-734-6335 for more information or to sign up. We will be taking a trip to New Orleans from

November 3rd - 9th. 7 days and 6 nights including 4 consecutive nights in the New Orleans area. Guided tours and a riverboat cruise are just a few events waiting for you!

Tails PET OF THE WEEK

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Bane

I'm Bane, a wonderful, wonderful boy who feels pretty traumatized after losing my home. I'm so worried I'll never have someone to love and care for me again. I'm a very chill and shy guy who doesn't ask for much at all. Going for walks is the highlight of my day, and the rest of the time I'm happy lounging around. I don't bark much, am house-trained and crate-trained, and I've been good with the children I've spent time with. Other dogs, though, I'm not so fond of. I'm a good listener and want to please my people. Won't you please let me come and live with you? If that isn't possible, would you tell all your friends about me? I'm such a good boy that you'll find me sharing the staff office here at Tails!



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LOCAL NEWS

Forreston High School Honors Night scholarships winners named

FORRESTON — On Wednesday, May 8, Forreston High School held its annual honors night. At the honors night, the Class of 2024 (55 seniors) were recognized for their academics, athletics, and/or leadership achievements. During the event, over \$300,000 was awarded to students who earned scholarships from prospective colleges and local scholarships. Scholarships came from local groups, families, businesses. Below is a listing of award winners:

American Legion Honorable Mention Award – Hannah Harvey, Grant Johnson.

American Legion Award – Jenna Greenfield, Micah Nelson.

FFA Alumni Scholarships – Samantha Appel, Brynn Lamm.

Keith Reemtsma Scholarship – Kaeden Motszko.

Bocker Ruff Grain Scholarship – Samantha Appel.

My Friend's Closet Scholarships – Micah Nelson.

Blackhawk Area Credit Union Scholarship – Micah Nelson.

DCFS Scholarships – Letrese Buisker.

Cornerstone Credit Union Scholarships – Alexander Ryia.

Gary and Lorene Stamm Family Scholarship – Alexander Ryia.

Lucille Bruning Memorial Trust Scholarships – Letrese Buisker.

Bernie Empen Memorial Scholarship – Samantha Appel.

Gallagher Engineering

Scholarship – Codey Rohdy.

Rock River Chapter of Illinois Society of Professional Engineers Scholarship – Kaeden Motszko.

Solutions Bank Scholarships – Jenna Greenfield, Brynn Lamm, Micah Nelson.

Link Family Scholarships – Hannah Harvey, Ella Ingram, Grant Johnson, Brynn Lamm, Alexander Ryia, Andrew Wells.

Lloyd Folkerts Scholarship – Jenna Greenfield.

Forrestville Valley Youth Network Scholarship – Kaleb Sanders, Hayden Stralow.

German Valley Lions Scholarships – Samantha Appel, Micah Nelson.

Leaf River Lions Scholarship – Kaeden Motszko.

Forreston Lions Scholarships – Micah Nelson, Elizabeth Shenberger.

Darrell Windle Scholarship – Hannah Harvey.

The Drew Crase Memorial Scholarships – Sydney Badertscher, Jenna Greenfield, Nikolas Valenzuela.

Forrestville Valley Education Association Scholarship – Letrese Buisker.

Highland Community College Scholarships – Cadence Albee, Nevaeh Houston, Ella Ingram, Elizabeth Shenberger, Madison Zipse.

James Schneiderman Memorial Scholarship – Elizabeth Shenberger.

German American State Bank Scholarships – Jenna Greenfield, Andrew Wells.

Lola Borchers Scholarships – Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Brynn Lamm, Micah Nelson, Alexander Ryia, Nikolas Valenzuela.

Harm Smith Scholarship – Julia Parra.

Forrestville Valley Music Patrons Scholarship – Brynn Lamm.

Forrestville Valley Foundation Scholarships – Jenna Greenfield, Grant Johnson, Julia Parra, Elizabeth Shenberger, Nikolas Valenzuela, Andrew Wells.

Beth Amsrud Scholarships – Brynn Lamm, Micah Nelson.

Rock River Blood Center Scholarship – Sydney Badertscher.

Forrestville Valley Administrative Scholarships – Keeli Larson, Nevaeh Houston, Madison Zipse.

Wood Trust Scholarships – Jenna Greenfield, Kaeden Motszko, Micah Nelson.

HCC Servant Leaders – Sam Cesarek, Grant Johnson, Micah Nelson, Autum Pritchard, Elizabeth Shenberger.

Recognition of Enlistment – Kaden Ganz (Illinois National Guard) Kiyann Lynn (United States Marine Corps), Autum Pritchard (Illinois National Guard).

Education Pathway Endorsements – Samantha Appel (Agriculture), Brynn Lamm (Agriculture), Patrick Wichman (Agriculture), Letrese Buisker (Education), Ella Ingram (Health Science), Madison Zipse (Health Science).

Eagle Scouts – Zachary Pierson, Tymon Run-

kle, Dylon Timmer.

Forreston Sports Boosters Scholarships – Ella Ingram, Owen Mulder.

Academic All-Conference Awards – Samantha Appel, Sydney Badertscher, Elly Bamberg, Jenna Greenfield, Hannah Harvey, Nevaeh Houston, Ella Ingram, Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Brynn Lamm, Keeli Larson, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Autum Pritchard, Alexander Ryia, Elizabeth Shenberger, Bailey Sterling, Nikolas Valenzuela, Andrew Wells.

Senior Athletic Letter Awards – Cadence Albee, Samantha Appel, Sydney Badertscher, Elly Bamberg, Ethan Bocker, Letrese Buisker, Peyton Crase, Kaden Ganz, Xavier Goeddeke, Jenna Greenfield, Hannah Harvey, Ashley Hazelbower, Nevaeh Houston, Ella Ingram, Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Olivia King, Brynn Lamm, Keeli Larson, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Autum Pritchard, Natalia Roach, Tymon Runkle, Alexander Ryia, Kaleb Sanders, Zachary Shuman, Bailey Sterling, Hayden Stralow, Christopher Symons, Dylon Timmer, Nikolas Valenzuela, Gavin Vance, Taylor Waugh-Bloyer, Andrew Wells, Patrick Wichman, Madison Zipse, Rees Zipse.

Blood Drive Participants – Sydney Badertscher, Ashley Hazelbower, Ella Ingram, Brynn Lamm, Kiyann Lynn, Patrick Olson, Julia Parra, Natalia Roach, Codey Rohdy, Kaleb Sanders, Zachary Shuman, Bailey Sterling, Hayden Stralow, Christopher Symons, Dylon Timmer, Taylor Waugh-Bloyer, Patrick Wichman, Rees Zipse.

Honor Roll Award – Cadence Albee, Elly Bamberg, Peyton Crase, Kaden Ganz, Xavier Goeddeke, Ashley Hazelbower, Olivia King, Kiyann Lynn, Julian Macias, Autum Pritchard, Natalia Roach, Kaleb Sanders, Christopher Symons, Gavin Vance.

Excellent Honor Roll – Samantha Appel, Sydney Badertscher, Jenna Greenfield, Hannah Harvey, Nevaeh Houston, Ella Ingram, Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Brynn Lamm, Keeli Larson, Emma Lindquist, Shelby Mor-

ris, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Zachary Pierson, Codey Rohdy, Tymon Runkle, Alexander Ryia, Paige Scott, Elizabeth Shenberger, Bailey Sterling, Dylon Timmer, Nikolas Valenzuela, Andrew Wells, Patrick Wichman, Madison Zipse.

4 Year Attendance Award – Jenna Greenfield, Shelby Morris, Patrick Olson, Elizabeth Shenberger, Hayden Stralow, Patrick Wichman.

STEP Program – Anthony Hord, Patrick Olson, Zachary Pierson, Natalia Roach, Taylor Waugh-Bloyer.

WACC Students of the Month – Zachary Pierson, Tymon Runkle.

Daughters of the American Revolution – Jenna Greenfield.

Sons of the American Revolution – Micah Nelson.

Illinois State Scholars – Sam Cesarek, Zoriah Jenkins, Kaeden Motszko, Micah Nelson.

Illinois Principal's Association Award – Jenna Greenfield, Micah Nelson.

College Now – Sam Cesarek, Bryn Greenfield.

National Honor Society – Samantha Appel, Sydney Badertscher, Jenna Greenfield, Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Shelby Morris, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Autum Pritchard, Codey Rohdy, Alexander Ryia, Elizabeth Shenberger.

Forreston Honor's Program – Sydney Badertscher, Jenna Greenfield, Zoriah Jenkins, Grant Johnson, Brynn Lamm, Kaeden Motszko, Owen Mulder, Micah Nelson, Julia Parra, Autum Pritchard, Codey Rohdy, Alexander Ryia, Elizabeth Shenberger.

Top Ten Percent – Kaeden Motszko, Micah Nelson, Shelby Morris, Zoriah Jenkins, Bryn Greenfield, Julia Parra.

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Ever-Fi Awards (spon-

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Polo Lions Club donates to Cub Scout Pack 337

On Wednesday, May 29, Polo Lions Club Member Jeff Short presented a \$300 donation to Heather Roop and Lindy Diehl, two of the new leaders of the Cub Scout Pack 337 of Polo. The pack is trying to grow so kids from ages kindergarten through fifth grade can sign up throughout the year and parents are also welcomed to sign up as volunteers. Contact Heather Roop.



9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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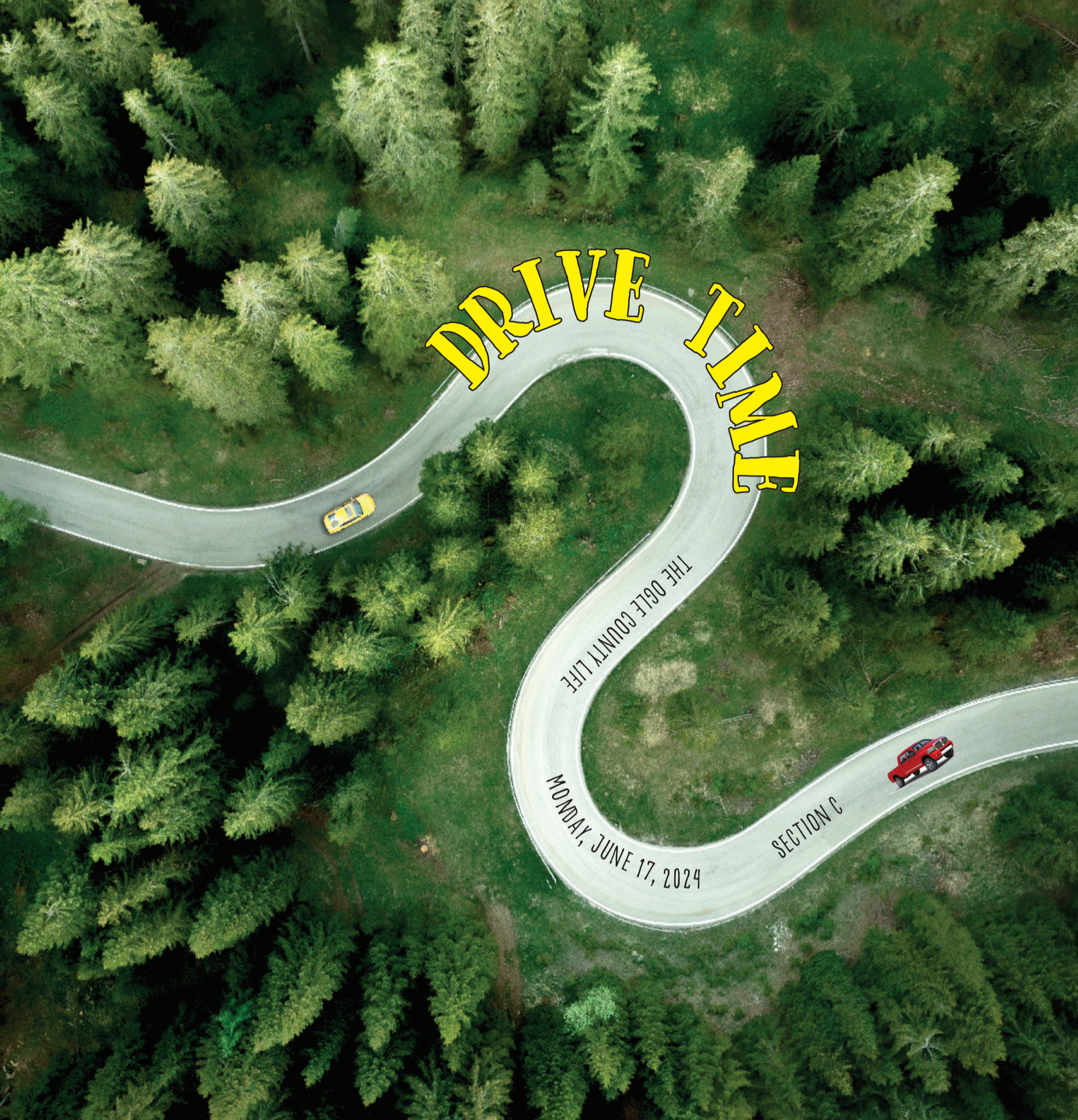
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DRIVE TIME

Three simple maintenance strategies that can keep cars running longer

THE last few years have not proven the most advantageous times for new car buyers. According to the Consumer Price Index Summary from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, buyers paid 12.2 percent more for new vehicles in January 2022 than they had in January 2021. Faced with such a significant increase in price, many drivers understandably want to keep their current cars longer than they might have initially planned.

Data released by S&P Global Mobility in early 2022 indicated that the average vehicle on the road is 12 years and two months old, which marked the highest number in the 20-plus years such information was tracked. A host of variables affect how long drivers keep their cars, but the rising cost of new vehicles has undoubtedly compelled many drivers to aspire to keep their cars for longer periods of time.

Aging cars may require a little more TLC than vehicles that are right off the dealership lot. But the following are three simple tips that can help drivers keep their cars running longer.

1. Become a more careful driver. A careful approach when behind the wheel is safer than aggressive driving and beneficial for your vehicle. When starting, avoid



revving the engine, which needlessly wears it down. When out on the road, avoid rapid accelerations, which also contributes to needless wear and tear. Even excessive idling can adversely affect the engine, so keep winter warm-ups to around 30 seconds to prevent damage to engine components.

2. Know when and how to fill up. Every driver has likely visited a filling

station when an oil tanker is busily filling the tanks. That's traditionally been considered a less than ideal time to fill up, as the theory is that filling the tanks stirs up sediment that could then find its way into consumers' gas tanks, adversely affecting their vehicles. However, that's often dependent on the station itself and how much its owners prioritize maintenance of the tank and filtration

systems. Drivers who trust their local station owners can likely fill up when the tankers are present without worry. In addition, avoid topping off once the nozzle clicks when filling up. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that topping off is harmful to the planet and the vehicle, as gasoline needs room to expand. When you top off, the extra gas may damage the vapor

collection system and cause the vehicle to run less efficiently.

3. Change oil more frequently as the vehicle ages. It's true that modern vehicles no longer require oil changes for every 3,000 miles driven. However, as vehicles age, drivers and their vehicles' engines may benefit from more frequent oil changes than the owner's manual necessarily recommends. Oil changes remove dirt

and metal particles from the engine, potentially contributing to a longer life expectancy. More frequent changes can be especially beneficial for vehicles that are routinely driven in stop-and-go traffic.

Rising vehicle costs have compelled many drivers to keep their cars longer than they initially planned. Some simple strategies can help drivers achieve that goal.

What drivers should do after an auto accident

CAR accidents occur every day. According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are more than five million car accidents in the United States every year. Forty-three percent of car accidents resulted in injuries in 2020.

No one wants to get into an automobile accident, which can be stressful and even fatal. Even accidents that do not result in any major injuries can be traumatizing. Knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of an accident may make such instances less stressful.

Assess the situation
The insurance experts at GEICO® advise individuals involved in an accident to first determine if any of the involved parties suffered an injury. If you are injured, stay put. If not, check on the condition of the other driver. At this point do not admit any fault or reveal any policy

limits.

Next, make a call to emergency services to request assistance from the police and an ambulance, if necessary.

Move your vehicle
If possible, pull the vehicle over to a safe, well-lit public location. This is especially important if you believe you were the victim of a staged accident, says the Insurance Information Institute. If the car will cause another road hazard, it is best to move it over to the side and use flashers to alert oncoming traffic. It is important that you don't leave the scene, according to American Property Casualty Insurance Association.

Gather evidence
Have the police write up an accident report. You should take pictures of the damage to your vehicle, the other vehicle, if possible, and the scene of the accident, including any skid marks, debris and/or property damage.



If there are any witnesses to the accident, get their names and contact information. You'll need this information when filing an insurance claim.

Exchange information. Collect the names, phone numbers, addresses

and email addresses of other drivers and vehicle occupants and exchange insurance information with all drivers involved. That includes the insurance company name, policy number and the name of the insured.

Notify a friend or family member

Even if the accident is not serious, you may want to call a friend or family member to provide emotional support. If you've been injured, a friend or family member can meet

you at the hospital and/or arrange to have your vehicle towed or returned home while you get the care you need.

Automotive accidents can be nerve-wracking. Knowing the steps to take can alleviate some stress.

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DRIVE TIME

Maintenance intervals drivers should know

VEHICLES are among the most costly expenses individuals have. According to data from Kelley Blue Book, the average price paid for a new vehicle in the United States in September 2022 was \$48,094. Canadian car buyers face an equally expensive reality in their country, where the average MSRP for a new car is more than \$45,000.

Since vehicles are such sizable investments, it behooves motorists to do as much as they can to keep their cars and trucks running smoothly. Vehicle owner's manuals typically recommend maintenance intervals and should be drivers' first resource for information regarding how to take care of their cars and trucks. But the following are some standard maintenance intervals drivers can keep in mind.

3,000 miles

The 3,000-mile marker used to be the benchmark for changing oil, but modern vehicles can now go longer between oil changes. However, it's still a good idea to check other fluid levels every 3,000 miles. Windshield washer fluid, coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid, and power steering fluid should all be checked every 3,000 miles and topped off if levels are low.

It's wise for drivers to perform some additional maintenance checkups every 3,000 miles. Check tire pressure, inspect hoses



(which should not be leaking or bulging) and clean the interior of the vehicle every 3,000 miles.

5,000 miles

Many vehicle manufacturers now recommend oil changes every 5,000 miles. Tire rotations also can be part of service visits at this interval, and drivers can ask their mechanic to check their fuel filters and batteries every 5,000 miles as well. Many may already do this as part of their comprehensive maintenance

packages, but it's still good to confirm if they do and request they do so if it's not part of the plan.

Drivers also can request that cabin air filters are inspected at this point, though they can generally last a year before they need to be replaced.

Around the 5,000-mile mark, wiper blades also may begin to show signs of wear and tear, including streaking on the windshield or scratching noises when in use. Each

of those signs indicates the wipers need to be replaced. However, drivers should take note of these signs regardless of when they appear. Some may not make it 5,000 miles before they begin to wear down. In such instances, they should be replaced immediately regardless of how many miles it's been since they were installed.

10,000 miles

Some vehicles may only require oil changes every 10,000 miles. That's

not uncommon in vehicles that use synthetic oil, though drivers are urged to consult their owner's manuals.

Brake pads also may need to be replaced around this time, and one telltale sign of that is a squeaking noise whenever the brakes are applied.

Drivers can ask their mechanics to check the alignment of their vehicles around this interval as well. Though many vehicles won't develop

alignment issues, it's best to check for such issues every 10,000 miles or whenever a vehicle feels as though it's pulling in one specific direction.

Maintenance intervals are created to serve as a guideline for drivers. Any issues that arise should still be brought to the attention of a mechanic regardless of how many miles have been added to the odometer since the most recent trip to the garage.

How to protect your vehicle's paint job

DRIVERS go to great lengths to ensure what's under the hood of their vehicles is well taken care of. But it's equally beneficial to tend to the exterior of a vehicle, including its paint job.

According to Popular Mechanics, oxidation can adversely affect iron-based metals. That can put vehicles in jeopardy and take significant time off their life expectancy. The good news is that rust and other issues that can affect a vehicle's paint job and appearance are typically avoidable. That should be music to the ears of new vehicle owners, who likely need no reminder of the sizable financial investment required to drive off the lot with a fresh set of wheels. Drivers who want their cars and trucks to maintain their looks over the long haul can consider these simple strategies to protect their paint jobs.

- Make car washes part of your vehicle maintenance routine. Seasoned drivers are undoubtedly familiar with the conventional wisdom surrounding oil change intervals, but those same motorists may not recognize the importance of routine car washes. Over time, contaminants

such as pollen, dust and pollution can settle on a vehicle's exterior, potentially jeopardizing the paint job. Routine car washes can prevent such damage and help a car look like it was just driven off the lot.

- Wax the exterior of the vehicle. The automotive experts at Carfax® report that waxing is a significant and simple way to protect vehicle paint. Carfax® notes that certain paste waxes contain mild abrasives that help remove fine scratches from painted surfaces. Wax also can protect paint jobs from fading related to exposure to ultraviolet rays. That's especially noteworthy for drivers who do not routinely park their cars in a garage.

- Use a car cover. Car covers may or may not be practical for cars drivers use every day, but they are an effective way to protect a paint job from the elements. Drivers who have a spare car they rarely drive or even those who do not drive their primary vehicle a lot each day can purchase a universal-fit car cover or a premium cover designed specifically for their vehicles. Car covers protect paint jobs from ultraviolet rays and the elements and may reduce



the need for more frequent trips to the car wash.

- Park in the shade, but choose spots wisely. Parking in the shade may protect vehicles from the ultraviolet rays of the sun, but it's important that drivers pick the right shady spot to park their cars and trucks. A shade tree might seem like a great ally to vehicle owners, but if birds nest or rest in the tree, drivers could be exposing their cars to bird droppings. That's no small

threat, as bird droppings are high in uric acid, which quickly damage a vehicle's exterior. Parking directly beneath a tree also might expose the paint job to sap or fallen leaves or berries, each of which can adversely affect vehicle exteriors. If you plan to park in the shade to protect the paint job, ideally choose a spot that is not directly beneath the tree.

A well-maintained paint job can improve the appearance and life

expectancy of a vehicle, which is something drivers should keep in mind as

they hope to get the most out of their automotive investment.

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