



Byron Choir heads to Ireland

Members of the Byron Choir traveled to Ireland and performed at scenic venues. See pages 2-3

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

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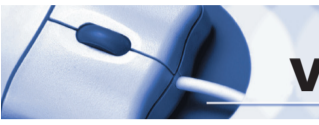


VOLUME 36, ISSUE 16

MONDAY

July 1, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Mahoney retires from CUSD 220

Dr. Tom Mahoney has retired from the Oregon CUSD 220 after 17 years of service. See Section B

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 57	77 52
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
82 60	87 67
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
81 65	86 62

OBITUARIES

- Robert 'Bob' J. Burke
- Harry A. Travis
- Douglas L. Wean
- Ginger L. Mumford
- Susan Ruth Steffa

See page 4

INSERTS

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

Hill Street Neighborhood development in Mt. Morris hopes to break ground by spring 2025

\$10 million project aims to integrate people with and without disabilities

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — The Village of Progress and Kreider Services have plans for The Hill Street Neighborhood development in Mt. Morris in the coming years. The duplex apartment project is planned to serve both people with disabilities and people from the general population.

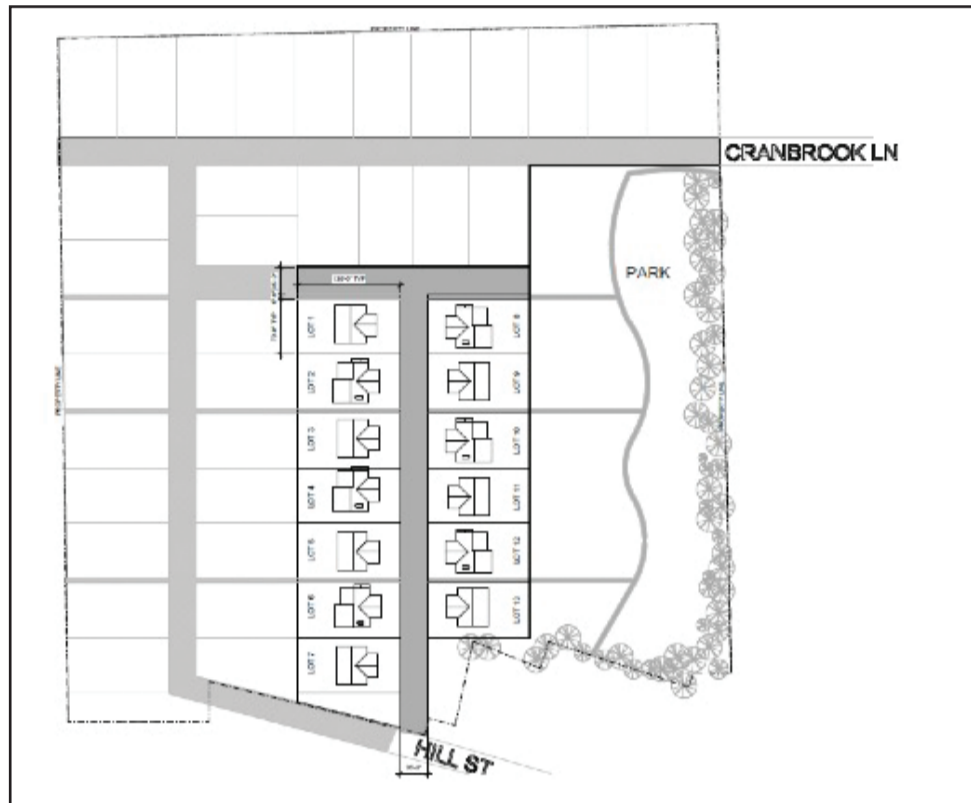
Plans include 24 units in 12 duplexes and a four-acre public park with walkways to access the park for all units. There will also be a community building open to anyone in Mt. Morris and acreage for future expansion. The \$10 million project will be funded by the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Village of Progress Executive Director Brion Brooks and Kreider Services Executive Director Jeff Stauter said The Hill Street Neighborhood will provide a new living option for people with disabilities, which typically only in-

clude living with parents or in a group home. People with disabilities living in the Hill Street Neighborhood will be able to choose their own services, an option not seen in group homes.

"In a group home if you don't like the service, you can't stay in the house," Brooks said. "If you don't like the house but you like the service, you can't stay in the house. With our idea where we're just the landlord with a few safety nets, the individual with disabilities picks their own service providers. They can change the service providers if they want to and stay in the same duplex. And they can move to a different duplex and keep their service provider. They're more in control than they would be in a traditional group home and they have more independence than they would if they stayed with their parents."

The Hill Street Neighborhood will have a full-time staff member to ser-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Village of Progress and Kreider Services have plans for The Hill Street Neighborhood development in Mt. Morris in the coming years. The duplex apartment project is planned to serve both people with disabilities and people from the general population.

vice its tenants. Half of the duplexes would be occupied by people without disabilities.

The apartments will be affordable housing, but at a level of 50 percent of the area median income rather

than the typical 30 percent.

See HILL STREET page 12

OCHD's mini food centers combat food insecurity

'We believe food insecurity will be the next big health issue to battle'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — In October of last year, the Ogle County Health Department received a CDC Addressing Conditions to Improve Population Health (ACTION) grant for \$500,000 each year from 2023-2026 to increase access and availability to healthy and nutritious foods, education for home-based food production, food pantries, and mini food centers (refrigerated and dry food).

The grant applies to the four-county area of Ogle, Lee, Whiteside and Carroll to combat food insecurity in food deserts. During the last two weeks of May, one mini food center was opened in each of those counties. They include are-

frigerator, freezer and a dry pantry and are housed in shelters built by woodshop students at Oregon Junior Senior High School. The mini food centers are filled with food through grant funds each week for members of the community in need to help themselves to.

"It's been amazing so far," OCHD Grant Coordinator Joyce Lewis said. "People have left great feedback and are marking down what they've been taking and if they're donating, which makes us able to report data back to the CDC. We've had people ask about donating eggs, meat and produce. It's fabulous to see communities coming together to take care of each other."

See OCHD page 11



(COURTESY PHOTO)

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Members of Byron Choirs, alumni, family, and friends returned from their Ireland tour on June 9th, 2024. During the tour they were able to perform in many beautiful venues inside and out. With the final performance being an exchange concert at the Royal Ireland Academy of Music.

Byron Choir performs at scenic venues in Ireland

IRELAND — Members of Byron Choirs, alumni, family, and friends returned from their Ireland tour on June 9th, 2024. During the tour they were able to perform in many beautiful venues inside and out. With the final performance being an exchange concert at the Royal Ireland Academy of Music.

Our tour began at the Gaelic Athletic Association in Dublin where we were introduced to two sports of Irish heritage, the game of Hurling and Gaelic Football. GAA players of the games put us through drills, teaching the skills of how to dribble, pass, and hit a sliotar ball. They also taught Gaelic Football skills, which is very similar to American Soccer, but hands are

allowed. We finished the afternoon activities with a lunch and a lesson in Irish dancing. While at the GAA we were asked to sing a couple of songs.

Our tour continued to Galway and checked into our first hotel. As the next day approached, we loaded our tour bus and drove to Connemara to visit the beautiful Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden. We toured the gardens, watched horses and pigs being fed. We toured the Abbey which was built as a private home in 1868 by a wealthy doctor from London. In 1920 the Abbey was purchased by Benedictine nuns and in 1923 they opened a school for girls. It was in operation until 2010. On the grounds of the Abbey there is a Gothic

Church, a wishing stone and mausoleum. It was in the chapel that we held our first concert. The concert was well attended by guests visiting the Abbey. There was lots of exciting applause after each song. After our tour of the Abbey, we drove back to Galway and toured the Galway Cathedral. One of the youngest cathedrals in Ireland being built in the 1960's. Highlights of the Cathedral were the beautiful stained-glass windows and the pipe organ.

The next day's adventure was the Cliffs of Moher. Such beautiful views from the cliffs. It was very windy on the day we were there, but wind is typical there because the cliffs are by the ocean. At their highest the cliffs are 702 feet. Our next adventure was visiting a castle. We toured the Bunratty Castle and the folk park around it. The Bunratty Castle was built on a site that was originally a Viking camp in 970. It is the most complete and authentic castle in Ireland. The castle we toured was built in 1425. The buildings in the folk park were brought

to the site by taking them apart and reassembling them there. There are 30 buildings set up in a living village and rural setting. After touring this castle, we drove to Knappogue Castle for a medieval banquet. During this banquet each "country" had a king and queen. Our king and queen were Josh Harris and Gina Baker. King Josh's part of the skit involved him in testing the meat that was being served for our dinner. Of course, the meat was poisoned, and King Josh had to act like he died. All while the town crier continued with the skit. King Josh was brought back to life, and he was able to continue with us on our tour. We had another student who was part of the skit. Lord Jacob Lawver was in trouble with the king. He was caught breaking one of the rules of the castle. (Of course, this was all pre-planned in the skit.) Instead of a physical punishment the town crier asked him to sing a song. What the town crier didn't know was that Jacob had an entire choir to help him with his punishment. Ja-

cob started his solo part in the song Tshotsholoza and the choir joined in. To the amazement of the actors and guest attending. The actors wanted the choir to stay and have that be part of their skit every night. They were very appreciative of the fun the students incorporated in their show.

As the week continued, so did the choir's performances. On Wednesday, the choir toured the Basket Island Center. The Basket Islands were where people lived up until 1954. The islands are best known for a number of Irish language writers who vividly described their way of life in their books. In the open air, grassy grounds, the choir performed 3 songs. Visitors of the Basket Center stepped out of the visitor center and listened to our performance. We left the Basket Center and toured the Gallarus Oratory, a chapel on the Dingle Peninsula. It was most likely built in the 10th or 11th Century. The group went back to our hotel to prepare for a full-length concert at St. Mary's Church in Killarney. The choir prepared an hour worth of music for this concert. To our amazement, the church was filled with locals. The sound was amazing performing in this 1800 building. Once we were finished performing no one left, they wanted more. Unfortunately, we had not prepared an encore number.

drive around the Ring of Kerry and a visit to Kells Sheepdogs. We attended a demonstration of a border collie rounding up and sorting the sheep that were running free in the pasture. It was enjoyable and informative. We continued around the Ring of Kerry, stopping at a beach where the movie Ryan's Daughter was filmed (Inch Beach), and stopping to view the stone ring circle. An early home of a King. Free time, playing cards, and swimming were how we ended our day.

Two very historic and popular places were on our itinerary for the next day. We ventured up to the top of Blarney Castle where we were able to kiss the Blarney Stone. The Blarney Stone is a block of limestone built into the wall of the castle. According to legend, kissing the stone gives one the gift of gab. The stone was set in the castle in 1446. After kissing the stone, we walked through the beautiful gardens around the castle. Then off to the Rock of Cashel to view the most impressive collection of medieval buildings in Ireland. Originally the seat of the kings of Munster, Brian Boru was crowned High King in 978. The Hall of the Vicars Choral was built in the 15th Century. This was the residence of the vicars appointed to assist in chanting the cathedral services.

Our next day was a

See CHOIR page 3



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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Members of Byron Choirs, alumni, family, and friends returned from their Ireland tour on June 9th, 2024. During the tour they were able to perform in many beautiful venues inside and out. With the final performance being an exchange concert at the Royal Ireland Academy of Music.

CHOIR: Byron students perform and enjoy sights in Ireland

From page 2

So, we thought it fitting that we perform a piece in the main hall of this building, to honor those vicars who rehearsed in that space. Again, we had an appreciative audience while we performed. To end our evening, we attended dinner and performance at the Merry Ploughboy. This venue has held group dinners with entertainment for over 30 years. We were entertained by singers who also played instruments, as well as Irish dancers. The

evening event was loved by all.

Our final day was a city tour of Dublin with a stop at Christ Church Cathedral. Originally a Viking church it has been welcoming visitors for over 1,000 years. Our self-guided tour led us to find the tomb of Stronghold, a visit to the crypt, the heart of St. Laurence O'Toole, a rare copy of the Magna Carta, and the famous mummified cat and rat. The group had some free time in Dublin and then we went back to our hotel to prepare for

our final concert. This concert was held in the Whyte Recital Hall at the Royal Ireland Academy of Music and was performed with the Continuum Youth Choir, Blanaid Murphy director. We performed a 30-minute set, the Continuum Youth choir did a 30-minute set, and then we sang "Danny Boy" and "The Star from the County Down" together. Gifts were exchanged and congratulations were shared as our evening came to an end.

This amazing experience for students of Byron

High School could not have happened without the generous donations given. These sponsors were named in our tour program: All Saints Church Byron, Alpine Chiropractic, Angela Streff Pampered Chef, Arby's, AVON, Bub's, Byron Athletic Boosters, Byron Music Boosters, Byron Parent Teacher Association, Byron Park District, Byron Women's Club, Casey's, The Cave, Circle K, The Command Post Byron, Costa's, Crafted by Ali, DeAnne Clay, Dos Amigos, Farrell Hol-

land Gale Funeral Home, Felker's, GFS, Grandma's Crafts, Great Harvest Bread Co., Harvard GMC, Hurst Plumbing, Ice Hogs, Kerry Wickler Insurance, Maxson Riverboat and Restaurant, Middle Creek Church, Merlin's, MMA, Nothin Bundt Cakes, Pongant Soap Shoppe, Paintastic, Pepsi, Pirate Mom Soap, Prairie Fire, Prairie Street Brewing, Prairie View Golf, Quixotic Bakery, ReRuns, Rob's Barbershop, Sam's, Sky Carp Baseball, Snyder's, Stormy Girl Creation, Sullivan's, Sweetbean,

United Methodist Church Oregon, Uptown Lanes, Wicked Sweets. We also want to thank those people who bought items as we fundraised who we cannot list by name, but know you are appreciated as well. Our final thanks go to the Byron Board of Education, Buster Barton, Andy Donaldson, and Ken Franchi. Without their support and approval of the tour we would not have been able to experience all that we did. Videos of the multiple performances can be found on the Byron Choir Youtube Channel.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Polo Lions walk in Town & Country Days Parade

The Polo Lions Club participated in the Polo Town & Country Days Parade held on Sunday, June 16.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Robert 'Bob' J. Burke

OREGON — Robert "Bob" J. Burke was born on November 24th, 1950, in Dixon, IL the son of Roger & Dorothy "Darlene" (Boyden) Burke. He passed away, at the age of 73, quietly in his home on Friday, June 21, 2024, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his family and loved ones. Bob spent most of his life in Oregon, attending Oregon school district and graduated Oregon High School in 1968. He went on to college, graduating NIU in DeKalb, IL, in 1972. Bob was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church of Oregon, IL. He married the love of his life, Dawn Cline, on October 3, 1987. He spent most of his career in Graphic Arts and later owning and managing apartments in the Oregon area. He was an avid sports enthusiast, an Indianapolis Colts fan, and of course always cheering for his Atlanta Braves. Bob was very active in his children's lives; he was always very active in coaching their teams. Aside from the love

of his family and friends, Bob also enjoyed road trips with Dawn, playing card games like Blackjack and Euchre.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, son Jacob Burke, and in-laws Donald and Patricia Aulls. Bob is survived and missed dearly by his loving wife Dawn (Cline) Burke of Oregon, IL; children Carrie (Rob) Tinsman, Brett Burke, Jason Coffman, Becky (Clayton) Merrill, Zachery Coffman; grandchildren Kate & Garrett Merrill, Cole & Dylan Burke; great-grandchild Lane Burke; brother-in-law Dana Cline; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and countless dear friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. Natalie Callendar and Dr. Rob Hegemann and staff at The University of Madison for their expertise and compassionate care. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Care Team at Serenity Hospice and Home, especially Rachel and Amber. Your guidance and compassion helped



us care for Bob with dignity and grace. We are forever grateful for your assistance.

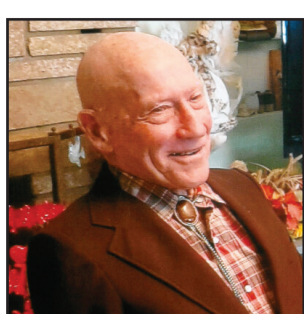
Services in Bob's honor have been scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. A funeral will begin at 11:00am with Father Bernie Sehr presiding. Visitation hours will be just prior to the funeral beginning at 9:00am until the time of service. Bob will be laid to rest next to his son at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery of Oregon, IL. Memorial donations are established in his name and may be directed to Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon, IL. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in Bob's memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Harry A. Travis

OREGON — Harry A. Travis, age 98, of Oregon, Illinois, went to his heavenly home on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. Harry was born February 15, 1926, the son of George and Carrie Grace (Longman) Travis. Harry graduated from Oregon High School Class of 1944. Harry was a veteran of the United States Army serving in World War II from 1944 – 1946. He was married to Martha R. Schabacker on February 12, 1950 in Rochelle, Illinois. He was a member of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Paynes Point, Illinois. Harry worked as a farmer, fence builder, and

plastering contractor in the Oregon area. Harry is survived by his Children: Terry (Cheryl) Travis, Randy Travis (Rachel Dalton), June Danekas, and Edward Travis, Grandchildren: Kori (Wade) Wolter, Jennifer (Loren) Quast, Matthew (Natalie) Travis, Joe Danekas, and Kevin Danekas, Great Grandchildren: Alaina Wolter, Landry Wolter, and Hadley Quast, and Sister: Isabelle Bachman. Harry was preceded in death by his wife, parents, two brothers, three sisters, and infant son, Larry Travis.

A memorial service



will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home, 110 South 7th Street, Oregon, IL with Pastor Dave Rogula officiating. Visitation will begin at 9:30 AM until the time of service.

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

Douglas L. Wean

OREGON — Douglas Louis Wean entered eternal life on Thursday, June 20th in Oregon, IL

He was born March 29, 1948, the son of Charles and Dorothy Wean. He graduated from Mt. Morris High School, Class of '66 and was a Mounder through and through. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after boot camp trained with the U.S. Marine Corps to become a Navy Corpsman. In June of 1968, he was sent to Vietnam and served as the battery corpsman with a Marine artillery unit in I-Corps, KIL0 Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines.

He was awarded many medals including a Silver Star, for gallantry in action, for treating and saving "his" Marine's lives putting his own safety at risk and earned a Purple Heart. His last tour of duty was with NATO Forces/U.S. Embassy Staff in Edzell, Scotland. On August 26, 1972, Doug and Vicki James were united in marriage at the Christian Church in Mt. Morris, IL.

They were blessed with two sons, Dan and Jeff. Doug received his Radiologic Technology degree and was hired by the V.A. Hospital in Hines, IL where he worked and cared for veterans for 30 years until his retirement in 2003. He co-authored a textbook which was used for the students he trained and at colleges throughout the country and overseas. He had a passion for helping veterans and celebrating them. Doug and Vic moved back "home" in 2003 where they enjoyed "reuniting" with child-

hood friends and meeting new ones. In 1987, Doug and Vic began searching for and finding "those good men" he served with in Vietnam. The first Kilo/4/12 reunion was held in Chicago in 1989 and continued annually for 30 years, taking us coast to coast. These gatherings were one of Doug's greatest joys.

In 2003, Doug and Vic took the trip of a lifetime to Vietnam. Led by a professor at St. Olaf College, we began in Hanoi and over weeks traveled to the Mekong Delta. A Kilo comrade and his wife were with us. It was a beautiful and healing trip for Doug and his former Lt. Doug and Vic made yearly trips to Maui, where they "accumulated" new friends who spent time together year after year, making so many wonderful memories. Our family vacations, when the boys were young, took us to "Uncle Bill's" for a week of fishing and gardening and collecting eggs – a taste of country living. As a family, we traveled to the Kilo reunions, all over the country, stopping to see the sights along the way. Doug was a member of American Legion Post 143, Mt. Morris, lifetime member of the VFW, member of Plainview Cemetery board, member of Disciples United Methodist Church, serving on several committees over the years. He was a frequent speaker at Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs, sharing stories of our Mt. Morris military heroes. He was a life-long and long-suffering Chicago Bears fan. Game days were loud with shouts, clapping



and moaning. He enjoyed photography and became involved with the Field's Project soon after moving to Oregon. His beautiful photos were shared with many. He also loved to fish, although he didn't squeeze that in often enough in retirement. Above all, his family was the most important part of his life. He was so incredibly proud of his sons. Doug had a wicked sense of humor and twinkling blue eyes. Everyone loved hearing his distinct, one of a kind laugh. Doug was predeceased by his parents and brothers Charles Sr. and Jim. Doug is survived by his loving wife Vicki, sons Dan and Jeff, his special daughter-in-law Daniele and his beautiful granddaughters Lilibian and Vivian. Also left to mourn is his "adopted" family Barry, Paula and granddaughter of the heart Alyson Johnson. Doug's furry cat Buddy will miss his nap times with "Daddy".

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, June 27th at Disciples United Methodist Church (102 Maple Ave, Mt. Morris, IL) at 11 am. With Pastor Marcia Peddicord officiating. A luncheon/visitation will follow at the church.

Memorials may be directed to DUMC or the Mt. Morris Community Library Foundation.

Ginger L. Mumford

POLO — Ginger L. Mumford age 77 of Polo passed away on Monday June 24, 2024 at Polo Rehab and Health Care in Polo, IL. She was born on Feb. 5, 1947 in Canton, South Dakota the daughter of Charles and Arlene (Larson) Ludens.

Ginger worked for the Dixon Telephone Company for 47 years prior to her retirement. She is preceded in death by her parents, one brother Charles John Ludens Jr. and one sister Melody Rose Ludens in infancy, and one granddaughter Maverick Mumford. Ginger is survived

by her children Michael (Deanna) Mumford of Polo, Christopher (Missy) Mumford of Polo, 6 grandchildren Tucker Mumford, Gus Mumford, Mercer Mumford, Landry Mumford, Sydney (Cody) Neuschwanger, Layney Mumford, 2 great grandchildren Emery and Ella Neuschwanger. She is also survived by 2 sisters Michel (Brian) Williams of Stillman Valley, and Lori Ludens of Dixon. Visitation will be on Friday June 28, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon. Cremation rites are



to be accorded with burial of cremated remains to happen at a later date at Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon.

A memorial has been established to Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. Arrangements by the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

Susan Ruth Steffa

MT. MORRIS — Susan Ruth Steffa, a lifelong resident of Mount Morris, IL passed away unexpectedly on June 23, 2024 at the age of 62 at Javon Bea hospital in Rockford, IL.

Susan was born on September 19, 1962 to Walter and Ruth Anselm (Vondeschwanden) in Milwaukee, WI. She was the first U.S. born citizen in her family. Later her family moved to Mount Morris where she attended Mount Morris High School and briefly attended classes at Rock Valley College. She was a devoted and loving mother who also loved playing the piano, cooking and baking. She loved her family and friends and her canine companion Mee, and treated her friends as if they were family.

Proceed in death by her parent Walter Anselm, Ruth Bergman (Anselm)

Susan is survived by her significant other of 17 years Robert Markle (two sons Jordan and Alex Markle), Son Quincy Steffa (Alexandria Losoya) who is expecting his first child. Sister Beatrix Anselm (Nephews Jonathan (Crystal) Goerlitz, Joseph Goerlitz, Dan Goerlitz, David Goerlitz, Adam Adamowicz. Granddaughter Sienna DeCrane, former spouse James Steffa.

Her departure comes as a great shock and it is gravely felt by her entire family and countless others who loved her deeply. She was stubborn and strong and fought hard until the very end. She will be greatly



missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her, she is forever in our hearts.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday June 29, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL. A burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will be held on Saturday June 29, 2024 in Finch Funeral Home from 11:00 A.M. until service time. Memorials to be established.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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

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

Iowa State honors spring graduates

AMES, Iowa — More than 4,450 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 9-11 at Hilton Coliseum.

Area graduates included Byron's Renee Gehrke (Bachelor of Science, Ag-

ricultural Business); Audra Miles (Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business, Cum Laude) and Kaley Mumma (Master of Science, Agricultural Education) and Davis Junction's Kayla White (Bachelor of Science, Agronomy, Cum Laude).

Of the 4,455 students who graduated in May, a total of 4,591 degrees were awarded (3,884 undergraduate, 552 graduate and 155 professional) with some students earning multiple degrees.

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LOCAL NEWS

OJSHS names second semester honor roll students

OREGON — Oregon Junior Senior High School recently named its honor roll students for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year for grades 7-12.

High honors: Anderson, Evelyn; Barker, Gloria Naomi; Benton, Sirena; Berns, Briley Catharine; Boyle, Kendall Elisabeth; Brewington, Jade Alicia; Buckel, Isabella Kathleen; Burkhart, Haleigh Elizabeth; Campos, Nole Christopher; Cardenas, Leo Alejandro; Carlson, Braylond Glenn; Carreno, Eryn Hector; Carreno, Grace Sabina; Chartier, Jon Luke; Ciesiel, Nicholas Keron; Crosby, Lilyan Nora; Dannhorn, Ella Isabel; Dannhorn, Lorelai Ruth; Davis, Shaylee; Ebert, Alexis Elizabeth; Eckardt, David Andrew; Eckardt, Sarah Ann; Ege, Kimber Maddox; Ege, Landon James; Ehrler, Caleb Melvin; Elsasser, Elizabeth Lorraine; Engelkes, Mya Marie; Flanagan, Emma Jean; Flanagan, Owen Dean; Fletcher, Abigail Grace; Garrison, Obie Ryder; Girton, Noelle Irion; Glendenning, Jackson James; Guida, Aidan Christopher; Hammer, Nora Margaret; Hayes, Lariaha; Holland-Jones, Amelia Marie; Hoversten, Cade Andrew; Johnson, Cooper; Johnson, Jordyn Elizabeth; Jones, Karley Marie; Kalnins, Abigail Terese; Leyton Joaquin; Kerchner, Emily Lorene; Kramer, Asher Jakob; Leary, Alyssa Lynn; Leary, Braden; McLain, Alease Denae; McLain, Aralin Kay; Melges, Olivia Norma Jean; Messenger, Jackson James; Messenger, Jasper Lee; Mooney Sotelo, Maya T; Morrow, Kylie Elizabeth; Mueller, McKenzie A; Namaste-Rose, Merit Hope; Namaste-Rose, Sage Aurora; Noble, Ash; Oltman, Paige Aileen; Peralta, Meibellyn; Person, Layla; Pfoutz, Raegan Christine; Plescia, Anjali Elizabeth; Rogers, Jackson Robert; Rogers, Madeline Mae; Rowe, Ethan Andrew; Sadler, Peytyn A; Schafer,

Coen; Schafer, William Rivers; Schroeder, Lucas; Sowl, Virginia Carleen; Stender, Anna Elizabeth; Stevens, Sarah Jane Rose; Surmo, Mason Alan; Suter, Cole David; Thomas, Olivia Claire; Tomlinson, Alice Katherine; Tran, Alexya Tuyet Nhi; Tran, Lia Yen; Tran, Lux Quoc; Tremble, Grace; Warner, Rozlynn Simone James; Washburn, Jack; Waters, Emily Grace; Welle, Benjamin Edward; Wilkinson, Brianna Nichole; Wubbena, Kenna Jo; Wubbena, Kenzi Lynn; Zavala, Milagros; Zhan, Andy; and Ziegler, Molly Kay.

Honor roll: Acosta-Arizmendi, Irvin Rafael; Albaugh, Paloma Louise; Alderks, Cooper Daniel; Alfano, Eleonora Marie; Anaya, Anya Maria; Arellano, Immanuel Bradley; Baldwin, William J; Barker, Abree Jealyn; Barker, Maelah Nelle; Bastian-Johnson, Breanna; Bastian-Johnson, Jordon Michael; Bauer, Anthony Cletus; Becker, Hailey-Jane O; Berg, Isabelle Marie; Bishop, Skylar Adysson; Bradshaw, Caden Wren; Brown, Mackenzie; Burke, Isabella Marie; Burkhart, Trevor Duane; Cain, Toryn Allen; Carreno, Yovanni Ricardo; Champley, Teagan Raye; Chisamore, Danny Michael; Ciesiel, Miranda Faith; Coblentz, Kaedie Anne; Collins, Charles Dale; Crandall, Joshua David; Davis, Brady Nicholas; Diaz, Kerrie; Dunbar, Cody Robert; Early, Kylar Matthew Glen; Ebert, Isaac Martin; Eckerd, Emmaline Jule; Edlund, Cheyanne Elizabeth; Ege, Kendra Marie; Egyed, Austin Michael; Ellison, Mikaila Ann; Fletcher, Andrew; Folk, Kinsley Sue; Gabucci, Gabrielle Renee; Gabucci, Gregory Richard; George, Alexander James; George, Elijah Allen; Gesin, Olivia May; Gieseke, Jenna; Grennan, Finnegan Colm; Guajardo, Mia; Guardado Cerna, Elmer Steven; Hammer, Arianna; Hansen, Mya Lynn; Harriett, Thalia

Lynn; Henderson, Sky; Heuerman, Hayleigh Marie; Hoffman, Dezyrae Lila; Howard, Leland M; Howlett, Shelby; Hoyle, Gabriele N; Jacinto, Michael Carter; Jamieson, Riley Grace; Kendall, Claire Avril; Key, Whitley Marie; Kitzmiller, Avery Rianne; Krug, Kaitlyn Addison; Krug, Kylie Elizabeth; Krup, Cassandra Nicole; Larson, Cole Brigz; Ludwig, Abbie Catherine; Marquardt, Anna Nicole; McArthur, Gavyn James; Miller, Katlyn; Molnar-Schlichtmann, Emma B; Morgan, Cristen Ashley; Morrow, Gavin Charles; Mullen, Evelyn Alice; Mullen, Gertrude Rose; Newberry, Layne Phillip; Nunez-Rocha, Elida; Olsen, Miles Anthony; Oltman, Jaxson Terry; Oltman, Sophia Sue; Ortega, Alexis Nicole; Ortega, Olivia; Patterson, Lauryn E; Peeling, Ethan Martin; Pham, Matthew Van; Pitts, Gracen Lee; Plescia, Quinn Wesley; Plescia, Sonya Marie; Rager, Kayla; Rager, Macklynn Jean; Rains, Isabella Jen; Ramirez-Dzwierzynski, Christine; Robertson, Rylie Kay; Rogers, Madalyn Marie; Rosenbalm, Chayse A; Rufer, Addison Grace; Rufer, Jaqlynn Olivia; Salisbury, Keaton Daniel; Sand, Marin Evelyn; Sarver, Aniyah Nicole; Sarver, Logan Michael; Schefcik, Aubree; Schutz, Airael Alyse; Schutz, Alyn Grace; Schwartz, Haylee Jo Nicole; Shaffer, Kaelin Rae; Shaffer, Madison Paige; Slepski, Leland Edward; Smice, Ethan James Robert; Tinsman, Adeline Elizabeth; Tinsman, Luke Steven; VandeSand, Zayden; Ward, Caleb Michael; Ware, Rylee Renee; Weems, Taylor Marie; Wesselman, Emelia Mae; Williams, Dayton Christopher; Williams, Gabriel Diego; Wilson, Ace M; Withers, Deryk D; Young, Andrew Michael; Zavala, Giselle; Zell, Drake Dylan; and Ziller, Colton Lucas.

Honorable mention: Albaugh, Piper Elisabeth; Alford, Sebastian Wynter; Anderson, Lyndee Lor-

raine; Arterburn, Houston Anthony; Bartimus, Hayden Barbara; Beckman, Lucy Grace; Beldowski, Evalyn Renee; Benesh, Jack Timothy; Benesh, Nelson Joseph; Benton, Levi; Berry, Jayden Surall; Blackburn, Sarah Elizabeth Marie; Brandenburg, Kaylyn; Breeden, Mason Alexander; Brooks, Caleb Jie; Buchanan, Chase Tanner; Buckel, Olivia; Caposey, Jameson Kennedy; Cheever, Jasmylyn; Clark, Wesley Alan; Cover, Kayden Ray; Czochara, Alexi Grace; Davis-McBride, Christina Antoinette; Davis, Valeria; Donegan, Jakobi; Donegan, Jaxson Liam; Dunnavan, Jackson Eugene; Eckstein Carreno, Ava Elizabeth; Eichholtz, Addelyn Paige Hanson; Elder, Landen Anthony; Foss, Kyle Gregory; Gilberto, Marcus Daniel; Gonzalez, Daniel Julio; Gonzalez, Julian Christopher; Gray, Jacqleen Danielle; Green, Kiara Rae; Halverson, Brooke-Lynn Jule; Hammer, Aiden; Heinzmann,

Logan Bryce; Hernandez, Cruz Roman; Hernandez, Ivan; Herold, Raymond Alex; Hoffman, Madeleine; Jakubec, Madilyn M; Judkins, Devon Michael; Kahly, Aaliyah Marie; Karper, Chase Alexander; Keene, Robert Joshua; Keilin, Rylee Bryn; Kendall, Collin Scott; Koertner, Daleanah Leslie; Kramer, Isaac Norman; Law, Emaleigh Elaine; Leek, Xander James; Lewis, Avery James; Lotz, Elijah William; Manka, Jaxson Joe; Marlatt, Griffin John; Martin-Pressley, MyKalah Lynn; Martin, Levi William; McArthur, Edward Thomas; McCaslin, Phoenix Amos; McCurdy, Elijah Joseph; Meeker, Kaelyn Marie; Messenger, Elizabeth Sue; Miatke, Cora Mae; Miller, Kodi Wayne; Mooney-Sotelo, Kiana Susanne; Morris, Kyson; Murphy, Alexis Renee; Nally, Elijah James Maximillian; Near, Noah Grayson; Paul, Olivia Ann; Peeling, Elliot Joseph; Peterson, MaKenzie Renee;

Pham, Lexton; Rager, Mari Lillian; Rasmussen, Cora Lynn; Rote, Seth Michael; Rowe, Ellaxandra Grace; Ruch, Cole James; Ruch, Kristian Lee; Sandell, Emalyn Ilene; Schelling, Gabriella Elise; Schroeder, Ethan Conrad; Schwartz, Christian James; Schwarz, Lola Sophia; Sellers, Briggs Payton; Skolli, Hunter Aaron; Smerman, Samantha Rose; Sowl-Dettman, Nathaniel Henry; Speers, Elizabeth; Spielman, Fallon Michael; Stradinger, Broden Thomas; Terlikowski, Dominic Joseph; Terry, Wyatt Lynn; Tinsman, Jack Robert; Toutant, Lee Joseph; Troha, Karlie Brooklyn; Truitt, Addison Pearl; Vos, Gwendolyn Grace; Wade, Olivia; Wallace, Brian Lee; Watts, Brantley; Wendt, Madelyn Nicole; Wilkinson, Brogan Lee Charles; Wissmach, Emily Jean; Withers, Caleb Alan; Wolfe, Hayley Jeanne; Wright, Sebastian; Young, Avery Ella; Ziller, Landon Thomas; and Zulliga, Cortez.

Area students named to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The following individuals from your area have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the Spring 2024 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 22,900 undergraduate and graduate students.

Byron: Grace Abrahams, Nursing Undergraduate. Forrester: Kara Erdmann, Business Undergraduate.

Locals named to UW-Madison spring Dean's List

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Byron: Ashley Dunham, School of Pharmacy, Honor Roll. Oregon: Megan Thompson, School of Human Ecology, Dean's Honor List.

Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.



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HOPE of Ogle County	562-8890 or 732-7796
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Oregon, IL 61061	732-6855
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<u>Family Counseling Services</u>	
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Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
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<u>Veterans' Services</u>	
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
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907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On July 15, 1838, Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered the Divinity School Address at Harvard Divinity School, which was met with a negative outburst by many Unitarian theologians who considered his ideas radical and an attack on their faith.

* On July 16, 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq. His 24-year rule was marked by costly and unsuccessful wars with neighboring countries and brutal atrocities against his own people.

* On July 17, 1918, the ocean liner Carpathia, which had rescued the survivors of the doomed Titanic six years earlier, was sunk by three torpedoes from a German U-boat during World War I. Five people died, but the rest were picked up by the HMS Snowdrop.

* On July 18, 2013, the city of Detroit, Michigan, became the largest municipal entity in the United States to declare bankruptcy, with up to \$20 billion in debt. The decision was made by Kevyn Orr, an emergency manager appointed by then-Governor Rick Snyder, and the filing revealed that the city's largest creditors were its pensioners.

* On July 19, 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies with the presentation of "By Love Possessed," starring Lana Turner, to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

* On July 20, 2011, basketball player Yao Ming, one of China's most popular athletes, announced his retirement from the NBA. Ming, who stood at over 7 feet tall, played with the Houston Rockets and had broken his foot the previous year. He had also missed a number of games in the last six seasons due to foot and ankle injuries.

* On July 21, 1987, Enzo Ferrari unveiled the Ferrari F40 at the factory in Maranello, Italy, to celebrate four decades of Ferrari production, telling assembled journalists that he had "expressed my wish to the engineers -- build a car to be the best in the world. And now the car is here." At the time, the F40 was the fastest road vehicle ever built, with a top speed of 201 mph.

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Americanisms



"If you're offered a seat
on a rocket ship, don't ask
what seat! Just get on."

— Sheryl Sandberg

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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.

Crop insurance and farmers

CROP insurance remains a crucial safeguard for farmers, tracing back to the Great Depression and evolving into a vital tool amidst today's market and weather volatility. Supported by a partnership among the federal government, private insurers and farmers, it offers tailored protection against diverse risks for farmers across the nation. Farmers bear a significant part of the cost themselves, and ongoing innovation in policy offerings allows more and more farmers to shield themselves from unexpected losses, bolstering the resiliency of the food system. Provisions that keep program costs in check and promote good farm practices optimize the return on investment for taxpayers. As the U.S. navigates an increasingly uncertain future, improving crop insurance through passage of a new five-year farm bill is essential for safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers, the stability of rural economies and the reliability of our food system.

Crop insurance is exactly like it sounds: an insurance product designed to help shield farmers against a myriad of potential risks, ranging from adverse growing conditions to market fluctuations. This coverage fills crucial gaps that private insurance products may neglect or find impossible to address alone. Supported by the federal government, these policies provide financial stability for farmers, who can tailor coverage to suit their unique operational needs from a variety of policy options. Products are available for annual crops, perennial tree crops and livestock and may protect against the value of the commodity, the replacement value of a damaged or destroyed commodity, or the operating margin for a commodity.

Crop insurance has its roots as part of the policy response to the Great Depression and was permanently authorized

under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has discretion over policy offerings, coverage and administration. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects net spending each year and estimates the costs of supporting a portion of a farmers' policy premium, compensating private insurers for their administrative and operating expenses and reinsuring losses from policies sold. Projections depend partly on commodity prices. If commodity prices increase in the future, the expected value of insured crops would rise, leading to higher anticipated values for insured liability and premium discounts compared to scenarios with lower commodity prices. For marketing year 2024, the CBO projects a total program cost of \$12.37 billion.

Title XI of the farm bill supports new and continued insurance products farmers may purchase through a public-private partnership. Private-sector companies known as approved insurance providers sell and service crop insurance policies while USDA plays critical roles in financing, regulating and reinsuring the policies. Farmers work with their local crop insurance agent to select the base coverage policy that fits their farm or ranch. Additional products, or endorsements can be added to underlying policies for additional costs.

Crop insurance provides protection for a limited number of events or conditions. These are called "covered perils" or "causes of loss" and include adverse weather conditions; failure of irrigation water supply; fire from natural causes; plant diseases if the farmer applied the correct crop protectorant; and insect and wildlife damage. Certain policies also insure against losses from

market price declines. Crop insurance does not cover damage or loss of production due to the inability to market a crop for any reason other than actual physical damage for an insurable cause of loss.

Farmers have the flexibility to customize their crop insurance to align with their farm management objectives and practices. In many cases farmers can choose to insure based on a farm's average yield, its average crop revenue, the county's average yield or the county's average revenue. Revenue protection is usually more expensive due to the higher level of risk associated with market fluctuations. Using farm-level averages is also more expensive than using county options because of the smaller risk pool.

To begin, farmers must first select the level of coverage they want to purchase. The coverage level refers to the percentage of commodity value that is covered — referred to as the liability — and the corresponding loss that a farmer must incur before an indemnity payment will be made, much like a deductible. A coverage level of 80%, for example, would insure losses greater than 20% of the liability but provide no protection for losses less than 20% of the liability. The lower the coverage level, the more extreme the losses have to be to trigger an indemnity, which lowers the associated risk of a plan. For this reason, farmers pay a higher cost for higher coverage levels.

Farmers participating in crop insurance are required to follow USDA's guidance on good farm practices while planting, growing and harvesting their crops. This reduces risk to the program related to operator-caused crop losses.

USDA's administrative burdens for the program are reduced by providing payments to

AIPs to distribute, rather than the agency directly working with hundreds of thousands of crop insurance policy holders. AIPs receive payments from USDA on behalf of farmers to offset a portion of premium costs. For most acreage policies discount rates (the portion of a crop insurance premium paid for by the government) are set by statute set in the farm bill and may vary based on the coverage level a farmer selects.

In addition to premiums, farmers also pay administrative fees. Crop insurance policies are priced in a way that must be "actuarially fair" and USDA is statutorily required to operate in ways that "improve the actuarial soundness of federal multiperil crop insurance coverage." This means the total value of premiums paid over many years should be about equal to the value of indemnity payments distributed. One way USDA measures success is through a financial performance indicator known as a loss ratio defined as the indemnities paid divided by the premiums collected for policies in a given year. As of March 2024, the loss ratio for 2023 policies is 0.86, meaning that more premiums were paid for policies than indemnities paid for losses incurred.

To encourage the conservation of wetlands and highly erodible lands, the Federal Crop Insurance Program requires participants to meet conservation compliance requirements. To comply, farmers must agree to maintain a minimum level of conservation on highly erodible lands and not convert wetlands to crop production. The 2014 farm bill included a provision that could eliminate crop insurance support for producers who are out of compliance with conservation requirements.

"Friends are like money; easier made than kept." -Samuel Butler

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



Ron Kern

Six reasons why you should get help for your mental health

MANY people underestimate the impact that mental illness can have on an individual or family. It can be difficult to admit that you have a mental health problem in your life. Secondly, it can be just as difficult in getting the people you know to understand your situation without making any kinds of judgments.

As a result, here are six reasons why you should make your mental health an important priority in your life.

Your situation will improve if you get help: Your anxieties and fears can be challenging to manage and more than likely you will need some help. Just as you talk to your doctor about your regular health, you should not be hesitant in seeking help for your mental health. If left untreated, your anxieties and fears may not go away. Drugs and alcohol are

not the answer: Drugs and alcohol can make your problems more complicated. Many people have said that drugs and alcohol will only add more problems to your situation. Be smart and learn how to cope with your mental health issues by talking to a qualified professional. There are many health professionals in your area that can give you some ideas on where you can go for assistance.

You will save time and money: Eventually, you will have to confront your fears and mental health issues. Save yourself the time and heartache and confront your problems now rather than later. You will save months of struggling by getting help right away. The sooner you get assistance the faster you will start getting some relief.

You are not alone: Everyone deals with fear, stress, and anxiety in one's life whether your friends and others care to admit it. In addition, do not be embarrassed that you are getting help. We all learn new things from others on a daily basis and learning how to manage your anxieties is no different. In addition, your goal is to get your life back on track and not to get everyone's approval. If people start asking you questions, just say you're dealing with stress. Most people can relate to dealing with stress and anxiety!

Do not make the mistake of doing nothing: There are many people who struggled with anxiety and other mental health related issues, and they tried to ignore their problems. As a result, some of these people struggled on a daily

basis and eventually things became more difficult. It can be scary asking for assistance, but the key is to take things one day at a time.

You have a variety of options: There are many mental health support groups, organizations, and counselors in your area that can help get your life back on track. Talk to your doctor to get more details on where you can go for some assistance. Help is available but you must be willing to make the choice of getting better. Remember that every problem has a solution. You just have to make the effort to find the answers.

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

Nash Recreation Center pool will be closed July 29 to Sept. 9 for scheduled improvements

OREGON — The Nash Recreation Center pool will be closed July 29-Sept. 9 for scheduled improvements.

On May 14, the Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Sjostrom & Sons for pool construction improvements in the amount of \$548,137. Improvements will include installation of the pre-purchased dehumidification unit, renovation of the locker room due to the new unit, replacement of the epoxy flooring, structural concrete repairs, diving board replacement, and roofing and structural supports for the new unit.

Once improvements are completed, the most notable improvement for patrons will be the replacement of the diving board. Due to the age of the diving board, the district began investigating replacement several years ago. While researching, staff discovered the diving well does not meet the 11'2" minimum standard set forth

by World Aquatics. The current diving board meets the Illinois Department of Public Health standards, but diving board manufacturers will be unable to sell the district a new board as they are held to standards set forth by World Aquatics. As a result, the district chose to pursue an aqua climbing wall. The wall itself will be three panels high and will allow for one participant to climb at a time. During construction, the wall will be moved to the east side of the deep end and will allow for lap swim lanes to be utilized more frequently during multi-use swim times.

Each of these items is included on the district's five-year rolling capital improvement plan.

Erin Folk, executive director, said, "The improvements included in the upcoming construction project represent a significant investment in infrastructure that enhances the value and lifespan of the pool as a community asset. Our facility staff



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On May 14, the Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Sjostrom & Sons for pool construction improvements in the amount of \$548,137. The Nash Recreation Center pool will be closed July 29-Sept. 9 for scheduled improvements.

has worked alongside the project engineers to carefully plan for these improvements and ensure

we meet all regulatory compliance standards. We are looking forward to the improvements being

completed and providing a fun and functional aquatic space for all users." Facility users will be

notified of the closure and provided with membership options during closure.

Stillman Bank's Mecklenburg passes away in hiking accident in Colorado

STILLMAN VALLEY — Stillman Bank recently announced the unexpected passing of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer David Mecklenburg in a Facebook post June 18.

Mecklenburg, of Rockford, was 56 years old. He passed away due to a hiking accident in Clear Creek County, Colorado on June 14. At 2:20 p.m. that day, the Alpine Rescue Team in the area was notified of a stranded party on a cliff-band above St. Mary's Glacier, and 25 members began a non-emergent response. While in route it was determined the party was not stranded and had instead fallen, and that they were unresponsive, an Alpine Rescue Team Facebook post said.

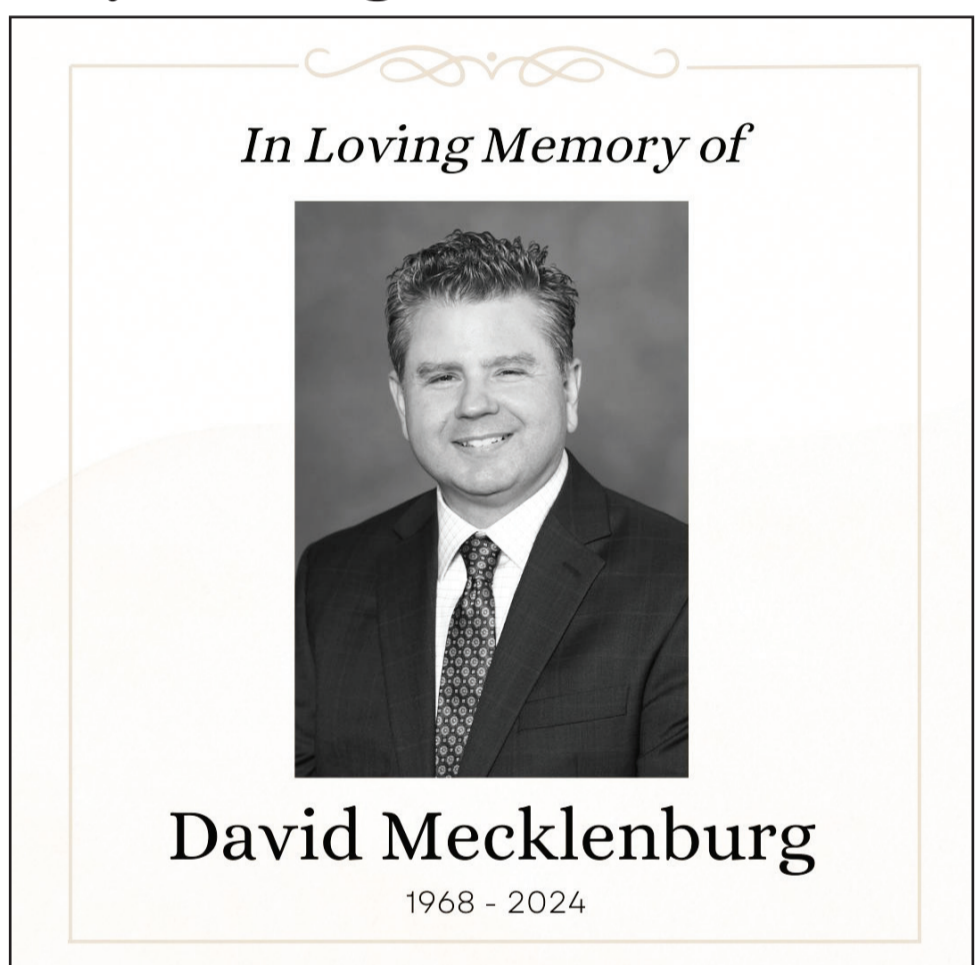
With that additional information the response was upgraded to emergent and Flight For Life

Colorado was requested to respond," the Alpine Rescue Team Facebook post said. "Teams climbed to the subject and determined they were deceased. The team completed a technical evac of the subject down the slope and brought them out of the field. Our sincerest condolences to our subject and their family."

Mecklenburg started at the bank in April 1994 and recently celebrated 30 years of service. He most recently worked out of the bank's Stillman Valley location. He has also held the roles of marketing coordinator, marketing director, loan review officer, and chief credit officer during his time at the bank.

"David has been a valued member of the team for the past 30 years and will be deeply missed," a Stillman Bank Facebook post said. "He

exhibited all of our core values on a daily basis and played a big part in the bank's success over the years. David had a tremendous work ethic and a desire to always keep learning new things. Those traits served him well as evidenced by all the different leadership positions he held over the years and is a large reason he enjoyed much success. Despite his accomplishments, he was always most proud of the relationships he established over time with co-workers and customers. He got great satisfaction in watching them grow and accomplish their goals and dreams. In all respects, he was the consummate bank professional but was an even better friend, husband, father, and person. We will miss him greatly but his impact on our organization will be felt for years to come."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Stillman Bank recently announced the unexpected passing of David Mecklenburg in a Facebook post June 18.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Oregon Lions members earn length-of-service awards

Oregon Lions President Lori Peterson offered her congratulations to several Oregon Lions members for their years of service to Lions International at their general meeting on June 13. Those Oregon Lions included were: Bob Massey, 48 years; Duane Moser, 30 years; Dr. Tom Champley, 15 years; and Joann Farrey, 10 years. Absent from the photo were Dr. Carri Anderson, 10 years; and Joe Kryszak, 30 years.

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON—On June 18 at approximately 10:54 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Mud Creek Road for a registration violation. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested Ryan Klotz, 39, of Rockford, for driving while license revoked. Ryan was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given.

On June 19 at 1:52 p.m. deputies stopped a vehicle near the intersection of Mowers Road and Illinois Route 251 for suspended registration. The driver, Jennifer Rose, 40, of Fulton was cited for suspended registration and no vehicle liability insurance. Rose was taken in custody on an out-of-state warrant (Iowa) for third-degree theft in Iowa. Rose was transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On June 19 at 11:21 a.m. deputies stopped a vehicle in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 251 for suspended registration. The driver, Bernis Louis, 45, of Rockford was cited for suspended registration, no vehicle liability insurance, and an expired driver's license. Louis was released at the scene on a notice to appear.

On June 20 at 5:24 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Black Walnut Road and German Church Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested, Misti List,

42, of Leaf River, for an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. List was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held pending an appearance before a judge.

On June 20 at approximately 9 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an initial investigation, deputies placed Kristine Cudak, 38, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended and possession of a controlled substance. Deputies additionally cited Cudak for speeding. Cudak was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear in court on a later date. A passenger of the vehicle, identified as Shanice D. Noblin, 31, of Rockford, was additionally taken into custody for an outstanding Winnebago County failure to appear warrant. Noblin was held at the Ogle County Jail.

On June 18 at about 6 a.m. the Ogle County Special Operations Unit, with the assistance of the Northwest Illinois Critical Incident Response Team, Stillman Fire, Rochelle Fire, REACT, and MD1 executed a search warrant at 439 S. White Rock Road in Chana. Upon completion of the search, the Ogle County Special Operations Unit seized 111 grams of a substance containing cocaine, three firearms, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition of various calibers. The

owner of this residence, Scott I. Nelson, was subsequently arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver 100-400 grams, a class-X felony; and three counts of possession of a firearm without a FOID, a class-A misdemeanor. Nelson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, appeared in court on June 20, and was released.

On June 22 at approximately 6:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Freeport Road near the intersection of US Route 52. After an investigation, Jamall E. Fisher, 53, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for driving while license was revoked, as well as an outstanding warrant for failure to appear out of Stephenson County for a traffic violation. Fisher was additionally cited for speeding and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Fisher was transported to the Ogle County Jail. Fisher was provided a notice to appear for driving while license revoked. Fisher was held in lieu of bond for the Stephenson County warrant.

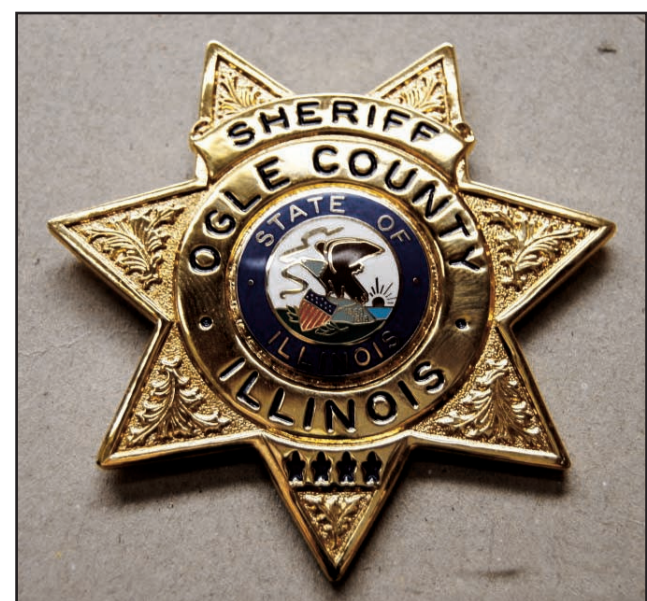
On June 23 at approximately 11:43 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to 6096 N. Limestone Road in reference to a disturbance where a 19-year-old male sustained a gunshot to the leg. The male was later transported to Swedish American Hospital by Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS for non-life-threatening injuries. Upon arrival,

deputies conducted an initial investigation and placed Trevor Komadina, 44, of Monroe Center, under arrest for aggravated discharge of a firearm and aggravated battery with a firearm. Komadina was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. The incident remains under investigation. Illinois State Police and Byron Police assisted with the incident.

On June 23 at approximately 5:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of East Flagg Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Maria D. Ojeda, 54, of Rochelle, for no valid driver's license. Ojeda was taken into custody without incident and released on a notice to appear with a return court date set for mid-July.

On June 23 at approximately 6:16 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of South Lowell Park Road. After investigation, deputies issued Justeen Ketchum, 30, of Mt. Morris, a citation for driving while license suspended and she was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On June 23 at 11:35 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East 2nd Street in Leaf River. After an investigation, Deputies cited Codi Despain, 19, of Leaf River, for no valid license, no insurance, and failure to obey a stop



sign. Despain was given a notice to appear for his citations and given a future court date.

On June 23 at approximately 9:55 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Bethel Road. After investigation, deputies placed Juan Arriaga under arrest for no valid driver's license. Arriaga was additionally issued citations for unlawful container of cannabis as a driver, operation of an uninsured vehicle, and operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration. Arriaga was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On June 24 at approximately 11:32 a.m. deputies responded to the 5,200 block of South Watertown Road for a single-vehicle accident involving two juveniles with possible injuries. After a brief investiga-

tion, deputies discovered that a 16-year-old juvenile was operating a silver Chevrolet Impala when the juvenile failed to negotiate the curve. The juvenile entered the east ditch and struck a tree. Oregon EMS assisted deputies on scene. Both juveniles evaluated on scene by Oregon EMS for minor injuries.

On June 25 deputies conducted a traffic stop in the on a grey Ford Edge in the 12,000 block of North Baileyville Road. The driver of the vehicle, Fredy N. Herrera Jr., 31, of Dixon was cited for speeding and operating a motor vehicle without insurance. Herrera was issued a warning for expired driver's license. He was taken into custody for an outstanding Lee County warrant. Herrera was transported to the Ogle County Jail on that warrant.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 4: On July 4, the Mt. Morris Firefighter's Association will be hosting its 44th annual firefighter's pancake breakfast from 7-11 a.m. at 15 E. Center St. in Mt. Morris. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, applesauce, muffins, coffee, milk and orange juice. Good will donations are being accepted at the door! We'd love to see you the morning of the fourth so bring your appetite, because it's all you can eat!

July 6: Come and join us at Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Market on Saturday, July 6 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 craftlab23@gmail.com or at the Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Facebook page.

July 11-13: It's almost time once again for the United Church of Byron's annual Trash & Treasure Sale! The hours for the sale on Thursday & Friday,

July 11 & 12 are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Thursday & Friday, anything you can fit into a paper bag (bags provided) is \$5. The Reber Memorial Car show takes place on the church grounds on Saturday, July 13. On that day, the hours will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and anything you can fit into a paper bag is \$2 per bag and other larger items will be half price. Also on that Saturday, UCB Fellowship will be having a bake sale beginning at 8 a.m. and will also be sponsoring a luncheon that begins at 11 a.m. offering hot dogs,

brats, hamburgers/cheeseburgers and sloppy joe sandwiches. The Mission Committee of the church will also be selling pop & water that day. Also on Saturday, July 13 from 4-5 p.m. (after the Byronfest parade) all items that are left over from the sale are free to anyone that would like them. Come and sort through the treasures that are left and take them home for free. At that time, you can even bring your own bag. The church is handicapped accessible and is located at 701 W. Second St. in Byron, with the sale taking place in the

Fern Calvert Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information, please call the church office at 815-234-8777. Please visit our website at www.unitedchurchofbyron.org or our Facebook page.

July 13: The 33rd Annual Hib Reber Memorial Car Show that will be held in Byron on July 13 at the United Church of Byron at the corner of Colfax and 2nd street. Registration is from 8-11:30 a.m. and voting runs from noon to 1 p.m. Awards are at 2 p.m. The entry cost is \$10 through July 3 and \$15 after July 3. All makes of

cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome and proceeds benefit Serenity Hospice & Home. There will be 50 top awards by participant voting and dash plaques for the first 200 entries. There will be a 50/50 drawing, numerous door prizes and a silent action.

Vendor and craft booth spots will be available. If interested in sponsoring this year's show please contact Darrell Reber (815) 997-2390, Dan Reed (815) 677-1634 or email Hibrebercarshow@yahoo.com for any additional information.

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LOCAL NEWS

Highland Community College 2024 spring graduates named

FREEPORT—Highland Community College announces the 2024 spring graduates. Graduates were awarded associate degrees, associate of applied science degrees, or certificates.

Baileyville: Belinda Diddens, Associate of General Studies; Mya Greenfield, Associate of Arts; Breanna Kloster, Associate of Arts.

Esmond: Sara Johnson, Associate of Science. **Forreston:** Samantha Cederholm, Associate of Science; Carter Daws,

Agricultural Production Certificate, Associate of Applied Science Agribusiness Management; Elizabeth Gable, Associate of Arts; Dylan Greenfield, Agricultural Production Certificate, Associate of Applied Science Agribusiness Management, Associate of Arts.

German Valley: Madalyn Metzger, Associate of Arts.

Leaf River: Samuel Cesarek, Associate of Arts; Kaitlyn Harson, Associate of Arts; Holly

Plock, Cosmetology Certificate.

Mt. Morris: Sandra Haacker, Associate of Applied Science Graphic Design, Graphic Design Certificate.

Oregon: Wesley Immel, Associate of Science; Emily McConaghie, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Korissa Viens, Associate of Arts.

Polo: Brittanie Bruder, Associate of Applied Science Nursing.

Stillman Valley: Blake-lynn Swanson, Associate of Science.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rick Lindy and the Wild Ones return to town after their rousing debut performance at the Mt. Morris Jamboree on June 14 to play a free concert for the Let Freedom Ring Festival on July 4 from 6-8 p.m. at the former DLR School, located at 105 W. Brayton Road.

Rick Lindy and the Wild Ones to play Mt. Morris July 4

MT. MORRIS — Rick Lindy and the Wild Ones return to town after their rousing debut performance at the Mt. Morris Jamboree on June 14 to play a free concert for the Let Freedom Ring Festival on July 4 from 6-8 p.m. at the former DLR School, located at

105 W. Brayton Road. They've been performing Rock and Roll hits of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s as well as surf, rockabilly and original songs for over 20 years and after their impressive show here in June, many of the 950 people who saw him that night are sure to

want to return to see this dynamic band again.

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 root beer floats. Bill's Famous Lemonade will be there too.

BYRON POLICE REPORT

BYRON — On June 4, Trevor M. Fox, 28, of Davis Junction was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On June 5, Jacob T. Cook, 21, of Bakersfield, California was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On June 6, Christina L. Draheim, 50, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On June 7, Pamela D. Guzman, 40, of Byron was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol, operating a vehicle with expired registration, operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance, and illegal transportation of alcohol by driver.

On June 8, Bruce A. Gehrke, 18, of Byron was issued citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration and speeding-over statutory limit.

On June 8, a 17-year-old minor of Oregon was issued a citation for failure to make a complete stop at a stop sign.

On June 9, Patrick V. McNinch, 67, of Stillman Valley was arrested for criminal damage to property. McNinch was transported to Ogle County Jail and later released on a notice to appear.

On June 12, Michelle M. Civitarese, 44, of Rockford was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On June 12, Kevin R. Woerner, 39, of Byron was issued a citation for speeding.

On June 13, Matthew S. Wright, 44, of Winnebago was issued a citation for use of electronic communication device.

On June 13, Michael S. Kaemke, 53, of Byron was arrested for disorderly conduct and attempted unlawful restraint. Kaemke was transported to Ogle County Jail and later

released with a notice to appear.

On June 15, Jacob K. Rippentrop, 39, of Byron was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

On June 16, Kyle J. Klotz, 33, of Byron was issued an ordinance violation for vicious or dangerous dog.

On June 18, Shannon D. Day, 30, of Dixon was issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On June 18, Logan S. Watson, 20, of Winnebago was issued a citation for speeding.

On June 20, Kristina C. Krisch, 31, of Byron was issued citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration, failure to notify Secretary of State of address change, and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance.

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

POLO POLICE REPORT

POLO — On June 14 at 11:45 p.m. Joe Iacison Wilder, 30, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Wilder was transported to the

Ogle County Jail.

On June 19 at 6:23 p.m. Alivia N. Withers, 27, Polo, was cited for unlawful use of a cell phone while driving and no

valid proof of insurance. Withers was released on a citation.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Wisconsin man arrested on weapons charges

OREGON — On June 24 at approximately 3:02 p.m. officers from the Oregon Police Department arrested Dayvon Long, 21, of East Troy, Wisconsin, after a traffic stop was conducted, for no valid driver's license, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a stolen firearm, a June 25 OPD press release said. The stop occurred in

the 200 block of South 4th Street in front of the Shell Gas Station. Officers were originally called to a driving complaint of a vehicle speeding, passing cars illegally and driving in a reckless manner on South Illinois Route 2 entering in to the Oregon city limits. After a short investigation the firearm was seized and Long was taken into custody without

incident. Long was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was housed pending a court date.

The suspect faces charges for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with no valid license, possession of a stolen firearm and unlawful use or possession of a weapon.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the highly-anticipated return of Chicago's oldies rock and roll band, The StingRays, to our band shell for a free two-hour concert on July 5 from 7-9 p.m.

The StingRays to play Mt. Morris July 5

MT. MORRIS — The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the highly-anticipated return of Chicago's oldies rock and roll band, The StingRays, to our band shell for a free two-hour concert on July 5 from 7-9 p.m. Everyone fortunate enough to have seen this exciting and engaging act will fondly remember the dynamic stage presence of this wonderful band and will attest to the "do not miss" grade level of their show.

The StingRays play the greatest music ever written and they play it with the energy, passion and authenticity of the artists whose music they love. Their music, great rapport with audiences, their look and the famous *StingRay* moves have made them repeated favorites at festivals, concert series, and parties throughout

the Midwest. The *StingRays* love interacting with audiences through trivia, dance contests and joining people in the audience. The *StingRays* always get the crowd singing and dancing to songs from the 50s through the 70s.

Concessions for the evening will be provided the Ogle County Beef Producers, serving ribeye steak sandwiches, third-pound hamburgers/cheeseburgers, quarter-pound all-beef hotdogs, and water. The LFR Committee will be serving root beer floats too. Grandpa's Ice Cream and Bill's Famous Lemonade will be there as well. 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, from 5-8 p.m.

The LFR Car Show will be happening that night from 4-8 p.m. on Wesley Avenue, in front of the bandshell during the concert. It's also Alumni Night on the Campus that evening and all Mounders are encouraged to attend!

On either side of the band shell the Sandstone Encore Art Gallery will feature a new show 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 and Roll concert.

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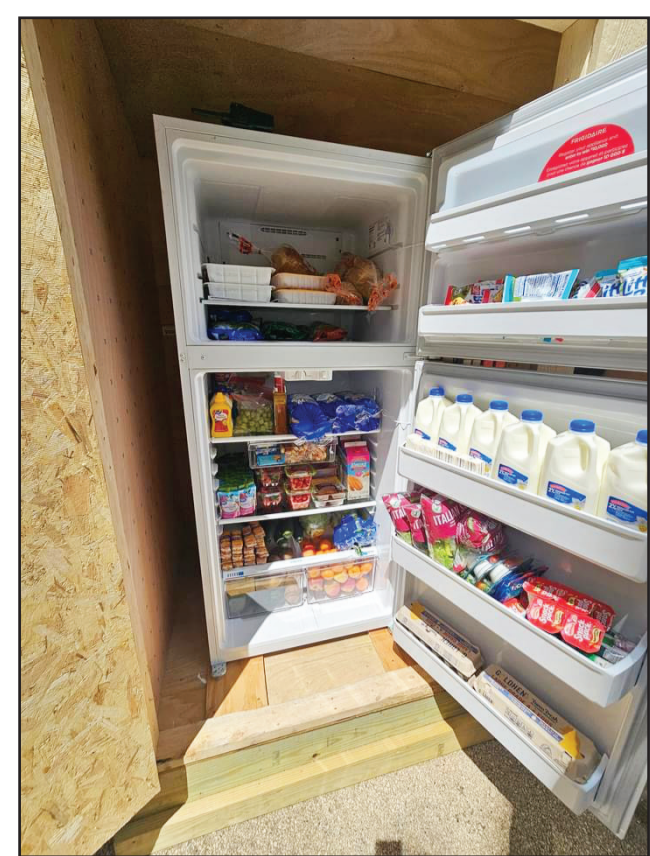
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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The mini food centers are located at Nash Recreation Center at 304 S. 5th St. in Oregon (Ogle County), Teen Turf at 235 W. Main St. in Amboy (Lee County), YWCA of Sauk Valley at 412 1st Ave. in Sterling (Whiteside County), and Davis Community Center at 631 S. East St. in Mt. Carroll (Carroll County).

OCHD: Mini food centers located in Oregon and surrounding communities

From page 1

The mini food centers are located at Nash Recreation Center at 304 S. 5th St. in Oregon (Ogle County), Teen Turf at 235 W. Main St. in Amboy (Lee County), YWCA of Sauk Valley at 412 1st Ave. in Sterling (Whiteside County), and Davis Community Center at 631 S. East St. in Mt. Carroll (Carroll County).

Lewis said in the fall, more mini food centers will be put into place. In October, the mini food centers will be taken over by hosting centers that will incorporate sponsorships from different businesses and companies within their area to help fund them. They will be responsible for finding sponsors to help maintain

the food going into them, the cleaning, and the electrical costs.

"The next three years of the grant will consist of education, more mini food centers, poverty simulations with leadership, and community gardens," Lewis said. "We know that people are struggling with high prices in grocery stores. People can't afford to pay \$4.50 for a gallon of milk. To be able to bridge that gap for some of our community is incredibly needed. And it opens other peoples' eyes to the fact that people are struggling."

Lewis said the community has been "instrumental" in the implementation of the mini food centers, namely the OJSHS students. "We had a meeting

with them and gave them a basic design idea and they came up with the completed design," Lewis said. "We had the kids from OJSHS on site building one of the units and we saw that enthusiasm to help people in their community."

The planning phase for the grant implementation took OCHD a year, where it looked at demographics, income levels, and distances to grocery stores and food pantries.

"Food insecurity doesn't mean someone is going hungry," Lewis said. "It means that they don't have the accessibility or availability to get nutritious food. They may not have a grocery store in their town or they may have transportation issues. We want people

to understand that and to understand that there is stigma in asking for and receiving help."

The mini food centers are not staffed, which allows those in need to get food without fear of feeling looked down upon. Participants are not asked for information. They simply are only asked to mark if they are adding or removing food.

The OCHD wants area residents to be able to have the opportunity to take care of themselves and their families and to feel comfortable going to mini food centers and food banks and pantries without feeling that people are looking down on them.

Area food pantries have seen high demand recently. Lewis said the

need at the Sauk Valley Food Bank, the need has more than doubled since last year, previously seeing 300-350 families a day to now seeing 650-700.

"That's alarming to me," Lewis said. "Kids aren't getting the nutrition they need. It's proven that kids not eating nutritious food can act out. They're hungry and that can often be misdiagnosed as learning disabilities. We want to see everyone have equal nutrition. We believe food insecurity will be the next big health issue to battle. We had COVID-19. This is going to be our next health disparity. We are putting a lot of resources towards it. It's all I work on each day, as I'm fully funded by the grant."

Lewis said the solution to unprecedented need

numbers could be outside-of-the-box solutions like mini food centers. Commercials have been launched to tell the area where they're located. The OCHD has piloted a community garden and that produce will be available to those in need.

"That's where we come in with education and nutrition programs and the poverty simulations," Lewis said. "This wouldn't be possible without the grant. It's a lot of money and the CDC has given us the opportunity. We're the only small, local health department to get this grant. This is a very big project for a health department of our size. We're very passionate about it. We're covering a lot of ground to help people."

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Ogle Jolly 4-H Club holds June meeting

The Ogle Jolly 4-H Club met on Monday, June 17 for its regularly-scheduled meeting at the Davis Junction Park. Before the meeting members enjoyed ice cream sundaes to celebrate June being dairy month. During the meeting two senior members, Braden Rogers and Grace Costello, were awarded scholarships from the club. After the meeting members participated in a game of kickball at the park. The next meeting will be on July 15 at the Ogle County Fairgrounds. Members will help clean up the fairgrounds for the upcoming Ogle County Fair. After cleanup there will be a club potluck dinner.

Rep. Fritts Announces July summer tour events

DIXON — State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) has officially announced his 2024 Summer Tour scheduled events for July.

The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee & conversation events from June 5 to Aug. 30. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants.

The events scheduled for July include the following:
Traveling Office Hours
 July 25 at the Creston-Dement Library, located at 107 S. Main St. in Creston, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

July 25 at the Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 501 6th Ave., from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Coffee & Conversation
 July 10 at the Garden View Family Restaurant, located at 118 W. Mason St. in Polo, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. This event is being held in partnership with House Republican Leader Tony McCombie.

July 17 at the Sunrise Family Restaurant, located at 1181 N. 7th St. in Rochelle, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit Rep-Fritts.com/SummerTour.

First Fridays Open Mic set for July 5

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

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

The VFW is located at 1310 W. Washington Street in Oregon. It provides ample parking, along with the availability of a restaurant and bar within the building.

A fish fry runs from 4-8 p.m.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Michael Mott is a regular at First Fridays, performing traditional folk and old-time country tunes. He is accompanied in this photo by Lowell Harp on guitar and Fred Grant on fiddle.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

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44th Annual Pancake Breakfast

July 4, 2024

At the Mt. Morris Firehouse
Serving from 7am-11am

All you can EAT:
Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Applesauce
Muffins, Coffee, Milk & Orange Juice



Donations Being Accepted!

LOCAL NEWS

HILL STREET: Neighborhood development seeking to break ground next year

From page 1

Stauter said the duplexes will be uniform with those in the subdivision next door and that the development won't stand out from other areas of Mt. Morris. Hill Street will be extended for the development.

"Building an actual integrated neighborhood is the important thing with this," Stauter said. "We want it to be a regular neighborhood where people know their neighbors. We want people without disabilities living there to be working and be good examples and role models for people with disabilities. We want it to be a cooperative community and we want them to see others getting up and going to work and taking care of their house. The houses

will be nice and each will be different. We want it to fit in with the town. A lot of people with disabilities aspire to the average, normal life that people expect. Controlling their space and having a job and friends and neighbors. We want it to be an average small-town neighborhood and just another street in town."

The four-acre park and path are designed to draw people to the neighborhood, so it isn't isolated. Stauter said the Village of Mt. Morris and its residents have been supportive of the project.

Brooks said work on the project started a few years ago and Mt. Morris was chosen as its location because the community was receptive to it and the village is small and walkable with the right

amenities. The 20 acres of land will be purchased from a farmer that owns the land.

"Walkability is important for the grant we went for with the Illinois Housing Development Authority," Stauter said. "It's within a few blocks of pharmacies, banks, restaurants, a grocery store and gas stations. That combination of having affordable property in a walkable community and support from the village made it a nice fit."

The Village of Progress has been serving adults with developmental disabilities in Ogle County since 1969. Kreider Services provides direct care programs to persons with developmental disabilities.

The first phase of the project includes six acres

for the development and four acres for the park, which will be the only park in the northeast quadrant of Mt. Morris. The remainder of the property will be held in reserve for possible future phases, which may be more market-based housing or privately-owned residences.

Brooks and Stauter hope to close on the property and have the documents signed for the project by the end of 2024. The hope for groundbreaking is spring of 2025 with completion by spring of 2026.

While Kreider Services has long worked in the residential services arena, Stauter called the Hill Street Neighborhood project "the most complicated" he's done in his entire career. There's not another project like it in the state and Stauter and Brooks don't know of one like it in the United States.

"I spent 20 years as a lawyer, I've been a pastor for 10 years and I've done this for 10 years," Brooks said. "Of everything I've done, this will be the most rewarding to encourage people with and without disabilities to live in a community together. The Village Bakery was only a \$500,000 project with one building. This is something that affects people 24/7, 365 days a year. It's a dream come true for me."

Stauter said there's a large need for housing for people with disabilities. People have already called to inquire about availabil-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Plans include 24 units in 12 duplexes and a four-acre public park with walkways to access the park for all units.

ity and construction hasn't even begun. In his work with the Village Bakery in Oregon and in other VOP work, Brooks has seen the impact that every-day experiences can have on those with disabilities.

"Taking someone out of an institutional setting and giving them experiences outside of it, it can make a big impact on them," Brooks said. "We want people in the community experiencing things. I used to get the mail every morning, until

we started having one of the VOP's attendees go to do it each day with a supervisor. Our people loved it. Things like that expand their universe. Living in the Hill Street Neighborhood, they'd be doing things shopping and cooking with an assistant. The ability to give people a choice in their lives will help make our residents become normal members of society. That's what our goal is, to help give them the tools to live as normal a life as they can."

(COURTESY PHOTO)



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Polo Lions offer grocery delivery amid heat

On Wednesday, June 19, Polo Lions Club member Ron Chamberlain is shown loading his car with one grocery delivery. With the temperatures getting hotter, if you know someone that may have a hard time with the heat and humidity, have them call the Polo Fresh Food Market before 7 p.m. on Tuesday. If you forget you can call Wednesday morning and order \$25 worth of groceries to be delivered. This service is provided by the Polo Lions Club free of charge.

NEED SOME FRESH BEAUTY? Standard 12" basket WAS \$32.95 NOW only \$16.48!

20% OFF all in-stock poly outdoor furniture!



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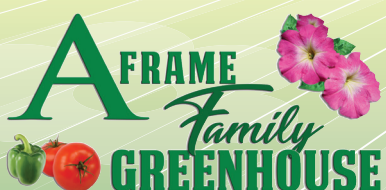


25% OFF perennials, planters & Shepard Hooks!

End of season SALE! ALL WEEK! First come, first serve!

July 2 thru July 6

Last day of our Spring season will be Saturday, July 6.



Tuesday - Saturday 8AM to 5PM
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Opening Fall Sales on August 13!
Mums - Jams - Pumpkins & More!





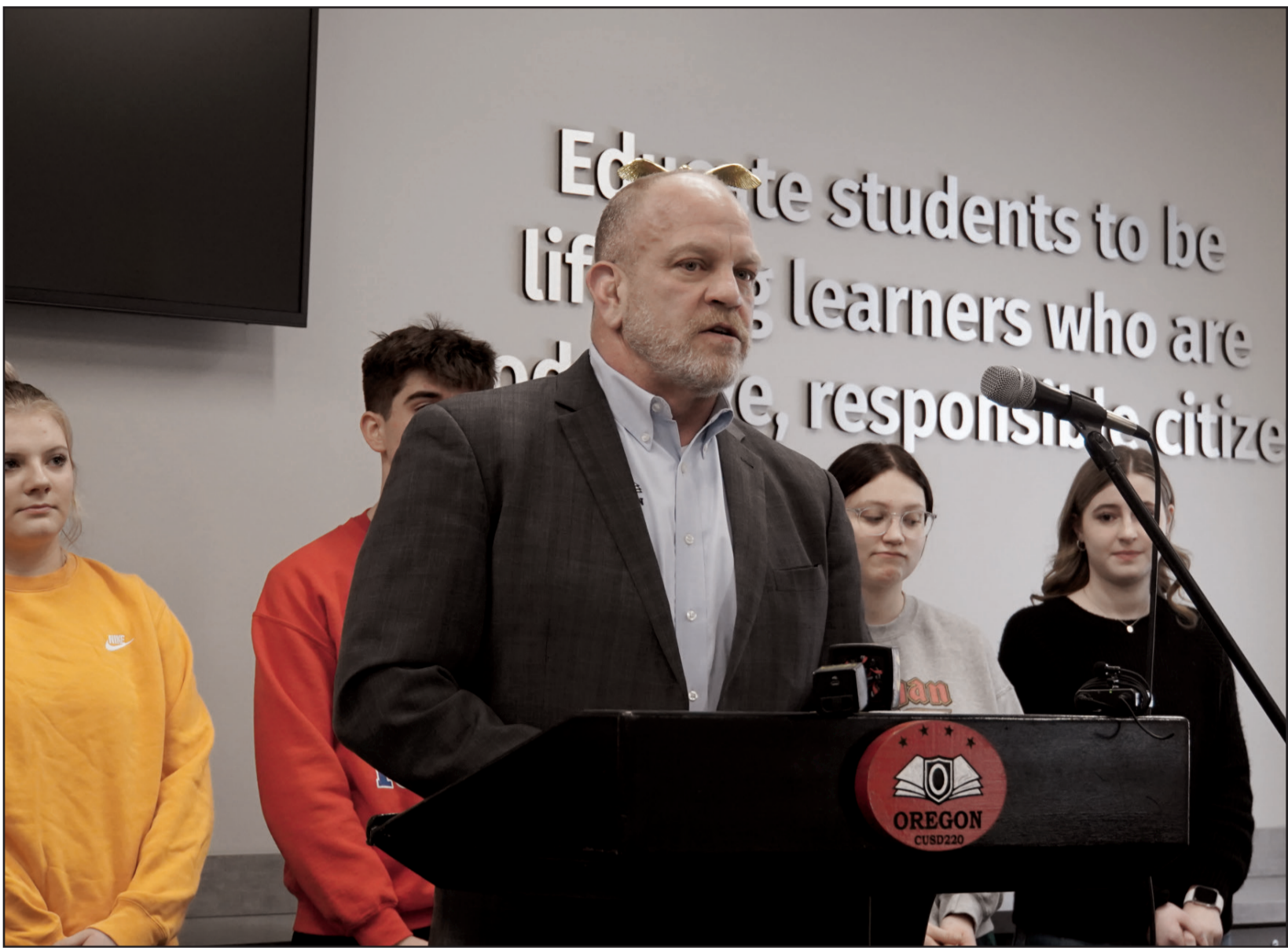
COMING SOON!
BEST OF OGLE COUNTY 2024

Superintendent Mahoney retires after 17 years of service at Oregon CUSD 220

OREGON — June 17 marked a significant moment for Oregon Community Unit School District 220 (CUSD 220) as Dr. Tom Mahoney presided over his final Board of Education (BOE) meeting as the superintendent of schools. After a dedicated 17-year tenure with the district, including 14 years as superintendent, Mahoney is stepping down to enjoy his retirement.

“Dr. Mahoney’s impact on Oregon CUSD 220 has been profound, shaping the district with his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to educational excellence,” an OCUSD press release said. His tenure is distinguished by numerous accomplishments, including the implementation of innovative educational programs, enhanced student support services, and strengthened community partnerships.”

Dr. PJ Caposey, former Oregon High School principal and current Meridian School District superintendent, has been appointed by the school board to replace Mahoney, formally taking over July 1.



After a dedicated 17-year tenure with the district, including 14 years as superintendent, Dr. Tom Mahoney is stepping down to enjoy his retirement. (PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY

NEW LISTINGS!

 <p>1221 Currency Court, Rochelle \$225,000 Call Taylor or JD</p> <p>Seize the opportunity to lease-to-own this all-brick office building, boasting excellent visibility to traffic. Spanning 1,500 sq ft, this property features four generously sized office rooms, a conference room, and a welcoming reception area. Additionally, enjoy 500 sq ft of usable common space, including a shared kitchen area/break room and two bathrooms. This versatile building is ideal for a variety of professional uses, including office space, medical practices, physical therapy, chiropractic services, hair styling, and more. The owner is committed to ensuring the space is suitable for the tenant and is willing to tailor the property to meet your specific needs. Move your business in and start thriving in this highly visible location. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!</p>	 <p>1085 W. Mudcreek Road, Oregon \$988,000 Call Jenny Kirchner</p> <p>Looking for your own piece of heaven on Earth? This is it! Gorgeous 80 acre country property located outside of Oregon includes an 1800+ sq ft home, pond, creek, tillable ground, beautiful wooded acreage full of wildlife for recreation or hunting. The 1 1/2 story home is a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with desirable 3+ car heated garage. House has an open feel featuring a kitchen loaded with gorgeous cabinets, stainless steel appliances and granite counters. Main floor laundry conveniently located near the master bedroom that has ample closet space. Master bath has tiled floors and shower. Dining room is spacious and there is a convenient desk area for an office. Sunroom has exceptional views of the property and is a great space for entertaining along with the large deck. Koehler generator and additional storage building. There are 5 parcels altogether with home situated on 3.93 acres. Home is in an estate and is sold AS-IS. Words alone cannot describe this property's uniqueness; this is a must see. Ask your Realtor for the additional information on the property.</p>	 <p>4390 W Ill Route 64, Mt. Morris \$369,000 Call Lori</p> <p>This is your new oasis! Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a newer custom kitchen. First floor bathroom remodeled in the past week! It sits on a lot of 3.34 acres. 2 car garage with new heater. 36 x 54 building with a concrete floor. Current owner built a 16 x 24 heated and insulated workshop within the building. The 30' above ground pool is only 3 years old. Back yard is newly fenced with 2-16' gates for easy access. Concrete pad for your travel trailer. There is a new water softener and new dishwasher. High electric bills are a thing of the past. Solar equipment is owned free and clear and transferable to the new buyer. System comes with a 25 year warranty. The current owners pay only \$16 per month for the electric bill. Don't wait, call today.</p>	 <p>000 N. Pointe Road, Rochelle NOW \$585,000 Call Rebecca</p> <p>RARE OPPORTUNITY, 6.55 ACRES WITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ADJACENT TO THE ROCHELLE WAL-MART! Discover the endless potential for growth and development in Rochelle, IL by purchasing this investment property. This site offers several access points and is located in a thriving retail and mixed use development area. Utilities are located nearby and it is zoned for commercial development. Easy access and high visibility. Call for more information today.</p>
 <p>1045 Turkington Terrace \$199,900 Call Carla</p> <p>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!</p>	 <p>502 Franklin Street, Oregon \$194,900 Call Becky</p> <p>Great downtown Oregon location for this retail/office building. This 1 level property has 1800+ sq ft currently used as a retail store. It has 3 separate entrances, 2 bathrooms (1 ADA compliant), 2 "retail shop" rooms with original hardwood 24.1x21.2 and 16.6 x12.6, 1 large room used as a classroom 21.2x13.3, office 12x8.3, another large room 17.1x13.3, 2nd office 12x8.3 and attic area with lots of potential is partially finished for use 17.7x13.3 & 14.4x13.7. Five mini-split electric heat & air units. New roof 2023, front sign posts are grandfathered in (actual sign will be removed), located in TIF district, pergola over patio, electrical redone in 2021, 3 newer windows, newer homemade main door, custom built beams on ceiling, barn doors on storage closet. Zoned commercial. Move your business right in!</p>	 <p>401 Jackson Street, Oregon \$209,000 Call Jessica</p> <p>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.</p>	 <p>307 N. Seminary Street, Mt. Morris \$119,000 Call Jenn Goley</p> <p>HUGE BACKYARD! This beautiful 3 bedroom with 1.5 baths is close to downtown Mount Morris. Located on a big lot this property boasts a well maintained yard, two car garage and a shed. Both shed and garage are wired for 220 usage. Inside there is a cute kitchen attached to a large family room with an eat in area. The first floor also has a den, bedroom and half bath. Upstairs has a huge bathroom and 2 bedrooms that you can make your own. You do not want to miss this beautiful property!</p>

 Rebecca Hazzard <small>Designated Realtor/ Broker/ Owner</small> 815-509-9432	 Carla Benesh 815-985-6235	 Mark True 815-611-1699	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-3506	 Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145	 Josie Kuss 815-994-1079	 Jen 773-849-3522	
 Taylor Miller 815-751-8943	 Merri Cruz 815-988-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308	 Erin Spence 815-262-5555	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055	 Jenn Goley 630-732-6858	 Becky Adams 815-509-5637	 Matt Bouback 815-505-5827	 Jessica Lowry 815-315-2617

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LOCAL NEWS

Byron Fire Protection District Board of Trustees accepting applications for commissioner

BYRON—The Byron Fire Protection District Board of Trustees is accepting applications to

fill a vacated fire commission position. The new commissioner will serve a three-year term.

Commission meetings are held quarterly on the third Monday of the month at 5 p.m. Applicants must

reside within the Byron Fire District and be a registered voter. Applications and scope of duties

can be picked up at the fire station located at 123 N. Franklin St., Byron, during the hours of 8–4

p.m. Deadline for application: Open until filled. Any questions, please call: 815-234-4911.

BERTOLET LIBRARY NEWS

LEGO Club
Monday, July 1st at 5PM: Come build with us!
CLOSED

Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Summer Reading Program
Thursdays, July 11th & 18th at 10:30 AM Hot air balloons, the wild, wild

west, and ocean diving; we have one more adventure left! Where will we be? A reminder there is no program on July 4th; we'll see you back on July 11th!

A to Z Reading Challenge
We're almost halfway through the year! Are you halfway through your A to Z Reading Challenge?

July Book of the Month

Belle da Costa Greene was hired as a curator for the Pierpont Morgan Library by J.P. Morgan. She becomes a prominent figure in the highest levels of society. However, she has one massive secret that could ruin her career. Her name has been changed and her skin color is not because of Portuguese heritage, but African American. Learn how she was

a top person in her field and what she had to do to protect her family. Stop by the circulation desk and pick up your copy of The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict today.

July Craft
Stop by the circulation desk to pick up a summer or patriotic craft to make at home.

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 donation. *No animal feed bags are allowed* Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

Adult Books
Look On the Bright Side by Kristan Higgins
All the Glimmering Stars by Mark Sullivan

Chapter Books
Can You Survive a Civil War Escape? by Jessica Gunderson

Picture Books
My Fourth of July by Jerry Spinelli
Dark on Light by Diane White

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Special Creative Studio Hours
The Creative Studio will be closed starting June 30th, and will reopen at 9:00 am on July 8th.

Special Hours
The Byron Public Library will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen for our regular hours on Friday, July 5. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy 4th of July!

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, re-



The Byron Library's Outdoor Extravaganza was so much fun! Teens enjoyed a water balloon fight, giant Jenga, Nerf battle, corn hole, drawing with chalk and playing in the park.

new 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!

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Family Pack 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF PATTIES
3.99 lb

A COOKOUT FAVORITE!

Sullivan's Signature SMOKEHOUSE BBQ PORK BURGERS
3.99 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, July 3 thru Tuesday, July 9, 2024

JUST HEAT & SERVE!

Sullivan's Signature PULLED PORK
5.99 lb

4th of July Savings

US Govt Insp BABY BACK PORK RIBS
2.99 lb

Cake of the Week

PATRIOTIC LAYER CAKE
White or Chocolate 8 Inch
7.99

Bush's Best BEANS
Select Varieties 15.5-28 oz
2/\$4

Sullivan's Signature POTATONI MACARONI SALAD
3.99 lb

Kraft MAYONNAISE A-1 STEAK SAUCE
Select Varieties 10-30 oz
4.49

USDA Choice BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS
13.99 lb

Blue Ribbon CLASSIC FROZEN DESSERT
Select Varieties 48 oz
1.99

Frito-Lay LAYS
Select Varieties 5-8 oz
2/\$5

Bakery Fresh BRAT BUNS
6 ct
2.19

Bakery Fresh HAMBURGER or HOT DOG BUNS
8 ct
2.99

Kingsford CHARCOAL
Select Varieties 8-16 lb
9.99

SWEET CORN
10/\$4

Dean's DIPS
Select Varieties 12-16 oz
2/\$4

Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ SAUCE
Select Varieties 18 oz
4/\$5

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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS



Last Friday, during a special Julia Hull District Library storytime in Davis junction Park, kids listened to pirate stories, enjoyed parachute play and crafted a colorful parrot.

Storytime at the Library

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

Summer Reading Program: Seas the Day!

It's only fair winds and following seas as we embark on our summer reading journey. We'll travel to far-off destinations, meet new people and open our eyes to new ideas—through the

transportive power of books. Register in person or with the Beanstack app for our 2024 Summer Reading Program: *Seas the Day!* You'll collect badges by logging your reading, completing fun activities and attending library programs... for a chance to win real prizes. It's fun. It's easy. It's free! May 27- August 3, 2024.

Toddler Time: Bubble Play

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them! This

month little ones will get to play and experiment with bubbles. Friday, July 12, 10 a.m. All materials supplied.

Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Short & Sweets

Join us at the library for an engaging discussion of Laird Hunt's short story, "Greg." Wednesday, July 17, 10 a.m. Copies of the reading available at the Circulation Desk. Adults.

Ready. Aim. Paint!

Blast your boredom away with some squirt



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

gun painting. Dress for a mess so you can release your wild side during this one-of-a-kind action art. Friday, July 19, 10 a.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Backyard Astronomy

You don't need to be an expert to enjoy stargazing. Join our favorite amateur astronomer and hobbyist, Wayne, to learn what you can see this summer in the Midwestern night sky. He'll show you how and where to look for major stars, star clusters

and prominent constellations—all visible with the naked eye. Monday, July 22, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teen Time: Water Balloon Games

Think you've got game? Dust off your speed and agility for the ultimate challenge. Compete in a variety of ridiculous games that only have one thing in common: water balloons! Tuesday, July 23, 6 p.m. Ages: 13-18. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day.

Tween Scene: Cruise Ship: Savannah

Pack your bags, we're hitting the high seas! The last shore excursion on our tween cruise is Savannah. Don't worry, there are no storms in sight! We'll enjoy games, crafts and snacks inspired by this elegant and creepy city. Tuesday, August 6, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Library Closings

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 July 1st-6th

Worms & Dirt! Program Monday, July 1st, 1pm with U of I Master Gardeners. *Tin Can Planters*, Drop-In Craft Monday, July 1st, 2pm-7pm, while supplies last. *Mini Compost Bin*, Take-N-Make Tue-Sat, July 2nd-6th, while supplies last. *Story Time* Wednesday, July 3rd, 11:15am.

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!

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!

Lego Club Thursday, July 18th

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, July 18th 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.

Display Case Showings

Pablo Picasso said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." We have a new display put on by the local artist, Rhonda Cheek! Come see all of her gorgeous works all month long and wash away some everyday life! 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.

Adult Book Club Meeting Monday, July 29th

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 July 29th at 3:30pm.

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.

Axis360 is now BOUNDLESS

Your library's Axis 360 digital service has been

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

Adult Programming

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

Memorial Gifts

Give a gift that lasts, brings joy to many, and doubles in value. Your memorial gift to the li-

brary 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

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

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

Join Our Cook Book Club!

On Tuesday, July 2nd The Center, along with the Mt. Morris Public Library, hosts a cook book club. Get your recipe at the Library and bring your completed dish to the Center at 6:00 and enjoy trying other dishes and hearing about the challenges and the successes.

Diamond painting

July 5th – Diamond Painting is all the rage! Join us on Friday, July 5th and Friday, July 19th at 11:00 am as we come together with this relaxing craft. No skill involved and paintings can be purchased at The Center for a minimal price.

Sponsor a Chair!

We are in the process of replacing our worn out chairs and can use your help. For \$50.00 per chair you can sponsor one of the new chairs we are hoping to purchase. Stop

by the center during open hours (9am to 1 pm) and talk with Melissa. All help is appreciated!

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!

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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

The Oregon Public Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4th. Have a safe holiday!

2024 Summer Reading Program

Read, Renew, Repeat! June 3- July 26. 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

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 Books! Try and figure out the title of the shredded remains of the books...

Week of July 1-July 12

Registration is required for all programs. Monday, July 1, Story Time 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.) Thursday, July 4, Library Closed for Fourth of July. Monday, July 8, Story Time 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.) Tuesday, July 9 Teen Crafternoon, 1:30 pm (ages 13& up)- Trash to Treasure. Wednesday, July 10, Activity Time, 1:30 pm (grades 1st& up)-Let's Paint the Town. Thursday, July 11 Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education, 1 pm (1st grade & up). Come see & learn about 7 different birds of prey and the roles they play in nature and con-

servation. Meet them up close and personal! Saturday, July 13, "Read, Renew, Repeat" selected Book titles due for 3-6 year olds.

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.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, July 15th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come

with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, July 16th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Adult Coloring – Come in and relax in the air conditioning, listen to music and color. Coloring can relax your brain and improves brain function. It also reduces anxiety and relieves stress. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Manga Club

Thursday, July 18 at 2pm. Manga, the Japanese equivalent of comics, is more popular than ever! Want to see what all the hype is about? Join us for manga club to discuss a different manga every month. Participants will be given a free volume of that month's manga. There will even be snacks! In July, we'll be reading Haikyuu! Volume 1. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Dungeons & Dragons

Thursday, July 18, 6:00 pm. Lost when it comes

to exploring the world of Dungeons and Dragons? Get an assist from our resident Dungeon Master. He will explain everything from dice rolls to saving throws. Participants may then pick from several characters to form a party of adventurers embarking on a one-shot fantasy adventure! Dice, character sheets and snacks will be provided. This program is geared for ages 13 years old and older. Registration required.

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

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

Community Seed Library

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

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, July 10 at 12:30 to discuss The Shack by WM. Paul Young. The

Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, July 17 at 1pm to discuss The Note by Angela Hunt. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, July 21. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, July 25 at 6pm at Cork & Tap to discuss People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, July 30 to discuss The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi by Shannon Chakraborty.

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

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-Because I Had a Teacher by Kobi Yamada. At the StoryWalk is Compost Stew: An A-Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefamilychurch
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dadd
Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children's Worship Service and Nursery Available
Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week.
Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details.
Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

226 E. 2nd St, Byron, IL 61010 - Phone 815-234-7431 - Fr. Richard Rosinski.
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 7:30am, Weekend Masses: Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am and 9:30 am, Reconciliation: Fri. 8:00 am - 8:30 am; Sat. 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm or by app. Eucharist Adoration Fri. 8-9am
www.saintmaryinbyron.org secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

A Member of the United Church of Christ
701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron, IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellias
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor Bob Clardie 8:30am Sunday School
815-535-6990 9:30am Church Service
90 W. Flagg Road www.lostlakechurch.org
Dixon IL 61021

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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West Grove Rd. At Columbine Rd.
Worship Service 10:30 am. Communion is served every Sunday.
"Singing the Song of Christian Faith in Worship, Service, Learning, Outreach and Welcome" in a beautiful rural setting.
Everyone is cordially invited to be with us.

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

9106 Cedar St. in Adeline, Leaf River, IL 61047 • Ph: 815-541-4863 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:00 am, Worship Service 10:15 am VISITORS WELCOME

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MOUNT MORRIS

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815-837.5255
polo@crossroadsncn.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.
Visit our website: www.crossroadsncn.org

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER NEWS

Rock River Center Activities

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

day, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CHAIR YOGA: Friday, from 11:15 – 12:00 Noon. COST: \$5 per class*
Rock River Center July 4 Holiday Hours
 Rock River Center will close on Thursday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day. 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.

Bunco
 Mon., July 8, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

CRAFT GROUP on July 8

9:00 – 10:00 A.M. Project: Mason Jar Sun Catchers

Morning Mug Club

Tues., July 9; 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
OUTING OF THE MONTH – July 11
 Klehm Arboretum. Limited Bus Seating. Register by July 8.

Zack Percell of TNZ MAGIC

Thursday, July 18, 2024. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. "Zack Percell is a professional entertainer that uses

sleight-of-hand magic/illusion, comedy, mentalism & escape artistry and to create a fun and unforgettable experience!" The show guaranteed to entertain! You will laugh and be amazed when you see Zack's show! Sign up, if you are looking for: Hand magic/illusion, comedy, mentalism and escape artistry, Live, genuine interaction, and a fun and unforgettable experience guaranteed to entertain. Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024. Time: 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$8.00 Suggested Donation. Reservation

Information: Advance Reservation Requested by: July 16, 2024. Make your reservations at Rock River Center, 810 S 10th St, Oregon or by calling 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.

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.

2024 Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants available

OREGON — Waste Reduction/Recycling Grants for 2024 are available to Ogle County businesses, schools, churches and non-profit groups wanting to establish or improve on waste reduction and recycling programs and services.

The grants are up to \$1,000, and funds are limited, so they will be awarded on a competitive basis in amounts from \$100-1,000, in two rounds or until funds are depleted. The matching fund grant pays 80% of

the total project cost up to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a minimum 20% match of the total project cost. The deadline for submission of applications for the first round of grants is 4 p.m. Friday, July 26. The application for the grants is simple and flexible. Businesses could use grant funds to help purchase waste reduction and recycling materials and equipment such as collection bins, carts, balers and storage containers.

Equipment needed to switch from disposable packaging to reusable packaging for products and supplies could also be considered. Businesses are encouraged to consider projects to reduce food waste or implement food waste composting programs.

Waste hauling companies could use grant funds to improve the quantity and quality of materials collected in their curbside recycling collection programs. This could be done through promotional efforts, instructional stickers for carts and bins, direct mail, and other educational efforts. Schools may seek funds for special projects that will further a student's understanding of how to reduce the amount of trash sent to the landfill. The requests may be for materials and equipment, such as recycling bins/carts, videos, books, worm (vermicomposting) bins, composters, or other waste reduction or recycling equipment.

Municipalities seeking to improve commercial, curbside, or multifamily recycling programs are encouraged to apply. Prior municipal grant awardees have purchased public recycling bins, totes, and other infrastructure to improve recycling in their communities.

These are just examples, and applicants are encouraged to find innovative ways to reduce waste and increase what is recycled. The grants may not be used to pay for ongoing expenses such as staffing, collection, and

hauling costs. Priority will be given to new applicants.

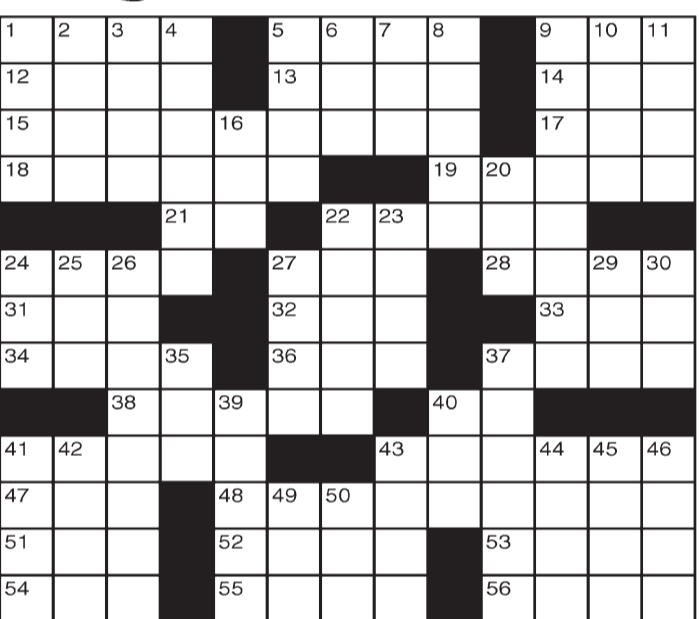
All applications will be reviewed by the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department and the Ogle County Board HEW/Solid Waste Committee.

For more information or to request an application, please contact the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department at 815-732-4020, solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov, or visit www.oglecountyil.gov to download the application.

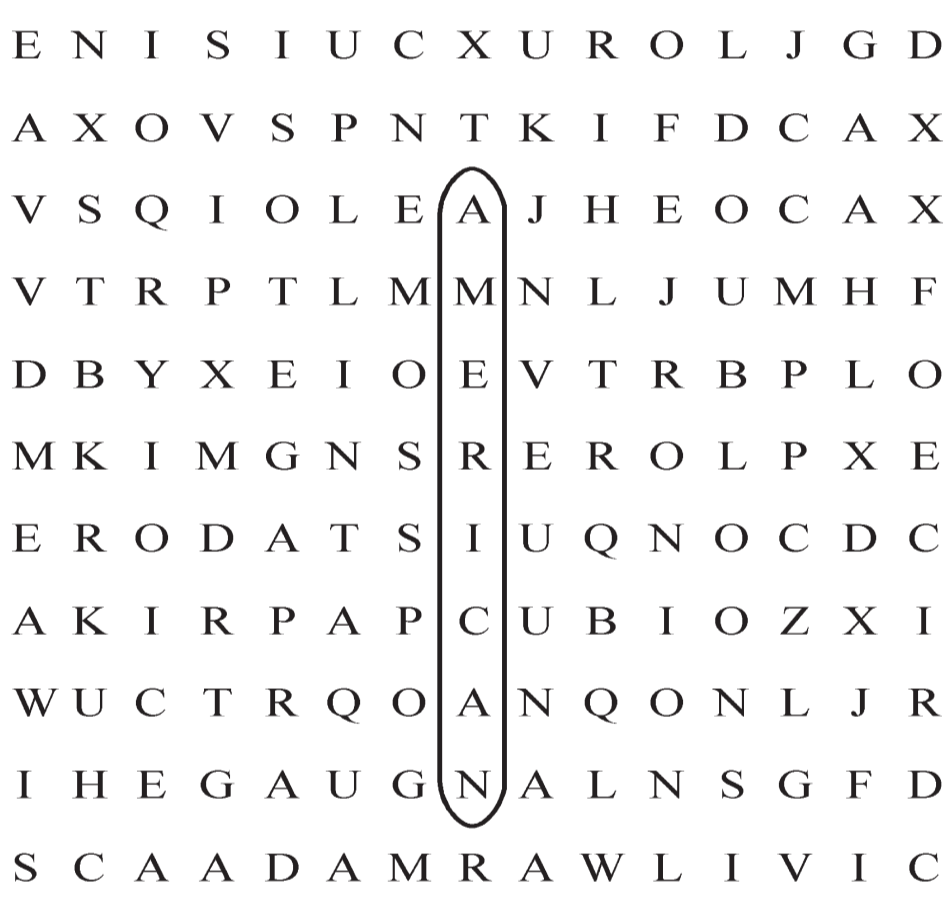
Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Old Italian money
 - 5 Profs' degrees
 - 9 "The Matrix" role
 - 12 Caspian Sea feeder
 - 13 Mine, in Montreal
 - 14 Cleric's garment
 - 15 When sports events start
 - 17 Avril follower
 - 18 Whine
 - 19 Representative
 - 21 Chicago transport
 - 22 Sanctioned by Islamic law
 - 24 Pottery oven
 - 27 Nourished
 - 28 Hotel furniture
 - 31 JFK info
 - 32 Genetic letters
 - 33 "Mayday!"
 - 34 Jewels
 - 36 Weaponize
 - 37 D-Day carriers
 - 38 Boredom
 - 40 Little — Peep
 - 41 Move laterally
 - 43 Least possible
 - 47 Actor Ferrigno
- DOWN**
- 1 Schleps
 - 2 Pakistan neighbor
 - 3 "Bohemian Rhapsody" star
 - 4 Football team
 - 5 Sandbox toy
 - 6 "Let me think ..."
 - 7 Female hare
 - 8 Twine fiber
 - 9 Anonymous
 - 10 Flair
 - 11 Life story?
 - 16 Website contact no.
 - 20 Talk on and on
 - 22 Artist Matisse
 - 23 Eden evictee
 - 24 Beer barrel
 - 25 Mineral suffix
 - 26 Politico with limited power
 - 27 Lady of the haus
 - 29 Speck
 - 30 Sound from a hot wok
 - 35 NBC show since 1975
 - 37 Yogurt variety
 - 39 Violin parts
 - 40 "Don't — stranger!"
 - 41 "Citizen Kane" prop
 - 42 Greek vowel
 - 43 Accomplishment
 - 44 French 101 verb
 - 45 Crystal gazer
 - 46 Streetcar
 - 49 Writer Rand
 - 50 Hosp. scan



MAGIC MAZE ● SPANISH



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

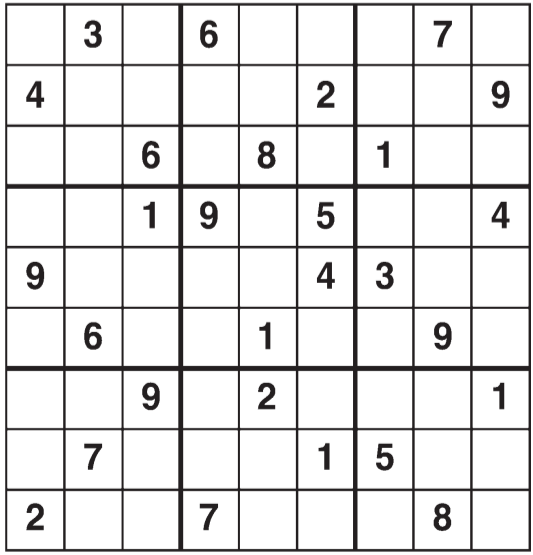
- American
- Cuisine
- Inquisition
- Onion
- Armada
- Doubloons
- Language
- Paprika
- Civil War
- Elm
- Monarchs
- Rice
- Conquistador
- Explorers
- Moss

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



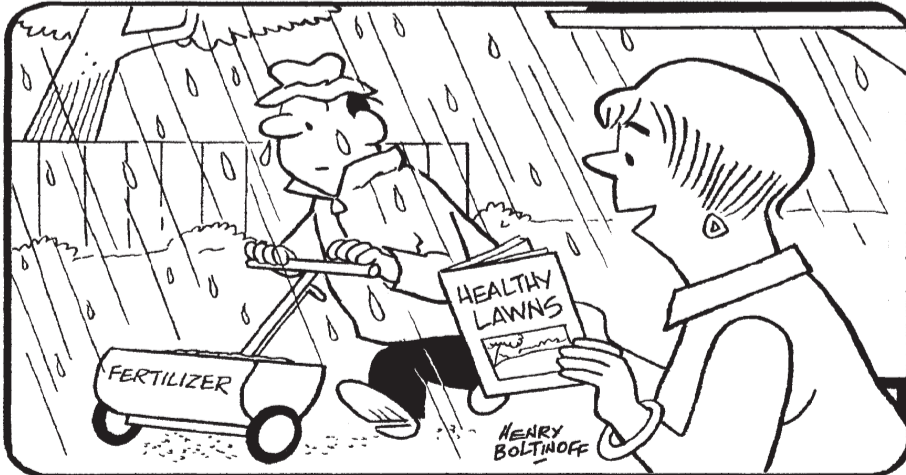
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

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

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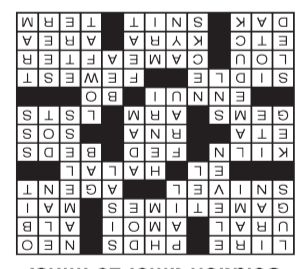
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

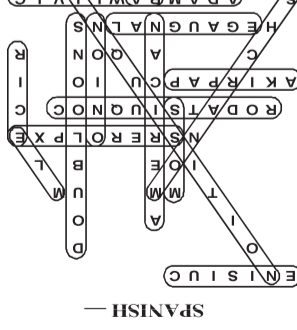


Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Fence is not as wide. 4. Sleeve is added. 5. Release lever is missing. 6. Hair is different.

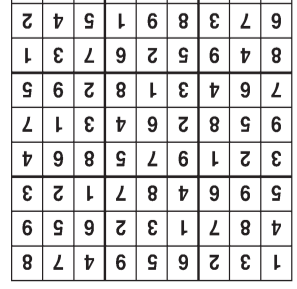


Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Oregon Lions Father's Day Car Show held June 16

The Oregon Lions Car Show, held at Oregon Park East by the Rock River, attracted the owners of 129 beautifully restored cars. This annual Father's Day event is a favorite with families in the area. It began early with a delicious breakfast served by the Oregon Lions. This was followed, closer to noon, by hamburgers, cheeseburgers and the famous Oregon Lions pork chops. Many trophies were awarded by Car Show Chairman Oregon Lion Doug Aken. The lucky 50/50 winner was Rory Camplain who went home with \$362. Many thanks to everyone who came out to support Lion' charities! Shown in photos are Oregon High School Senior Teagan Champley cooking eggs, Cashier and Oregon Lion Joan Smola, Registration desk Oregon Lions Joe Kryszak and Mary Jo Moser, Car Show Chairman Oregon Lion Doug Aken, Dennis Guither showing his 1958 Chevy, DeWayne Adams showing his 1957 Ford Skyliner, Car Show Food Chairwoman Oregon Lion Carol Ohrn, and Oregon Lions President Lori Peterson presenting 50/50 winner Rory Camplain with a check for \$362.

37TH ANNUAL ROCHELLE HOT DOG DAY

Serving **FREE** hot dogs at these locations

- Walmart
- A1 Hot Body Detailing
- Beauty Bar
- Prescott Brothers Ford
- Royal Scoop
- Ace Hardware
- Jeff Perry
- O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Rochelle VFW
- Living Water Community Church/Seven C's
- Silgan Containers
- Hub City Car Wash
- Kenny's Place

Sponsored by the Rochelle News-Leader with cooperation from donations received by these local businesses. Thank You!

Hot Dogs

Ketchup

Save money. Live better.

Mustard / Hot Dog Buns

Hot Dog Buns

**SATURDAY,
JULY 13TH
11AM-2PM**

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CASE NO. 2024TX13
To: Geoffrey Todd; Staci Todd; Dr. Gary Todd; Gaye Todd; RRCA Accounts Management, Inc.; Cavalry SPV I LLC; Laura Cook, Ogle County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: Part of 1101 Spring Creek Rd, Oregon, IL Property Index No. 09-23-300-002
Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-00053

This property was sold on November 3, 2021 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2020. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 25, 2024.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 15, 2024. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Oregon, Illinois on November 6, 2024 at 9 AM before Judge Roe via Zoom (https://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/circuit_clerk/zoom_links_for_court.php; "Judge Roe - Courtroom 302"), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead. JICTB, Inc., Petitioner Angela L. Tucker, Esq. JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821
No. 0605
(June 17, 24 and July 1, 2024)

TAKE NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CASE NO. 2024TX14
To: Kathy Locke; Spouse of Kathy Locke; Laura Cook, Ogle County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: 410 Hillcrest Ave, Hillcrest, IL a/k/a 410 Hillcrest Ave, Rochelle, IL Property Index No. 24-12-352-001
Tax Sale Certificate No. 2020-00144
This property was sold on November 3, 2021 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2020. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 25, 2024.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 15, 2024. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Oregon, Illinois on November 6, 2024 at 9 AM before Judge Roe via Zoom (https://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/circuit_clerk/zoom_links_for_court.php; "Judge Roe - Courtroom 302"), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead. JICTB, Inc., Petitioner Angela L. Tucker, Esq. JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821
No. 0606
(June 17, 24 and July 1, 2024)

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BRADLEY J. LESHNER, Deceased.)
NO. 2024 PR 33

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Bradley J. Leshner of Byron, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on June 3 2024 to Matthew B. Leshner of Davis Junction, Illinois, whose attorney is Douglas P. Floski, of Floski Law Office, LLC. at 220 W. Third Street, P. O. Box 1007, Byron, Illinois, 61010-1007.

CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.

MATTHEW B. LESHNER Executor
Attorney Douglas P. Floski FLOSKI LAW OFFICE, LLC. 220 W. Third Street, P.O. Box 1007 Byron, IL 61010-1007
(815) 234-5454
dfloski@byronlaw.com
No. 0612
(June 17, 24 and July 1, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on June 17, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Fire Shine Candles 804 Half S 2nd St Oregon, IL 61061 Dated June 17, 2024
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0615
(June 24, July 1 and 8, 2024)

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

UNION SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff
vs.
WALTER J. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, DECEASED, DOMINICK LUBA, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OR DEVEISEES OF WALTER K. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, DECEASED, VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND COURTNEY KENNEDY, as Special Representative, Defendants.
2024FC33

PUBLICATION NOTICE
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OR DEVEISEES OF WALTER K. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, DECEASED Affidavits for Publication having been filed, because upon due inquiry you cannot be found so that process can be served upon you.

Notice is hereby given you, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OR DEVEISEES OF WALTER K. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, DECEASED AND UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants

in the above-entitled action, that an action was commenced in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Case No. 2024FC33, by the Plaintiff Union Savings Bank against you, in which the Complaint seeks foreclosure of a mortgage dated September 16, 2021 and recorded September 17, 2021 as Document No. 202106779 among the Land Records of Ogle County, Illinois, in which Plaintiff is the Mortgagee of certain real estate owned by Mortgagor, Walter J. Luba Jr. a/k/a Walter J. Luba, deceased, and for other relief, and that said action is now pending in said Court. The current record title holder of the affected real estate is Heirs at Law or Devises of Walter J. Luba Jr. a/k/a Walter J. Luba, deceased, and the property is described as follows:

Legal Description: Part of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Mt. Morris Township, Ogle County, Illinois, bounded and described as follows: Beginning 749.4 feet South of the Northwest corner of Lot 29 of Brayton's Addition to Mt. Morris, according to the Plat of said Addition, being the Northeast corner of the intersection of Frederick Avenue and the public highway formerly known as the Oregon Road, now known as Brayton Road; thence Southeasterly, along the North line of said Brayton Road, to a point 169.2 feet West of the point of intersection of said North line of Brayton Road and the Southwesterly right-of-way line of S.B.I. Route No. 77 (now Illinois State Highway Route 64) measured along said North line of Brayton Road; thence Northerly, parallel with the East line of said Frederick Avenue, a distance of 157.25 feet; Thence West to a point on the East line of said Frederick Avenue, said point being a distance of 137.3 feet North of the intersection of the East line of said Frederick Avenue with the North line of said Brayton Road; thence South on the East line of said Frederick Avenue, a distance of 137.3 feet to the point of beginning. Common Address: 502 East Brayton Road, Mount Morris, IL 61054 PIN: 08-26-377-004

Consequently, unless you file your answer to the Complaint in the circuit or otherwise make your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Ogle County, Illinois, at the Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S. 5th Street, Oregon, IL 61061, on or before July 24, 2024, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF THE COMPLAINT.

Dated 06/14/2024
Kimberly A. Stahl
Ogle County Circuit Clerk
KG
Maverik A. Good - ARDC 6342150 Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C. Attorney for Union Savings Bank
202 E. 5th Street | P.O. Box 400 Sterling, IL 61081
P: 815.625.8200
good@wmpj.com
No. 0618
(June 24, July 1 and 8, 2024)

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: DIREXional Power Sports
154 Autumnwood Ln. Davis Junction, IL 61020
Dated June 18, 2024
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0623
(June 24, July 1 and 8, 2024)

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION ONE (EXHIBIT A) OF THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BYRON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given by the Byron Fire Protection District Board of Trustees that Ordinance #2024-01 was passed and approved at its June 25, 2024 meeting and that said ordinance will now allow for increasing charges for non-residents for ambulance services. The schedule of fees and ordinance may be viewed at the Byron Fire Protection District, 123 N. Franklin Street, Byron, IL during the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Christopher Logston, President Board of Trustees
Byron Fire Protection District
No. 0703
(July 1, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 26, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: AJ & BE Contractor Restorations
2313 North IL Rt 251 Kings, Illinois 61068
Dated June 26, 2024
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0706
(July 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
GRAND DETOUR TOWNSHIP
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 03/31/2024**

REVENUES - PROPERTY TAXES - \$79,365.74; INTEREST - \$28.68; TOTAL REVENUES - \$79,394.42
SALARIES - KENNETH LOWRY \$12,300.00; DEBBIE LOWRY \$10,814.43; CONNIE ROSS \$4,279.36
JOHN FOXLEY \$860.40; RHONDA DREW \$860.40; JOHN THOMPSON \$860.40; JOHN CHESNEK \$860.40
TOTAL SALARIES - \$30,835.39
VENDORS - UNITED STATES TREASURE (941) \$15,134.08; TRANSFER TO ROAD AND BRIDGE \$50,000.00
ALL OTHER VENDORS (UNDER 2,500.00) \$11,639.98
TOTAL VENDORS - \$25,089.20

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$ 174,358.26
REVENUES	79,394.42
EXPENDITURES	107,609.45
ENDING BALANCE	\$146,143.23

I, DEBBIE LOWRY, SUPERVISOR OF GRAND DETOUR TOWNSHIP, OGLE COUNTY, IL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 03/31/2024.
DEBBIE LOWRY, SUPERVISOR
No. 0701
(July 1, 2024)

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT GRAND DETOUR TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING 03/31/2024

REVENUES: PROPERTY TAXES-\$74,417.63; INTEREST-\$35.54; TRANSFERRED FROM TOWN FUND-\$50,000.00 TOTAL REVENUES-\$124,453.17
VENDORS - MARTIN \$9,278.16; R. E. WOLBER \$8,667.50; WAESSEN \$4,192.94; PATRIOT TREE REMOVAL \$49,000.00; ALL OTHER VENDORS (UNDER 2,500.00) \$20,040.42
TOTAL VENDORS - \$81,891.50

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$137,596.37
REVENUE	124,453.17
EXPENDITURES	91,179.02
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$170,870.52

I, DEBBIE LOWRY, SUPERVISOR OF GRAND DETOUR TOWNSHIP, OGLE COUNTY, IL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 03/31/2024.
DEBBIE LOWRY, SUPERVISOR
No. 0702
(July 1, 2024)

NOTICE

Applications for Senior Citizens & Veterans Assistance Commission Tax Levy Funds are available in the Ogle County Clerk's Office, located at the Historic Courthouse, 105 S. 5th Street, Suite 104 in Oregon, Illinois. Any organization requesting funds from the Senior Citizens Tax Levy must have their application returned to the Ogle County Clerk's Office by Friday, August 9, 2024.

No. 0705
(July 1, 2024)

815-562-2928 or email
dickharms@hotmail.com

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

203 HELP WANTED

Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted
\$500 Sign on bonus
Earn up to \$33/per hour
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year-round driver to haul grain.
815-938-3644
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PIA #62

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ad COUNCIL

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BYRONFEST

Byron Museum Quilt Show is 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 registration opens June 26 and ends on July 10 at 3 p.m.

First place winners in 10 categories will win cash prizes. Entries will be accepted at the museum during normal museum hours Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 26 to July 10. 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 Quilt-

ed. Cash Prizes and Blue Ribbons will be awarded for first place in each of categories and ribbons awarded to second and third place winners.

Quilt Show hours: Friday, July 12 5-8 p.m., Saturday, July 13 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, July 14 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission!

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@byron-museum.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!"



(COURTESY PHOTO)

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 registration opens June 26 and ends on July 10 at 3 p.m.

2024 ByronFest celebration set for July 12-14

BYRON—ByronFest, one of the finest family festivals in Northern Illinois, is held annually during the second full weekend in July.

2024's festival is scheduled for July 12, 13, and 14. The festival is located in Byron's downtown area. Additional events are held in other venues throughout the city, including athletic events at the Jarrett Prairie Center and quilt show at the Byron Museum of History.

ByronFest is a venture of the Byron Chamber of Commerce designed to encourage and promote tourism in the Byron area and to showcase the Byron community to the many visitors who travel to Byron for the three-day event. In addition, the festival provides an opportunity for many not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for various projects. During the past thirty-seven years, ByronFest has returned more than \$830,000 to local charitable groups. These organizations have in turn used the funds for community improvements and programs throughout the area.

Some local organizations that have taken advantage of this opportunity throughout the years include Byron Lions Club, Byron Kiwanis Club, Byron Key Club, Byron Firemen's Association, Boy Scouts, Byron High School Cross Country, Byron High School Volleyball, Stillman Valley Boys Basketball, Dakota Cheerleaders, and many others.

Want to Help? Planning and operating an event of this size requires not only the work of the Chamber staff and ByronFest Steering Committee but also the efforts of over 400 dedicated local volunteers. If you are interested in donating a few hours of your time to assist with this worthwhile community festival, please contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 815.234.5500.

Carnival

Carnival Midway Hours
Friday, July 12, 5pm-11pm
Saturday, July 13, 11am-11pm
Sunday, July 14, 11am-5pm

WEEKEND MEGA PASS
\$60 in advance
\$65 at the festival
DAY MEGA PASS
\$35 only at the festival!

Mega Pass provides UNLIMITED rides and entry onto festival grounds! ByronFest wristband not required with a Mega Pass!

You can purchase your Mega Pass at the Byron Chamber of Commerce office at 232 W 2nd Street in City Hall (upstairs), Monday-Friday 9-4pm.

MEGA PASS ADVANCE CUT OFF ONLINE PURCHASES
IN-PERSON July 11th at Noon

Individual ride tickets will also be sold at the festival only for \$1.25 a ticket!

Bags Tourney

Saturday, July 13, 2024



(COURTESY PHOTO)

ByronFest, one of the finest family festivals in Northern Illinois, is held annually during the second full weekend in July. 2024's festival is scheduled for July 12, 13, and 14.

Tournament Start | 11:00 am

Teams must be present at 10:30am PRIZES

Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third placed teams.

1st - \$275, 2nd-\$150, 3rd-\$75

ENTRY

If entry form is in by June 29, entry fee is \$50 per team.

After June 29, the entry fee is \$60 per team.

Includes TWO ByronFest wristbands, TWO beers & ONE team admission into the tournament.

Registration begins at 10am on July 13, for new teams if bracket has not been filled.

Please make check payable to: ByronFest, P.O. Box 405, Byron, IL 61010.

ROLES

Teams of two compete in a bean bag toss game. The tournament will be run using ACO (American Cornhole Organization) rule and regulations. Boxes are 4'x2' and bags are 6"x6", 11lb corn feed filled

duck cloth. No outside bags will be allowed in play. First teams to 21 points advance to the next round. It is a double elimination tournament. Must be 18 to play. The brackets will be set up at random (no seeding). For full list of rules, refer to www.americancornhole.com. A full explanation of rules will be announced before games begin Saturday.

Parade

PARADE STARTS at Maple & 2nd Street, travels east on 2nd Street, North on Colfax, then east on 3rd street.

Parade ends at 3rd & Market.

BE IN THE PARADE!

Cost: None, simply submit an application!

Line Up Begins at 1:30 p.m.

Line Up Staging: Maple & 2nd Street

A confirmation will be sent to you the week of ByronFest. Parade line-up number, directions, and other pertinent information will be included. If

you have any questions, please contact the Byron Chamber of Commerce office at (815) 234-5500. Thank you for helping make our parade a special event!

FAQs

What hours are the festival?

Friday 5-Midnight

Saturday 11am-Midnight

Sunday 11am-5pm

Do I have to pay for a wristband?

Admission wristbands or carnival Mega Pass wristbands are needed to listen to the bands, however, no individual show tickets are needed!

Admission wristbands are good for Friday & Saturday.

Sunday is family day and wristbands are not needed.

Children 7 and under are free.

Unlimited weekend wristbands (mega pass) or unlimited day passes will include admission wristbands at no addition-

al cost.

All the details for wristbands can be found at byronfest.org/wristbands including a list of locations you can get them in advance.

Advance sales end Thursday the week of ByronFest at noon.

Are businesses on Second Street open?

Most of the businesses on 2nd Street during the festival ARE OPEN!

Please make sure to check directly with the business on their hours and to support them throughout the weekend!

Where do I park?

Parking for the festival is limited, please carpool when possible!

A majority of parking for ByronFest is street parking, please keep an eye out for any parking regulation signage.

Handicap parking in the Byron Bank parking lot (access from 3rd and Washington St) and Bonvallet Dental parking lot (access from RT2 & Walnut)

Closed July 4th & July 10th-17th

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07012024

BYRONFEST

Local bands scheduled to perform during 2024 ByronFest

BYRON — Several notable musicians and acts are set to perform during ByronFest this year. Below are some of the notable performers.

A multi-year recipient of the prestigious Rockford Area Music Industry (RAMI) Awards, the band has earned recognition for its unparalleled commitment to authenticity and showmanship for “Best Tribute Band”. In 2019, they ascended to the pinnacle of recognition, earning their rightful place in the RAMI Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed upon the elite who have left an indelible mark on Rockford’s musical legacy.

So, don your spandex, tease that hair, and step into the time capsule that is Sunset Strip. In the heart of Rockford, where every riff from Fret Michaels is a tribute to the gods of glam, every keyboard riff from Jill Jett a sonic journey, and every beat from Brad E. Lee a rhythmic revelation, Sunset Strip stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of 80s rock ‘n’ roll. Let the nostalgia-infused anthems and flamboyant stage presence of Scotty Von Blazin and Jimi Lloyd be your ticket to a transcendent journey through the glamorous rhythms of the 80’s Hairband scene.

Welcome to the era of Sunset Strip, unleashing the grit, the glam, and a dose of 80s sex appeal – where the hair is wild, and the music is hotter than ever!

Mike & Joe

Mike & Joe is a modern rock cover band widely regarded by its peers and the industry as one of the very best sounding cover bands in the nation. The bulk of the setlist includes popular rock from the 90’s through today, but occasionally they’ll throw in some tunes from the 70’s and 80’s as well. Bring your shoes, bring your glasses.

Some of the artists Mike & Joe cover are: Blink 182, Maroon 5, U2,

Mike & Joe



Rock Music. Rock Band.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Mike & Joe is a modern rock cover band widely regarded by its peers and the industry as one of the very best sounding cover bands in the nation. The bulk of the setlist includes popular rock from the 90’s through today, but occasionally they’ll throw in some tunes from the 70’s and 80’s as well.

Fallout Boy, Fleetwood Mac, Justin Timberlake, Third Eye Blind, Mumford and Sons, Sublime, Dave Matthews Band, Weezer, Train, Keith Urban, Ed Sheeran, The Eagles, Jimmy Eat World, Goo Goo Dolls, Foo Fighters, Florida Georgia Line, OAR, The Cure, Pearl Jam and many more!

AudioDrive

AudioDrive is a powerful Rock Act that brings one of the best shows in the region! They shine with

excellent vocals, killer guitars and a thunderous rhythm section that knows no bounds!

The song selection is clearly pre-meditated to satisfy the masses covering hits by Journey, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Van Halen, Poison, Whitesnake and so many more from this genre with

precision. AudioDrive delivers only the choice cuts from the 70’s & 80’s through today!

Their sets are loaded with “Melodic Harmonies & Screamin Guitars” that always leave their fans wanting more. They have received Five consecutive RAMI Awards for “Best Classic Rock Band” as

well as Four RAMI’s for “Best Male Vocalist” from an outstanding local music industry! Once you have experienced an AudioDrive show you will surely appreciate their hard work, attention to detail and relentless drive for perfection!

See BANDS page 12



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07012024

BYRONFEST

BANDS: Local musicians set to perform at ByronFest this summer

From page 11

Burn N' Bush

Burn N' Bush is a 2 man acoustic band from Ashton Il. featuring Rod BURNette on vocals, cajon, and kazoo and Dave BUSHman on vocals and guitar.

Country Singer-Songwriter with a striking voice that has effortless elegance with a rasp and a captivating stage presence, Lola Blu is poised to leave an incredible mark on the music industry.

Hailing from the City of Rockford, Illinois, Lola Blu discovered her passion for music at a young age, channeling her emotions and experiences into performing. Drawing inspiration from the likes of iconic artists such as Lainey Wilson, Miranda Lambert, and Lynyrd Skynyrd, she has crafted a sound that seamlessly blends elements of Country, Rock, and Alternative with her own unique flair.

What sets Lola Blu apart is her ability to transform personal stories into universally relatable anthems. Her lyrics delve deep into the human experience, exploring themes of love, heartbreak, and self-discovery with an unfiltered honesty that resonates with listeners of all backgrounds and even has the occasional party anthem.

With a voice that effortlessly soars, Lola Blu possesses the rare ability to convey a range of emotions in a single note. From soulful ballads that tug at heartstrings to infectious, rockin' high energy songs that make you want to dance, her versatility as a performer is simply mesmerizing.

Already making waves within the industry, Lola Blu has been recognized for her exceptional talent by The Josie Music Awards for the 2023 "Vocalist of the Year (Multi-Genre)" and earning accolades and praise from both critics and fans alike. Lola Blu has opened for artists such as Tanner Usrey, Trey Lewis,



Burn N' Bush is a two-man acoustic band from Ashton Il. featuring Rod BURNette on vocals, cajon, and kazoo and Dave BUSHman on vocals and guitar.

and Walker Montgomery in 2023 and will be joining many more in the future. Her electrifying live performances continue to entertain, leaving audiences in awe as she commands the stage with an energy and charisma that is simply unparalleled.

Prepare to be captivated by the talent of Lola Blu. Her unique blend of soul-stirring vocals, intro-

spective songwriting, and mesmerizing stage presence make her an artist to watch. Keep your eyes and ears open as she takes any stage she steps on by storm, leaving an incredible mark on the hearts of music lovers everywhere.

BCR

Back Country Roads is a 6 piece band based out of the Northern Illinois area.

BCR started as a 3 piece acoustic band in April of 2009 and quickly expanded to the 6-piece we are today.

We have played at events such as Country Thunder, Wisconsin State Fair, and have been direct support for National acts such as Phil Vassar, Darryl Worley, David Lee Murphy, Neal McCoy, Love & Theft, Steel Magnolia, Keith Anderson, Easton Corbin,

Granger Smith, and Eddie Montgomery. Back Country Roads plays mostly 90's country favorites, top 40 Country hits, and some originals thrown in the mix as well. We also occasionally leave the Country genre a little bit which gives the audience some variety. We are always looking forward to expanding into new areas for another jam-packed fun-filled year full of shows!

Blind Date

This might be the only Blind Date you've ever had that doesn't disappoint! Northern Illinois' newest and hottest party band is ready to rock your house with a mash up of rock, funk, pop, and country. Blind Date doesn't discriminate!

If it makes you dance, it's got a chance, which is why they have quickly become one of the most sought after entertainment options in the area. Powerful female vocalist, lush keyboards, shredding guitar, thumping bass and drums all churning in an energetic ball of precision, passion, and power... your Blind Date is ready... and yeah... she's hot!

Sheez-It

Forming in late 2022, the all-female ROCK band Sheez-It has already started gaining attention in northern Illinois and beyond! This four member band was founded by drummer Kelley Synder and is fronted by multi-Award winning vocalist Shelley Myers.

Adding an INCREDIBLE guitarist, Wendy Ropp and a multi-talented Angie Miller on bass, Sheez-It is becoming a highly-desired band! They cover a variety of your favorite Rock songs from the past four decades with a female twist.

Lola Blu Band

Lola Blu is a rising

ByronFest 2024

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 12th

- 5PM-8PM.....Wanda Cacciatore Quilt Show @ Byron Museum of History
- 5PM-12AM.....Taste of ByronFest @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 5PM-12AM.....Beer Gardens @ City Hall Parking Lot & Municipal Lot #1
- 5PM-9PM.....Magician: Magic Matt @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 5PM-11PM.....Carnival Midway @ 2nd St. & Union St.
- 5PM-12AM.....Constellation Stage @ 2nd St. & Washington St.
- 5PM.....Lola Blu Band
- 8PM.....Sheez-It
- 10PM.....Mackenzie Carpenter
- 5PM-12AM.....Byron Lions Club Stage @ Municipal Lot #1
- 5PM.....Shooter
- 7:30PM.....Monroe
- 10PM.....Sunset Strip

Saturday, July 13th

- 8AM.....5K Run @ Byron Forest Preserve
- 8AM.....Hib Reber Memorial Car Show - an event of the Hib Reber Memorial Car Show Committee
- 9AM.....Pickleball Tournament @ Byron Outdoor Pickleball Tournament
- 10AM-7PM.....Wanda Cacciatore Quilt Show @ Byron Museum of History
- 11AM.....Bags Tournament @ 2nd St. near the Constellation Stage
- 11AM-11PM.....Carnival Midway @ 2nd St. & Union St.
- 11AM-12AM.....Taste of ByronFest @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 3PM.....Parade @ 2nd St. to Colfax to 3rd St.

- 12PM-8PM.....Magician: Magic Matt @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 3PM-12AM.....Constellation Stage @ 2nd St. & Washington St.
- 5PM.....Wait, What?
- 8PM.....Blind Date
- 10PM.....Audio Drive
- 12:30PM-12AM.....Byron Lions Club Stage @ Municipal Lot #1
- 12:30PM.....JT Wells
- 4PM.....Byronfest Idol
- 5:30PM.....Roseland
- 6:45PM.....Back Country Roads
- 9PM.....Mike & Joe
- 11AM-12AM.....Beer Gardens @ City Hall Parking Lot & Municipal Lot #1

Sunday, July 14th

- 8AM-4PM.....Wanda Cacciatore Quilt Show @ Byron Museum of History
- 11AM-5PM.....Taste of ByronFest @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 11AM-5PM.....Beer Gardens @ City Hall Parking Lot & Municipal Lot #1
- 11AM-5PM.....Carnival Midway @ 2nd St. & Union St.
- 11AM-5PM.....Magician: Magic Matt @ Walnut & 2nd St.
- 11AM-5PM.....Byron Lions Club Stage @ Municipal Lot #1
- 1PM.....Byron Dance Academy
- 3PM.....Rout Thirty Eight
- 12PM-5PM.....Constellation Stage @ 2nd St. & Washington St.
- 12PM.....Distilled
- 3PM.....Burn N Bush

Wristbands: \$8 in advance, or \$10 at gate
Ages 7 & Under - Free!
JULY 12, 13, 14

Downtown Byron
1 Block North of Rt. 2

Contact the Byron Chamber of Commerce with questions at (815) 234-5500 or visit www.byronfest.org • www.facebook.com/byronfest