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KNOW IT TODAY



Byron's Henkel earns scholarship

Byron High School grad Ashton Henkel received a \$5,000 scholarship.

Section B

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
91 73	85 67
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
81 60	78 56
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HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
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OBITUARIES

- Steven Bonte
- Ruby A. Collman
- Kenneth E. Jackson
- JoAnne H. Smith
- Shirley Ann Sutton

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INSERTS

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

Sheriff describes healing process, mental health supports for deputies since Lost Nation incident

2 of 3 injured ERT members have returned to work after shooting

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said July 9 that “things are starting to return to normal” for both his office and the Ogle County Emergency Response Team following the June 12 shooting in Lost Nation that resulted in three ERT members and a barricaded subject being shot.

On the morning of June 12, members of the Ogle County ERT responded to 402 Wild Rice Lane in Lost Nation after a call from a parent regarding their adult son having suicidal and homicidal ideations. Information provided by the family member also indicated the suspect was armed

with multiple firearms and it was found his FOID card was revoked due to a clear and present danger report. Over 50 calls were made to the residence by a hostage negotiator with no response seen.

“The information we got from the family member was that this was very likely going to be suicide by cop-like situation,” VanVickle said June 12. “There was nobody else in the residence. The family member that called was not at the residence. The suspect was in the residence by himself and we had that confirmed by the family member. We believed his intention was to harm police officers. That’s the information the family member told us.”

See **SHERIFF** pg 11



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said July 9 that “things are starting to return to normal” for both his office and the Ogle County Emergency Response Team following the June 12 shooting in Lost Nation that resulted in three ERT members and a barricaded subject being shot.

Focus House baseball diamond restored

‘People hear that we need something, and they step right up..’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The baseball diamond at Focus House in Rochelle has been restored to playing shape in recent weeks after years in disrepair thanks to the efforts of community organizations and Focus House students, staff and foundation board members, Focus House Community Projects/Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Jeni Hardin said.

The baseball field has been a longtime staple at Focus House, the Ogle County facility that provides a continuum of services for at-risk youth. In early 1994, the field was dedicated to Jane Roe. The field saw much use early on, but has been in disrepair for at least the past five years, Hardin said.

“It was used a lot in the past and then it wasn’t and it got overgrown,” Hardin said.

See **BASEBALL** pg 8



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The baseball diamond at Focus House in Rochelle has been restored to playing shape after years in disrepair thanks to the efforts of community organizations and Focus House students, staff and foundation board members, Focus House Community Projects/Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Jeni Hardin said.

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LOCAL NEWS

Byron Rotary dissolves after 15 years of accomplishments

BYRON – The Rotary Club of Byron voted to dissolve effective July 1 following 15 years of service to Byron and to the wider regional, national and international communities.

“I could not be prouder of the impressive work of this small but effective club,” President Dr. Amanda Jennings said in announcing the decision. “When I look at the entire history of this club, I see an impressive record of supporting efforts that have made a meaningful difference in people’s lives. And, I’m grateful for the lifelong friendship we have formed while serving together.”

Since its founding, Byron Rotary has raised tens of thousands of dollars via unique fundraising efforts. Those funds have been used locally and regionally as seed money to help volunteers launch the Byron High School Pantry, to build the Sled Shed at the Byron Forest Preserve sledding hill, to help fund Ronald McDonald House in Madison, to support the Byron City Mural Project,

and to support programming at Serenity Hospice in Oregon.

The club’s funds have been used internationally to provide desks for school children in developing countries, to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine via donations to Rotary International, and to help fund clean water initiatives worldwide.

Club members have volunteered for roadside clean up, they have served meals at Rock House Kids, and have sponsored foreign exchange students, among other service projects.

Jennings cited the club’s proximity to vital, long-standing clubs in Rockford and Oregon as one factor in the club’s decision to dissolve.

“We have so many active service clubs in Byron and surrounding communities that recruiting new members can be a challenge,” Jennings said. “As we conclude our efforts, we wish those clubs nothing but continued success.

“Additionally, we want to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our volun-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rotary Club of Byron voted to dissolve effective July 1 following 15 years of service to Byron and to the wider regional, national and international communities.

teers and specifically to our local business community, who always found a way to say ‘yes’ to our ideas and initiatives.

“It has been our honor

to serve Byron as Rotarians and, as we move on, each of us will carry into our next volunteer positions the Rotary motto of ‘Service Above Self.’”

The club’s signature fundraiser, Pot of Gold, has been adopted by the Byron Boosters Association. Funds remaining in the Byron Rotary Club

coffers will be donated to Shelter Box, Byron High School Food Pantry, Village of Progress, Serenity Hospice, Byron Museum and CASA.

Chana School Foundation thanks residents of Ogle County

CHANA — Thank you Ogle County for rallying to help the Chana School Foundation make the offered match of \$10,000 by a generous private benefactor during this year’s benefit sale to support the 1883 Chana School Museum. The Chana School Foundation raised enough money from the sale plus donations from businesses and individuals to surpass the \$10,000 match. We have amazing support from the communities of Ogle County.

For this event to have been successful many had to pull together. The Chana School Foundation would like to thank the City of Oregon for the use of the lower level of the Oregon Coliseum for this year’s sale. The location of the

Coliseum is central to the town of Oregon, but also convenient for all in Ogle County and travelers from outside of Ogle County.

Our local newspapers have always done an excellent job of advertising for the benefit sale over the years, but this year the Ogle County Life (Jeff Helfrich) and the Shaw News (Earleen Hinton) covered the event stressing the opportunity to support the sale event’s matching funds offer in order to reach a goal of \$10,000. The Chana School Foundation is so thankful for these newspapers supporting the historical Chana School Museum.

The sale wouldn’t happen if generous folks didn’t donate items for the event. A big thank you goes out

to the many who donated items to create this year’s sale to benefit the Old Chana School Museum. Each year the sale features the usual and the most unusual of items making the event a worthy trip for shoppers from all over.

Volunteers run the 1883 Chana School Museum. Volunteers are the key to the entire sale event. Thanks to all who helped with this fundraiser. Volunteers set up the Coliseum for the event by putting up tents, tables, signs, etc. Again this year Boy Scout Troop 52 worked days before the sale helping with the set up by carrying tables, setting up table rows, and assembling sign posts for the tables. Other youth organizations that helped were

Oregon High School’s Coach Justin Lehman and several of the wrestlers, OHS teacher Zack Hall and representatives from the Oregon High School choir and band, and a 4H Group. Adult volunteers came in over a four-day period collecting items brought in, organizing, and pricing items. Clean up volunteers carried out and took down tables and tents. Another group of volunteers loaded items and hauled away leftover items to the next not-for-profit organization. It was lots of work, but it was fun talking and laughing as things got done. Volunteers from years past helped and many new volunteers shared their time and efforts for the first time this year. The

Chana School Foundation would like to give a “big thanks” to all of the many who helped with this year’s sale fundraiser.

The Chana School Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization and receives no tax money. This one big fundraiser event is a major source of money for the project along with donations and grants.

Things leftover from this year’s sale also benefited other not-for-profit organizations. The Oregon Church of God received much of the leftovers from this year’s sale, so that they could have an event to benefit “family camp”. The Lee County Council of Ageing selected books from this year’s sale for their seniors. The Oregon Library gathered

children’s book for the children’s summer program. Faith Lutheran of Rochelle took linens for a project. The Living and Rehabilitation Center in Oregon got several items. The Oregon Methodist Youth Program got some hand tools. Leydig in Dixon received clothes and miscellaneous items.

Thank you again Ogle County for supporting the Chana School Museum which stands as an example of rural 1880s way of life and education. The Museum is open during major events in Oregon and by appointments (815-732-2447 or 815-979-2903). School groups are welcome for all day trips back in time to experience life and education from the late 1800s.

POLO POLICE REPORT

POLO — On June 24 at 1:30 a.m., Gregory Cotovsky, Rochelle, was issued a City Citation for tall grass and weeds.

On June 24 at noon, Logan Linker, 21, Polo,

was issued a City Ordinance Citation for Accumulation of Litter.

On June 24 at noon, Sheri Kay Linker, 81, Polo, was issued a City Ordinance Citation for

Accumulation of Litter.

On June 29 at 8:13 p.m. Nathaniel C. Lefevre, 26, Polo was issued a citation for Expired Registration.

On July 5 at 2:45

p.m. Chloe J. Kelso, 22, Freeport, was cited for operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. Kelso was

released with a notice to appear.

On July 5 at 6 p.m. Kenneth P. Green, 40, Sterling, was arrested for operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended

license. Green was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



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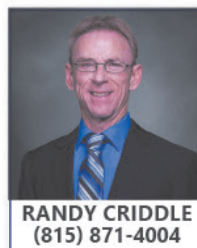
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LOCAL NEWS



Ogle County Democrats participate in Let Freedom Ring parade

The Ogle County Democrats were proud to participate in the Mount Morris Let Freedom Ring parade on July 4th. We gave out American flags and candy to children enjoying the parade and also provided information to adults on how to register to vote if they aren't registered, or to update their address if they are registered but have moved. It was a wonderful afternoon and a great way to celebrate our country's Declaration of Independence 248 years ago. (Courtesy photo)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Mt. Morris Fire Chief, sixth-generation Moulder and Historian Rob Hough IV will be the presenter for the Oregon Illinois Depot's "Those Were The Days" program on Saturday, July 27 at 10 a.m.

Hough IV to present at Depot July 27

OREGON—Mt. Morris Fire Chief, sixth-generation Moulder and Historian Rob Hough IV will be the presenter for the Oregon Illinois Depot's "Those Were The Days" program on Saturday, July 27 at 10 a.m. Hough's presentation, "Mt. Morris of yesteryear" will look at the village of Mt. Morris from the late 1800s through the mid 1950s using pho-

tos Hough has collected through the years. Pictured is the east side of the 100 block of South Wesley Avenue in about 1895. All of the brick structures are still standing. The building with the large overhang was the home of the Sprecher Department store for generations and then later it was Roy's Shoes and Togs. The building just to

the right with the arched top is the north building of the Idle Hour today. It was Rowland printing for a long time. Alfano's actually started in this building and it was the first location of Messer's (M&M) supermarket. There were no fire hydrants; the hand pump was used for fires. In 1889 the village built two 150-barrel cisterns for fire protection. You

can see telegraph poles and wires. The sidewalks are wooden and the streets are dirt. You won't want to miss Hough's presentation about Mt. Morris' bygone era. For more information about this program or other programs, please contact Roger Cain 815.757.9715, Chris Martin 815.742.8471 or Otto Dick 815.440.0639.

UW-Whitewater announces 2024 spring graduates

WHITEWATER, Wis. — More than 1,500 students graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at spring commencement, held May 11, 2024, at Kachel Fieldhouse in the Williams Center. The following students from your coverage area earned degrees from UW-Whitewater: Byron, IL 61010: Na-

talie DeWitt graduated Cum Laude with the following degree: Biology Science Education - BSE Stillman Valley, IL 61084: Brian Gale graduated with the following degree: Journalism - BS Forreton, IL 61030: Eli Metz graduated with the following degree: Art - BA Approximately 1,500 students crossed the stage to receive their degrees

at the ceremony, held at Kachel Fieldhouse in the Williams Center. The graduating class included nine international students, 102 military veterans and 200 nontraditional students, defined as undergraduate students who are 25 years of age or older. In addition, 187 self-identified students with disabilities received degrees.

A total of 231 students participated in the university's Hired Before Graduation campaign, which celebrates students who landed a job, were promoted in their current job, earned acceptance to graduate school or started their own business before commencement.

German Valley Days Festival is July 19-21

GERMAN VALLEY — The 51st Annual German Valley Days Festival will kick-off at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 19. Evening activities will include a Build Your Taco Fundraiser, Baseball and Softball All Star Games and the showing of the movie, "Sandlot".

Activities will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday, July 20 with a Pancake Breakfast and FHN Health Screenings at the German Valley Fire Station, 600 Church St. Also planned are a 5K & Kids Fun Run, Car Show at 326 S. Bunker Hill Road, Antique Tractor Show, Basketball Shooting Contest, Bags Tournament, Parade, Prize Bingo, stage performance by "Just 4 Fun" Band, Pork Chop Dinner at the fire station, Free Hearing & Retinal Screenings by the Lions of Illinois Foundation at fire station, Presentation of MVP Award, stage show by Magician Steve Belliveau and Fireworks.

Children's attractions will include a Pig Scramble, Coloring Contest,

Kiddie Tractor Pull, Petting Zoo, Big Bubble Times with Jason Kollum, Hacky Sack with Adam Linder, Little Miss and Mister Pageant, Panning for Gold, Inflatables and Bounce House.

Food Trucks, Craft Sales, Summer Rec Ice Cream Booth, Inflatables and Bounce House will be available Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The German Valley Historical Museum will open at 10 a.m. Saturday and will reopen following the parade. The Historical Society will sponsor Trolley Tours, visiting historical points of interest at 10:30 a.m., 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Passengers may board at the museum, 805 Church St. There is a \$5 fee.

Sunday events are a Community Worship Service in the Ben Miller Park at 9:30 a.m. with sign up for a Whiffle Ball Tournament to begin at 11:30 a.m.

For more information go to www.germanvalleydays.com, www.facebook.com/germanvalleydays/ or call 815 362-3671.

Volunteers needed for Ogle County Fair

OREGON — We all eat, but where does the food come from? Youth throughout Ogle and Carroll counties discover the answer to that question through school, library, and park district programs provided by Ag in the Classroom.

You can help spread the knowledge by assisting at the Ogle County Fair. There will be a food stand benefitting Agriculture in the Classroom. Volunteers are needed to work in the food stand. Find a shift that works for you and sign up at <https://go.illinois.edu/foodstand>.

You can also sign up or get any questions answered by contacting charbm@illinois.edu or 815-732-2191. Volunteers must be 16 years old. Time slots for volunteers are July 31: noon-3 p.m., 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.; Aug. 1: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2-5 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.; Aug. 2: 11 a.m.

to 2 p.m., 2-5 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.; Aug. 3: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2-5 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.; and Aug. 4: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

Agriculture in the Classroom is a program to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society. Students learn that thousands of farm products are in the world around them — on their plates, in the clothes they wear, in the medicine that makes them well, and in earth-friendly fuels and plastics.

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County in partnership with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water. For more information about the program, call the Ogle County Extension Office at (815) 732-2191.

Byron's Mumma graduates from UW-Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE — The following individuals from the Ogle County area are among the 2,480 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee com-

mencement exercises Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Byron: Katelin Mumma, Bachelor of Business Administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business.

Brown named to spring 2024 Dean's List at University of Central Arkansas

CONWAY, Ark. — Kaly Brown of Byron was named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at the University of Central

Arkansas. Brown was among more than 1,300 students named to the spring 2024 Dean's List.

Eligibility on the Dean's List requires at least a 3.5 GPA with a minimum course load of 12 credit hours.

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July 19!

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Ruby A. Collman

GERMAN VALLEY — Ruby A. Collman, age 97 of German Valley, IL passed away on Saturday, July 6, 2024, in Freeport, IL. She was born in Forreston, IL on June 16, 1927, the daughter of Glen and Susan (Lieson) Timmer. She attended Forreston High School and upon graduation she obtained a teaching certificate at Normal College, which is now Illinois State University. She taught at Prairie Dell County School in rural Baileyville, IL until 1949. Ruby married her beloved husband Arnold Collman on June 12, 1949, in Forreston at the United Methodist Church. Together, they farmed, first in Freeport and then in German Valley. For many years, she candled eggs for Rademaker and Beckers Eggs in German Valley. Ruby then went on to Phill's Fresh Eggs in Forreston. She also cherished the 30 years she spent teaching Sunday School for

the Church. Ruby would love to spend her time in the vegetable garden and canning.

Ruby is survived by her son, Duane Collman of German Valley, IL; daughter, Sharon (Dennis) Alderks of Chana, IL; grandsons, David (Jamie) Alderks of Mahomet, IL and Alan (Heather) Alderks of Monro Center, IL; great-grandchildren, Carter and Brooke Alderks of Mahomet, IL, and Ayden and Jaxon Alderks of Monro Center, IL; sister-in-law, Jerry Timmer; and several nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her parents; husband of 66 years, Arnie; sisters, Veda Mae in infancy, Carol (William) LaVelle, Donna (Morris) Cherry; brothers, Lawrence (Jean) Timmer, Roger Timmer; brother-in-law, Willis (Norma) Collman; sister-in-law, Norma Collman; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will



be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 13, 2024, at Silver Creek Reformed Church in German Valley, IL. With a visitation from 10:30 a.m. until time of service.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024, at Silver Creek Reformed Church in German Valley, IL.

Rev. Nora Johnson and Rev. Richard Bawinkle will co-officiate the service.

Burial is at Silver Creek Cemetery in German Valley, IL.

A memorial has been established in her name.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com

Kenneth E. Jackson

OREGON — Kenneth E. Jackson, age 67, died Sunday, July 7, 2024 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Ken was born February 8, 1957 in Elmhurst, IL the son of Clyde and June (Schimmel) Jackson.

He married Linda Passini on April 7, 1990 at Hanson's Hideaway while on horseback. Ken worked several years for the Oregon School District Maintenance Department, and also worked as a limo driver and truck driver. He drove grain truck for Maplehurst Farms and also worked for the fire watch department at the Exelon Generating Station in Byron, IL.

In 1991, Ken and Linda moved from Countryside, IL to Oregon, IL where they built their own home. He loved to be with his

family and with nature. He formerly participated in the color guard of the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corp in Rosemont, IL. Ken was an ordained minister. He and Linda loved to travel to Mexico, which was his favorite place to visit.

He was predeceased by his parents Clyde and June Jackson, his daughter Brandy Garland, his sister Dorothy Marianski, his brother Rick Jackson and will be greeted by his faithful dog and companion Sheeba. Ken is survived by his wife Linda of Oregon, IL; his son William J. Karlovic of Joliet, IL; his brothers Robert (Ellen) Jackson of Michigan, and Jack (Kathleen) Jackson of Hoffman Estates, IL; his grandchildren: Ryse Karlovic, Zoelle Kar-



lovic, Hannah Garland, Louis Garland, and Vince Jessup; many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

He will be missed by his dog companions Mia and Trixie. At Ken's request, no services are planned at this time. A memorial fund is established in his name for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and may be directed to his family.

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

JoAnne H. Smith

DIXON — JoAnne H. Smith age 80 of Dixon, formerly of Oregon, died Sunday July 7, 2024 at her home. She was born July 16, 1943 the daughter of Henry and Edna (Mackey) Behrens. JoAnne worked at Oregon Living and Rehab. for over 20 years.

She married John E. Smith on Sept. 8, 1962 in Oregon, IL, and he preceded her in death on Jan 8, 2010. She was also preceded in death by her parents and one brother John Behrens.

JoAnne is survived by her children Bryan

Smith, Gary (Edith) Smith, Cynthia (David) Pickering all of Dixon; two grand daughters Alyssa (Shaun) Good and Stephanie (Chris) Grogg; three great grandchildren Noah Good, Renji Good and Sophia Grogg. She is also survived by one brother Roger (Mary) Behrens of Rock Falls and one sister Mary Derr of Rockford.

Funeral services will be on Thursday July 11, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon. Visitation will be on Thursday from 1:00



to 3:00 PM at the funeral home. Burial will follow the services at Riverview Cemetery in Oregon. A memorial has been established to the Granny Rose Animal Shelter in Dixon. Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com

Shirley Ann Sutton

BYRON — Shirley Ann Sutton, 73, of Byron, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2024, at Generations, surrounded by her family. Born November 14, 1950, in Oregon, IL, Shirley was the cherished daughter of Charles "Chalkeye" and Mary (Shugars) McInturff. She attended Mt. Morris High School and later married Robert J. Sutton on October 22, 1993; he preceded her in death on May 3, 2022.

Shirley was known for her passion for working on computers and her love of playing Nintendo games, particularly Zelda. She was a sociable soul who cherished her coffee outings uptown and found solace

in attending church services. In her leisure time, she loved baking, sewing, and crocheting.

Shirley leaves behind her daughter, Jodi Morrison; her mother Mary McInturff; her sister Sherry (Bryan) Spring; her granddaughter, Amber (Fred Uryasz) Myers; and nephews, Kendrick (Samantha) Spring and Tanner Spring. She is reunited in peace with her husband Robert J. Sutton; and her father, Charles "Chalkeye" McInturff.

A Celebration of Life honoring Shirley will be held at 11 am, Saturday, August 3, 2024, at the Byron Forest Preserve North Shelter, 7993 N. River Rd., Byron, IL 61010, with Rev.



Willie Little officiating. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to either Serenity Hospice or to the family. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to all who supported Shirley during her three-year battle with cancer, your kindness meant the world to her. Steline Cremations is assisting the family, 6204 Forest Hills Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111. www.statelinecremations.com

Steven C. Bonte

OREGON — Steven C. Bonte, age 75, went to be with the lord on Monday, July 8, 2024, surrounded by his loving family, at his home in Oregon, IL. He was born on March 26, 1949, in Rockford, IL, the son of John F. Bonte and Marian Cirkse.

Throughout his life Steve worked as an electrical engineer for WA Whitney. He married the love of his life, Cheryl Nordman, on June 10, 1972, at the Ebenezer Reformer Church of Oregon, IL.

Steven was devoted to church and to the lord, he even volunteered with Hands Helping Haiti. When he wasn't spending time serving the lord, he could often be found doing woodworking and tinkering with all kinds of gadgets. He loved old tractors and cars. His pride and joy was his 1969 Ford Mustang that he bought new.

He enjoyed taking photographs and videos of precious memories. He would always make



sure to have either a camera or a video camera handy so as to always be able to remember the special moments with his family. Steve was a family man through and through, the love he had for them was immeasurable.

He is preceded in death by his parents John and Marian, son Micah Carl Bonte, and brother-in-law David Gaass.

He is survived and missed dearly by his loving wife of 52 years Cheryl Bonte of Oregon, IL; Children Stephanie (William) Bonte-Lebair of Gaithersburg, MD, Melinda Ann Bonte of Summerville, SC, Gregory John (Carrie) Bonte of Oregon, IL; brother Kent (Karen) Bonte of

Clairmont, IA; sister Dawn Gaass of Denver, CO; grandchildren Braydon, Jordan, Angel, Averi, Annabell, Autum, Aubri; and great-grandchild Cayden.

A visitation has been planned for Saturday, July 13, 2024, beginning at 4:00 pm and going until 6:00 pm at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. A funeral service has been scheduled in his honor for 2:00 pm Sunday, July 14, 2024, at the United Church of Byron, IL, with Pastor Tyler Spellious presiding.

Immediately following the service, a graveside service has been scheduled at Ebenezer Cemetery of Oregon, IL. Steve will than be laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery of Dekalb, IL.

Memorial donations maybe made in his name to the United Church of Byron.

To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Work on Illinois Route 64 in Oregon begins July 24

OREGON — The Illinois Department of Transportation announced July 10 that weather permitting, construction on Illinois Route 64 (Washington Street) in Oregon will begin Wednesday, July 24. The work zone is from west of Illinois Street to First Street.

Work will mill, patch and pave the road. There will be daily lane closures using flaggers during

the \$1.1 million project, which is expected to be completed in mid-September.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed

limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at @IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map on GettingAroundIllinois.com.

VFW Post #8739
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815-732-6851

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Kitchen Mon, Wed, Thur 4-7PM & Fri 4-8PM

Kitchen closed Tue.

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LOCAL NEWS



RWCC fishing derby held June 23

The Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club's annual fishing derby was held on June 23. Marty Gorsuch, acting President of the Northern Illinois Bass Masters and his fellow members facilitated fishing activities of over 151 kids. Throughout their previous year, the Bass Masters have a number of fundraisers, donors and sponsors who, with their combined effort, afford a variety of fishing gear (i.e. poles and tackle boxes, as prize giveaways. Every participating kid walked away with a new fishing accessory. The response from the kids & adults in attendance had been overwhelmingly positive with comments of gratitude and hope for a future return. (Courtesy photos)



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Hundreds gathered on June 29 at Serenity Hospice and Home's garden in Oregon, to remember loved ones who have died. Annually, Serenity holds this special event to honor those who have passed and release monarch butterflies to experience a time of hope and joy.

Serenity Hospice holds memorial butterfly release

OREGON—Hundreds gathered on June 29 at Serenity Hospice and Home's garden in Oregon, to remember loved ones who have died. Annually, Serenity holds this special event to honor those who have passed and release monarch butterflies to experience a time of hope

and joy. Sitting in lawn chairs and Serenity's benches, a large crowd gathered to hear the names of those who have passed. Lynn Knodle, C.E.O., shared words of inspiration and encouragement, followed by staff sharing the names of those memorialized. It

was a touching presentation featuring the names of Veterans read first while the crowd quietly honored all those who had passed.

After reading the names, individuals released 360 monarch butterflies, delighting everyone from young to

young at heart. Participants followed butterflies around the garden; some enjoyed cupcakes, and family and friends enjoyed sharing community in the gardens. Serenity Hospice and Home was thankful for the opportunity to organize the event and incredibly grateful to

the Village of Progress for providing a shuttle service for participants to and from Serenity Home. The Memorial Butterfly Release helped all who attended remember family and friends in a truly special way.

About Serenity
Serenity Hospice &

Home in Oregon, IL is a non profit hospice and palliative care provider serving nine counties in northern Illinois. Serenity is rated five stars by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and offers care in private residences, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities.

Residential Electronics Recycling Collection Event is July 26

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

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

monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCR's, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phonesystems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVD's, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county

household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

ing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook.



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VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

- * On July 29, 1958, in response to the Soviet Union's launch of its first satellite, Sputnik I, the U.S. Congress passed legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space.
 - * On July 30, 1966, a three-chord tune penned by Chip Taylor (aka James Voight, brother of actor Jon Voight) called "Wild Thing" became a No. 1 hit for The Troggs. Interestingly, royalties earned from the song neither its writer or singer took seriously enabled said lead singer to research and become an expert on the phenomenon of crop circles.
 - * On July 31, 1999, Linda Tripp, the only person involved in the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton to face criminal charges, was indicted for illegal phone tapping after a 13-month investigation.
 - * On Aug. 1, 1929, inventor Thomas Edison held a competition in New Jersey to select his next 49 proteges. Among the challenging and extensive questions posed to hopeful contestants on the subjects of science, geography, history, chemistry and personal ethics was the especially pertinent "What new discovery or invention do you believe would be the greatest benefit to mankind?"
 - * On Aug. 2, 2007, Fisher-Price recalled more than 1.5 million Chinese-manufactured toys due to concern that the paint used on them could pose a health risk to young children if ingested. The affected toys included Sesame Street's Big Bird and Elmo, which were targeted at kids more likely to put the figures in their mouths.
 - * On Aug. 3, 1916, Sir Roger David Casement, an Irish-born diplomat who in 1911 was knighted by King George V, was hanged for his role in Ireland's Easter Rising.
 - * On Aug. 4, 1753, George Washington became a Master Mason, the highest basic rank in the secret fraternity of Freemasonry, in a ceremony held at Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was 21 years old and would soon command his first military operation as a major in the Virginia Colonial Militia.
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Let's make the right decision to ensure our Democracy

Dear editor,
In 1961, Yale psychologist Stanley Milgram conducted a series of social experiments intended to measure the willingness of study participants to obey an authority figure who instructed them to perform acts conflicting with their personal conscience. Milgram was trying to understand why so many Germans had behaved as they had during Hitler's regime.
The subjects in the experiment (some were Yale students and some were New Haven residents) were told they would be applying an electric shock to other participants when a wrong answer was provided. The subjects "receiving the shock" knew what was happening and only pretended to be shocked.
The subjects applying the shocks didn't know the people they were shocking, but could see the people behind glass and could hear their reactions when shocked. Even though these people were pounding on the glass and complaining of heart pain, clearly suffering, most subjects continued to follow Milgram's instructions and applied even greater shocks when told, including to a level that would have been lethal.
This experiment has been repeated many times, with fairly consistent results.
The point is that many people will follow an authority figure even though what they are doing goes

against their conscience or makes them feel uncomfortable. Excuses are made and rationalization is used to justify actions.
Actions like cheering on someone who wants one thing – to become a dictator, just like Putin, Hitler, Kim Jong-un, and others. People are willing to ignore the warning signs by saying "I'm not a fan of his behavior, but I do like the policies..." without remembering policies like ripping babies away from mothers at the border (can you imagine your child being taken forcefully away from you?), wanting to shoot protesters in the legs (this has been confirmed by multiple people), calling our military veterans "suckers and losers" (this has also been confirmed by multiple people).
I know in Ogle County, we all are proud of our residents who serve or have served in the military. We respect our law enforcement. I hope everyone takes the next four months to dig deep into their conscience and think – would I be one of those people who would apply a lethal shock to someone else just because I was told to even though I knew it just didn't feel good, or right?
We just celebrated our country's 248th birthday. Let's make the right decision to ensure we have another 248+ years of democracy – for all of us and our future generations.

Linda Pottinger
Oregon

Elliott family thanks community

Dear editor,
Thank you everyone for your expressions of care before, during, and after the loss of our beloved

Papa Thomas E. Elliott Jr.
Chenelle Benton & Garrett Elliott, his children

Science, Democracy, and Donald Trump

DONALD Trump probably won't destroy American democracy if he's re-elected. It's been ailing for some time, but has deep roots. It will most likely take more than one presidential term to finish it off.
But he is, nevertheless, set to move us farther down that path. Mr. Trump and others like him have been hollowing out our system of government bit by bit for many years. They operate by exploiting a weakness that all democracies share.
Democracy is unnatural. It's the child of the Scientific Revolution that arose only a few hundred years ago, bringing with it new and unnatural ways of thinking and acting. Mr. Trump's enemy, boiled down to its core, is science.
Jonathan Sallet, writing for the Brookings Institution on March 8, 2017 at brookings.edu, examined democracy's connection to science. He argued that the American Revolution of 1776 was the product of "a chain reaction" that began with the appearance of modern science almost two centuries before.
David Wooton, in his book, "The Invention of Science," provides some background for that claim. The Scientific Revolution, he says, caused the mental world of educated people

to change, "more rapidly than at any time in previous history, and perhaps than at any time before the 20th century."
The mental world before the Scientific Revolution would have been a comfortable one for Mr. Trump. It relied on religion and tradition. People judged the truth of a proposition by how well it fit into those frameworks.
There was no urge to test the idea that a goat's blood will soften diamonds. And if the Earth was the center of the universe, as the Church taught, Galileo's telescope lied when it said otherwise. People accepted ideas if they were consistent with their basic beliefs, and there was no further need to prove them.
It had been that way since the beginning of history and before. Science replaced that ancient way of thinking with something new and unnatural — the scientific method. With that was born Mr. Trump's most dangerous opponent, facts.
Mr. Wooton informs us that facts didn't exist, either as a word or a concept, before science. They, and science itself, were only possible after the invention of the printing press, which allowed people to share and test observations about the real world. With the arrival of science and facts, ideas

had to conform to reality instead of the other way around.
The founders created our republic from within that new worldview. They believed that a political system had to conform to natural laws revealed by reasoning about the facts. Democracy is built on facts, and can't survive without them.
Mr. Trump represents a return to an earlier way, rooted deep in human psychology. A proposition is true, in this pre-scientific mindset, if it conforms to deeply-held beliefs. The comedian Stephen Colbert called it "truthiness," a reliance on opinions that come "from the gut" instead from facts.
Mr. Trump insists, for example, that immigrants are mostly criminals. Research studies, including one published in July of 2023 (Ran Abramitzky and colleagues, nber.org) shows that they instead have a much lower crime rate than white Americans. Those results are — as with Galileo and his telescope — irrelevant or a lie when viewed through the lens of truthiness.
Mr. Trump is famous for his reliance on statements that have no basis in fact. Fact-checker Media Bias/Fact Check awards him the lowest possible rating "due to an extraordinary number

of failed fact-checks and false claims." Mr. Trump's falsehoods are remarkable not just for their frequency but for their mind-boggling detachment from reality, as when he insisted years ago that President Obama wasn't a citizen of the United States.
His failure to tell the truth isn't merely a personal shortcoming, but instead an essential part of his political strategy. The path to power for politicians like Mr. Trump runs through a return to a world in which there are no facts, but only propositions that are emotionally appealing. It's a place in which democracy, the child of science, can't exist.
The essence of the danger that Mr. Trump represents isn't in his policies. We could always reverse them at the next election in a democracy. But democracy, with its free and fair elections, is irreversibly fused with science and its belief in the existence of facts.
Mr. Trump's candidacy is, at its heart, a rejection of science — and of democracy itself.
Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.

The Progressives' problematic path for Illinois

OF the 500 or so bills that passed this year, several good ones are headed to the Governor for final action, and I will write about some of them in an upcoming column. This week, however, I want to highlight some really bad bills — those that make you scratch your head and wonder what in the world the bill sponsors and supporters were thinking.
I have been vocal with my views about the Fiscal Year 2025 budget that dictates how public funds will be spent from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The FY 2025 budget definitely qualifies as a bad bill. If a budget is a statement of priorities, the State of Illinois budget for FY 2025 is very telling. For example, the \$1 billion that will be spent on the migrant/illegal immigrant population in FY 2025 is more than three times the amount of funding that was allocated in the entire annual budget for the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs. Let that sink in.

Here are just a few of the other bills that passed this year and illustrate just how out of touch the progressive members of the General Assembly have become.
House Bill 4409 changes the terminology that must be used when referring to individuals who have committed crimes. In Illinois, these people can no longer be called "offenders" or "criminals." They are now to be called "justice impacted individuals."
House Bill 5142 mandates that insurance companies cover abortion services without a co-pay or deductible. As approved, women who receive abortions have no co-pay. Women who give birth or suffer a miscarriage do pay a co-pay and are subject to their deductible.
House Bill 5239 allows minors from other states to act on their own behalf (without a parent) and come to Illinois for a free abortion.
House Bill 4582 is the revenue package that includes nearly \$1 billion in tax hikes on Illinois businesses and families.
Large online travel platforms will now collect a

renter's tax. That \$25 million tax will be passed on to consumers.
A three-year cap on the net operating loss deduction businesses use to cover their losses was set to expire this year but has been extended for another three years. This translates to a \$526 million hit to Illinois businesses.
Retailers, who were allowed to keep 1.75% of their sales tax revenue will now have that amount capped so they can only keep a maximum of \$1,000 per month. This will take approximately \$101 away from our job providers.
Companies that provide sports betting were previously taxed at a flat 15% rate but will now face a graduated tax ranging from 20-40% depending on receipts. This \$200 million tax hike will be passed down through lesser odds in betting.
An additional tax of one percent will be imposed on net terminal income businesses receive through video gaming, bringing that tax to 35%. This is a \$35 million tax hike for those who provide video gaming.

Senate Bill 2412 changes the rules of this year's election mid-cycle. This bill passed but was subsequently ruled as unconstitutional. Democrats appealed the ruling. SB 2412 limits ballot access and voter choice by removing a current and widely used provision that allows political parties to "slate" candidates to vacant ballot positions if no one runs for the position in a primary election. If the newly-signed law stands, it will remove over a dozen Republican candidates from ballots this November for seats in the General Assembly. This issue remains in the courts.
All of these bills were pushed through by Democrats this year and have either been signed or are expected to be signed this summer by the Governor.
Illinois has serious issues that require serious solutions, and in my opinion, the above bills do nothing to put Illinois on a better path.
Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is the Illinois state senator for the 45th District.

7 tips on how to stop constant worrying in your life

DO you find yourself worrying about everything that is going on around you?
It can be very tiring and depressing to constantly worry about your family, your job, your health, and everything else that is happening. Having things out of your control is very scary.
As a result, here are 7 tips on how to overcome the cycle of worry and fear in your life.
Focus on the facts of your situation; not your thoughts: When people are stressed out, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are anxious, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think.
You can't predict the

future: Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.
For example, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.
Take a break: Take a deep breath and try to find something to do to get your mind off of your anxieties and stresses. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, watch TV, play on the computer, or do an activity that will give

them a fresh perspective on things. This will distract you from your current worries.
Take it one day at a time: Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems.
Learn how to manage your thoughts: Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense.
Things change over time: Regardless of your circumstances, your current situation will not stay the

same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things will get better.
Get some help: Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about your stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with the fear of the unknown. Remember that there is nothing wrong in asking for assistance.
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>

VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

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A look at government farm programs

THUGHT the last number I heard was the U.S. had a \$32 trillion debt. What's a trillion? Just a crooked number with 12 zeroes behind it. I'm sure we all have better ideas on how Uncle Sam can spend or save our money, and yes, I did say our money; seeing as the only source of income from the government is us. Now I've heard grumbling at times from folks about government farm programs and subsidies. Let's not forget the government subsidizes all kinds of things including your mortgage. So, I guess we all get a little.

But let's look at government farm programs, particularly crop insurance, and understand where our money goes and why.

Given historically slim, and often negative, profit margins, farmers are often reliant on lines of credit borrowed from financial institutions at the cost of interest. When all or nearly all of a crop is lost, farmers, who don't have significant cash reserves to begin with, risk defaulting on their loans and losing their farm. Without some form of risk management protection in place, the liability of farming becomes impossible to maintain. Crop insurance is not merely a safety net but a lifeline for farm businesses and the rural communities they support.

The Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) is authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980 and operates as a public-private partnership. Through farm bills and appropriations, Congress makes changes to the program, expands coverage and directs research. USDA, through the Risk Management Agency

(RMA) and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), supports a portion of premiums needed for farmers to acquire insurance plans and compensates Approved Insurance Providers for the cost of administering and delivering those plans.

In February 2024, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that crop insurance expenses from 2024 to 2034 would total \$124 billion, accounting for approximately one-tenth of 1% of total projected federal spending. To put this in perspective, CBO projects spending on interest to service public debt at \$12.44 trillion during this same period, over 100 times larger than the cost of delivering and administering crop insurance. The entire farm bill, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), plus non-farm bill nutrition programs represent only 2.09% of the total federal budget. Just 2% of federal spending directly supports essential farm and nutrition programs crucial for food security, farm economic sustainability, conservation and natural resource preservation efforts.

At its core, crop insurance is the farm bill program that keeps farmers farming year-to-year, maintaining a supply of domestically grown agricultural products to feed and fuel consumers at home and abroad. So, how much would, or should, a taxpayer pay for this service?

By statute, crop insurance must be actuarially sound: over time, every dollar paid out in indemnities should match every dollar collected in premiums. Plus, premiums are adjusted as risk conditions change, similar to a driver's policy if they were in a car accident

or accumulated several speeding tickets. These requirements and conditions keep program costs in check.

Consider a home insurance example: If you live on the coastline in the hurricane-prone Southeast, you likely pay more for your homeowners' insurance than someone who lives in the less hurricane-prone Northeast. In this case, premiums, the cost of the policy, are set in terms of risk exposure. The business of growing crops is, comparatively, riskier than owning a home. Conditions like freezes and heavy rains rarely destroy homes and cars but can eliminate millions of acres of agricultural production, thus business revenue, in mere hours. Crop insurance offers protection for farm businesses from events completely out of their control. The cost of the premium is shared across the food system because the cost of the policy, due to the high-risk nature of farming, would be too high for farmers to make ends meet from year-to-year. This would make crop insurance products financially unattainable for farmers without government support. The premium support keeps the insurance costs from being too high for farmers to make ends meet even during good years. Premium discounts authorized by the farm bill exist to both protect the domestic food system and sustain farmer enrollment.

Premium discounts are set by Congress and are permanent until Congress changes them. Discount rates decrease as coverage levels increase and the corresponding deductible chosen by the farmer decreases. This de-

ductible can be anywhere from zero to a couple of thousand dollars. Even at the highest levels of crop insurance coverage, individual crop insurance plans pay a maximum of 85% of the expected value of the crop. This means 15% of the liability of a farmer's crop is lost as a deductible, which can equal tens of thousands of dollars even for the most expensive policy. Yet farmers still purchase at that level because it's so essential to their risk management.

For most farmers, selected coverage levels are closer to the 70% range, meaning farmers must experience a 30% decline in actual revenue before crop insurance comes into play. For example, an average corn farmer must face over \$204 in lost revenue per acre before crop insurance would trigger, a bit more than 31% of the total value of the crop. To put things in perspective, in 2023, the cost to grow and harvest an acre of corn in Illinois (excluding any cash rent) was at \$812.

For a 350-acre farm this means the same farmer would have to face over \$70,000 in revenue losses before crop insurance is triggered, an area of land that easily could cost \$284,000 to farm.

There are quite a few reasons indemnities have increased. In recent years, market conditions have driven up the prices of many crops. When the program insures farmers' crops at these higher market-driven prices, it naturally results in higher payouts in the event of crop losses or a decline in revenue. Elevated commodity prices between 2011-2012 and 2021-2022 have led to higher insured liabilities and associated

indemnity payments compared to periods of lower prices in between.

Moreover, the FCIP has expanded its offerings significantly over the past two decades. From 2000 to 2023 the number of policies sold has increased from 1.94 million to 2.34 million, and insured acreage has correspondingly swelled from 206 million to 539 million acres. More coverage options for more crops incentivizes more enrollment, leading to higher overall insured liabilities and corresponding indemnities. Between 2000 and 2023, liabilities have increased from \$34 billion to \$181 billion. Of note, this time period also saw an increase in farmer-paid premiums from \$1.59 billion to \$6.78 billion. Broader participation from more farms in more locations that grow different crops and are of different sizes balances the overall risk pool and contributes significantly to the stability of the crop insurance program.

Importantly, the percentage of liabilities indemnified reveals whether losses are becoming increasingly larger. Between 2000 and 2023, an average of 8% of liabilities were indemnified under crop insurance with no upward trend in losses present. An indemnification rate of 8% was even common between 2000-2011 and 2012-2023, showing that as the program grew, payouts did not become proportionally higher. Indemnified liabilities peaked in 2012 at 15% during a massive drought. Rains in 2019 caused over 20 million acres of prevented planting, pushing indemnified liabilities up to 10%. In 2022 extreme drought pressured plans again with 11% of liabilities indemnified. Comparatively low losses in other years offsets years with

major weather disasters. As of May 2024, 2023 indemnified liabilities were nine percent. As crop insurance options continue to become more widely available, participation will increase, which also leads to a higher likelihood of more indemnities triggered when a severe event occurs.

Crop insurance, alongside Title I and standing disaster programs, stands as a cornerstone of agriculture's resilience, providing a vital safety net for nearly 370,000 farmers amid weather, pests and market fluctuations. Despite its critical value to farmers and ranchers, it faces significant criticism. The reality is that crop insurance is an actuarially sound government program that represents a small fraction of federal spending. It is a public-private partnership that works to secure the nation's food supply and support farmer sustainability in a way that is not entirely dependent on taxpayer funding, but instead spreads the risk of the program among farmers, private sector crop insurance companies and taxpayers. Crop insurance not only aids individual farmers in weathering the inherent risks of their profession but does so at a low per capita cost to each and every consumer.

As the U.S. navigates an increasingly uncertain future, improving and enhancing 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.

"I am not a pig farmer. The pigs had a great time, but I didn't make any money." -Willie Nelson.

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



Ron Kern

Sound policymaking needed to fully scale sustainable aviation fuel

ETHANOL represents a significant market for my Ogle County family farm. We can deliver corn to seven ethanol plants within a 70-mile radius, and distillers' grains are a valuable input for our livestock enterprises.

Biofuels like ethanol can benefit both the economy and the environment. Illinois, which ranks third in the nation for ethanol production, is meeting the demand of consumers and industries for cleaner, domestic energy sources.

But this demand did not build itself.

Decades of sound policymaking created channels and incentives for the agriculture and biofuels industries to supply a growing market.

The expanded Renewable Fuel Standard mandating the use of renewable fuels in transportation, and year-round use of higher blends of homegrown biofuels such as E15 and E85 have bolstered the ethanol market. State and federal tax credits tied to biofuels

have been economic game changers for our state.

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), a bio-based jet fuel made from corn ethanol or soybean oil, holds similar economic and environmental opportunities as a path to decarbonize the aviation industry with homegrown biofuels.

While farmers, airlines and the ethanol industry are eager to embrace SAF, challenges persist in scaling up SAF production. Sound, reasonable policies are needed to ensure that significant changes and cost investments are worthwhile.

A first step came with recently released guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department acknowledging that feedstocks grown utilizing conservation practices can reduce overall SAF greenhouse gas emissions. This will play a role in the federal SAF production tax credits authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act. Known as 40B, a \$1.25-per-gallon tax

credit will be awarded to SAF products with greenhouse gas emissions scores 50% lower than petroleum-based jet fuels along with additional incentives. This credit is retroactive to 2023 and extends through 2024.

The Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies (GREET) model will be used to assess the 50% emission reduction.

Illinois Farm Bureau policy supports use of the GREET model in scoring the carbon intensity of agricultural feedstocks for SAF and other biofuels. We have advocated with federal officials to select GREET because it incorporates accurate, updated data around emissions and land-use changes, and recognizes on-farm practices to lower the carbon intensity of SAF and biofuel feedstocks. The Treasury's guidance for ethanol and

biodiesel facilities will require farmers to demonstrate multiple sustainable practices including no-till farming, cover crops and energy-efficient fertilizer use. The bundled requirements are restrictive and lack the flexibility farmers need to use carbon-reducing practices that work for their farm.

Development of 45Z SAF tax credit guidance for 2025 through 2027 should include more options and flexibility in farming methods that qualify and allow farmers to adjust their methods from year to year.

It should also utilize the existing feedstock calculator available for use with GREET to determine on-farm carbon intensity of practices implemented by farmers to grow grain for SAF.

Federal and state-level incentives, such as Illinois' \$1.50-per-gallon SAF purchaser and user tax credit, are crucial

for stimulating the SAF market. About 25 million gallons of SAF were produced in 2023, far below the current administration's SAF goal of 3 billion gallons by 2030 and 35 billion gallons by 2050.

Modeling from Iowa-based Decision Innovation Solutions suggests U.S. agriculture has the production capacity of meeting about half of future SAF grain demand. SAF produced from soybean oil would account for four billion gallons, while SAF made from corn ethanol would make up another 6 to 11 billion gallons.

To contribute to those production levels, Illinois would need to establish 14 more 200-million-gallon ethanol plants and invest in other SAF infrastructure. Such expansion could lead to an extra \$13 billion in economic activity per year, DIS models show.

Without a viable SAF market, corn farmers risk losing out on \$2 billion per year through 2050. These

are real, tangible dollars that farm families can use to sustain their operations and pass them on to the next generation.

To fully scale SAF technology and realize its market potential, today's policy decisions around SAF must provide the certainty and flexibility farmers need to meet demand.

Airlines and biofuel producers require a solid backstop to their major investments into SAF technology just as much as farmers deserve credit for adopting and implementing sustainable farm practices used to produce SAF feedstocks.

This economic opportunity is too valuable to get wrong.

Brian Duncan of Polo and Ogle County is the president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



Brian Duncan

Ogle County Life — Letters to the Editor Policy

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

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The project lasted about a month. Eric at Ag View FS came out and sprayed the field to kill weeds. Clint of the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District came out to drag the field after the weeds died off. Macklin Incorporated donated a truck load of ag lime for the project. Kevin McNamee and John Seper of LJ Fabricators donated materials and time to build Focus House its own drag to maintain the field in the future.

BASEBALL: Community unites to restore diamond at Focus House

From page 1

“It wasn’t useful since then and it didn’t look good. Our Director Brenda Mason wanted to get it fixed up. I reached out to a handful of people with expertise on sports fields.”

The project lasted about a month. Eric at Ag View FS came out and sprayed the field to kill weeds. Clint of the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District came out to drag the field after the weeds died off. Macklin Incorporated donated a truck load of ag lime for the project. Kevin McNamee and John Seper of LJ Fabricators donated materials and time to build Focus House its own drag to maintain the field in the future. Kiwanis Golden K and Dennis Swinton donated two benches made from recycled bottle caps for the field to replace previous benches that were falling apart.

“The field looks beautiful now,” Hardin said. “We’re super excited. We’re pretty active outside here in the summers and we like to play sports. It’s all completed now. The kids have already been out there playing. We plan to get it sprayed for weeds again and to get new bases. We’re hoping to get a softball game together with our staff,

our foundation board, city officials, local businesses that helped us to get it done, and our students. We want to put together a fun event out there to thank everybody and have a ribbon cutting for our new field.”

Hardin said the Focus House students are excited by the field’s completion and they assisted with the moving of ag lime and cleaning up the weeds. They’ll be helping with the future upkeep of the field.

“They were involved from start to finish,” Hardin said. “Our kids are very proud of it. This is a lot like the other volunteer projects they do in the community. It’s good for them to see something improve from start to finish. We recently helped the VFW with the flags for Memorial Day and kids got to see that from start to finish too. They feel proud when they get to be part of things like that.”

Hardin said Foundation for Focus House Board Vice President Russ Crull and Focus House Head Teacher Tony Wyatt led the charge to get the field cleaned up. It will be used for gym class for students every day possible for kickball, baseball and softball.

“It was a great project,” Hardin said. “I want ev-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kiwanis Golden K and Dennis Swinton donated two benches made from recycled bottle caps for the field to replace previous benches that were falling apart.

everyone to know how much we appreciate them. It’s really neat to see. We have such great support from the community. People hear that we need something, and they step right up. It came together so quickly. People donated their time and resources. We didn’t have to pay anything, and we have a brand

new beautiful field. We’re just so appreciative of the community and wouldn’t be able to do a lot of what we do without it.”

Hardin said the community’s support of the project shows how much people in the area care about the students at Focus House and she and the facility’s staff want to

make sure they know that.

“The staff tries to instill in the students that people in the community give back to help them,” Hardin said. “So that’s why we do volunteer projects to give back and repay them. Our kids enjoy volunteer work and every step of the way we try to show them why we do

what we do. Because of the support the community gives our program and our kids. We want our students to leave here knowing the importance of giving back. We don’t ask for much from the community, but when we do, people step up. And we appreciate it more than we can say.”

Knights of Columbus donate to Serenity Hospice and Home

OREGON—On Tuesday, July 2 The Knights of Columbus of Byron #4739 presented Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon a check for \$8,000 which came from the profit and donations from their six weekly Lenten fish fries which are held at St Mary Catholic Church in Byron.

The knights served over 2,200 meals from people from all over the northern area of Illinois. The Fish Fry chairman is Roy Lorenz and he is blessed with a great supportive council. In 2023, they presented Serenity house with \$5,000 and were able to up it this year.

These funds will continue to support our patients with integrated therapies (massage, music, aromatherapy, virtual reality) not covered by Medicare or private insurance. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to the success of the Lenten Fish Fry evenings. Your ongoing support is invaluable to us. Serenity also extends its appreciation to WTVO for their onsite engagement and interviews.

The weekly 2025 Lenten Fish Fry will start March 7, 2025 and the plans are already started.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Tuesday, July 2, The Knights of Columbus of Byron #4739 presented Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon a check for \$8,000 which came from the profit and donations from their six weekly Lenten fish fries which are held at St Mary Catholic Church in Byron. Presenting the check were Roy Lorenz and Rev. Rich Rosinski from St. Mary Catholic Church in Byron. Lynn Knodle (CEO) received the check.

LOCAL NEWS

Chicago Tribute Anthology to play Mt. Morris July 19

MT. MORRIS—The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the return of Chicago Tribute Anthology to our Bandshell stage for a free two-hour concert on July 19 from 7-9 p.m.

In April of 1969, a new rock 'n roll band burst onto the scene garnering nationwide attention. Born in the Midwest and infused with elements of jazz, blues, and Latin influences, the first album by "Chicago Transit Authority", or CTA as they were commonly known, went double platinum. Such hits as "Beginnings, Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?", and "Question #1" & "2" propelled the band to popularity.

With a rock rhythm section led by the brilliant guitarist Terry Kath, a powerful horn section, and unique vocals, the band now known simply as "Chicago" released their second album in January of 1970. Considered by many to be the band's

breakout album, Chicago 2 would also go platinum with hits like: "Make Me Smile"; "Colour My World"; and "25 or 6 to 4."

Chicago became a dominant force in popular music during the 1970s, producing at least one new album each year. This period was marked by the release of classic songs like, "Free, Saturday in the Park, Dialogue, Just You 'n Me, Feelin' Stronger Every Day, Call On Me, and Old Days, to name a few.

CTA brings to life the "Golden Age" of Chicago by meticulously recreating many of the great songs from the first 11 albums. Members include Tom Anderson, Paul Bata, Terry Geraci, Paul Mabin, Chuck Parrish, Reed Pauley, Dan Peters and John Springbrunn. Learn more about the band at <http://www.chicagotribute.net>. Enjoy CTA live and experience all of these classic songs just the way you remember them!

Concessions for the evening will be provided by both the Mt. Morris Moose Lodge, who will be serving chicken strips, French fries, cheese fries, onion rings, cheese curds, pop and water, and the Oregon Lions Club, serving pork chop sandwiches, brats, pop and water. Just 4 Fun ice cream as well as Bill's Famous Lemonade stand will be there too, all starting at 6 p.m.

Ewe and Me Acres will have a fresh produce stand with a variety of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, jams, jellies and dog treats on the campus along with other craft and plant vendors from 5-8 p.m.

On either side of the band shell, the Sandstone Encore Art Gallery will feature the Regional Showcase of Area Artists 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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the return of Chicago Tribute Anthology for a free two-hour concert on July 19 from 7-9 p.m.

or chair, or enjoy our 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 classic rock concert.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast Musical Performing in Byron

BYRON — Byron Civic Theatre (BCT) in Byron brings a vibrant musical to life in July with Disney's Beauty and the Beast, a Tony-award winning production that has been enchanting audiences around the world.

"We are so excited to showcase a cast that hails from all corners of the northwest Illinois region," Tammy Long, Byron Civic Theatre program manager,

Byron Park District, said. "Everyone has worked diligently for several months on this production, and we can't wait to share with our audience."

Byron Civic Theatre's production of Beauty and the Beast runs July 19-21 and July 26-28, with shows at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are available at the door or online at <https://www.byronparks.org/ByronCivicTheatre>.

The production is directed by Ellen Rowton-Mahan, produced by Tammy Long, assistant directed by Matthew Tiritilli, and choreographed by Taylor Doane. The cast features 60+ performers from Byron, Stillman Valley, Davis Junction, Rochelle, Oregon, Rockford, Forreston, Pearl City, Dixon, and other area cities.

Based on the Academy

Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over 13 years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman

in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

Byron Civic Theatre (BCT) is located in Byron,

Ill., and is a division of the Byron Park District. BCT produces shows each season using local talent from throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Now in partnership with the Byron Park District, BCT offers classes, workshops, and lessons for all ages in theatre, voice, and acting. All BCT shows are performed at the Byron Middle School Theatre, 850 N. Colfax, Byron.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 15: For our program on Monday, July 15, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild members will be enjoying a social event: an Ice Cream Social. It will be a great opportunity to get to know one another even better! For this special evening, we extend an open invitation to individuals interested in all things quilting and who may be interested in joining a fun organization. Please consider joining us at 7 p.m. at no charge. Also note that members of the Dekalb County Quilt Guild will be at our July 15 meeting from 6-7 p.m. to show their Raffle

Quilt for their upcoming Quilt Show, Oct. 24 & 25, 2024, to be held in Sycamore. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase. The social will be followed by a business meeting, and Show 'n Tell. Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Membership dues are \$20. For more information call Program Committee Chairs Shelly Holverson 815-297-2381

or Karen Bolen 815-233-9836, or Guild President Chyree Rohde-Lincoln 815-275-2759.

July 18: The Polo Farmer's Market will be held on South Division just north of Knie's Appliance and TV on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. featuring Death Meats, Earl-E Green Gardens, Ferguson Farm, Ivan's Farm (Marian), Vera's Crafts, and more!

July 20: Come and join us at Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Market on Saturday, July 20 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 21: St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Polo is having an ice cream social on Sunday, July 21 from 2-4 p.m. at the Polo Senior Center. Entertainment will be the Denny Jacobs Et

Al. Any donations will go to World Hunger, which is in its 50th year of existence.

July 30: The Serenity Shed at 113 N. 3rd St., Oregon, is offering a design-your-own ornament class for kids ages five and up. The class will be held July 30 from 1-2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child participating. Children will have the opportunity to design their ornament on canvas. Outlines will be drawn and ready for little ones and all materials are provided!

To register, call 815-732-2499 and ask for Dana or Cathy. Class size is limited,

please call by 7/26 to save your spot. As always, all proceeds benefit the impactful mission of Serenity Hospice and Home, an organization that provides high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care as well as free, ongoing bereavement services that are open to the public.

Aug. 6: The Oregon Police Department is having a National Night Out Program with the Oregon Park District on Tuesday, Aug. 6. The event will include bounce houses, touch a truck, a live band, free food, and other fun activities.

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LOCAL NEWS

Northern Rehab hosts Food & School Supplies Drive

ROCHELLE — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is hosting a combination Food & School Supplies Drive from July 15-27 to collect non-perishable food items and school supplies to benefit food pantries that serve the Rochelle, DeKalb/Sycamore, and Genoa communities. Donations will support Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, as well as Barb Food Mart, Spartan Food Pantry, and the Genoa Area Food Hub. Non-perishable food items needed include canned meat

(chicken, tuna), pasta, dry goods, canned foods (soups, sauces, fruits, or vegetables), rice, beans, applesauce, paper goods, personal care items, cleaning products, or any non-perishable items that have a longer shelf life. Needed school supplies include pencils, pens, markers, highlighters, crayons, colored pencils, notepaper, notebooks, folders, glue, erasers, rulers, sticky notes, etc. Items may be dropped off at any Northern Rehab location in Rochelle (1211 Currency Court), DeKalb (3266 Sycamore

Road), or Genoa (540 E. Main St.) For more information, please visit northernrehabpt.com or call 815.562.3299. Thank you in advance for your support and contribution!

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists, voted Ogle County's Best Physical Therapist for five years, is a physical therapist owned and operated physical therapy practice dedicated to providing clients with the very best one-on-one customized care and has built a solid reputation and strong relationships within the communities they serve.

Davis Junction's Tomlitz graduates from Coe College

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Congratulations to Allie Tomlitz, who was among a group of truly

exceptional graduates this past year at Coe College. Tomlitz, of Davis Junction, was awarded a

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History. Tomlitz was among nearly 300 students who received degrees.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

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A.A. Hotline 800-452-7990
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon 732-3157
Rochelle 562-3801

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

HOPE of Ogle County 562-8890 or 732-7796
Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Latina Advocacy, and Shelter programs

Education

University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County
421 W Pines Rd, Oregon 61061 732-2191

Low Income Housing

Ogle County Housing Authority
200 W Washington, Oregon 732-1301

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

P.O. Box 628
Oregon, IL 61061 732-6855

Mental Health

Family Counseling Services 962-5585
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon 732-3157
Rochelle 562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services 732-2499

Senior Citizens Services

Hub City Senior Center 562-5050
Mt Morris Senior Center 734-6335
Polo Senior Center 946-3818
Rock River Center 732-3252
Oregon, IL 800-541-5479

Sexual Assault/Abuse

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling
24-hour hotline 636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon 732-0000

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

Rock River Center 732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499
Medical Transportation 677-6515

Wellness Services

Ogle County Health Dept
907 Pines Rd, Oregon 562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499



Stillman Valley Lions participate in annual roadside cleanup along Illinois Route 72

Stillman Valley Lions members participated in the annual roadside cleanup along a mile of Route 72 this June. Adopting a part of a highway is a great way to keep the Land of Lincoln looking beautiful. These members have volunteered to keep America beautiful for many years as Lions members. We truly appreciate the work that they do volunteering their time. Volunteers included Dan Janes, Marty Typer (taking picture), Bruce Larson and Bruce Roe. (Courtesy photo)

UW-Platteville announces spring graduates, Dean's List and Chancellor's List honorees

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville awarded diplomas to more than 700 undergraduate students for the spring of 2024.

Students from this area who graduated include:

Byron: Ethan Bonnell (Industrial Technology Management, UW-Platteville) and Ian Palzkill, (Biology and Forensic Investigation, UW-Platteville). Davis Junction: Courtney Houghton (Soil & Crop Science, UW-Platteville) and Hailey Houghton (Soil & Crop Science, UW-Platteville). Forrester: Bailey Cullor (Civil Engineering, UW-Platteville) and Natalie Johnson (Biology, UW-Platteville). Leaf River: Kyla Benson (Soil & Crop Science, UW-Platteville). Monroe Center: Aubrey Craig (Agricultural Business, UW-Platteville). Mt. Morris: Jackson Buck (Health and Human Performance, UW-Platteville) and Megan Hagemann (Animal Science, UW-Platteville).

Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the spring 2024 semester.

College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Education require grade-point averages of 3.75 and above for Dean's List honors, while the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include:

Chana: Rylee Jackson, Animal Science BS, UW-Platteville. Davis Junction: Grace Pfeiffer, Biology BS, UW-Platteville. Monroe Center: Anna Hagemann, Soil & Crop Science BS, UW-Platteville. Davis Junction: Grace Pfeiffer, Biology BS, UW-Platteville. Monroe Center: Anna Hagemann, Soil & Crop Science BS, UW-Platteville. Mount Morris: Megan Hagemann, Animal Science BS, UW-Platteville. Oregon: Lily Gillingham, Elementary Education BS, UW-Platteville. Stillman Valley: Grant McClendon, Computer Engineering, UW-Platteville.

Stillman Valley: Grant McClendon, Computer Engineering, UW-Platteville.

Chancellor's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announced its Chancellor's List, honoring those with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages for the spring 2024 semester.

Students from this area who earned the 4.0 grade-point average include:

Chana: Rylee Jackson, Animal Science BS, UW-Platteville. Davis Junction: Grace Pfeiffer, Biology BS, UW-Platteville. Monroe Center: Anna Hagemann, Soil & Crop Science BS, UW-Platteville. Mount Morris: Megan Hagemann, Animal Science BS, UW-Platteville. Oregon: Lily Gillingham, Elementary Education BS, UW-Platteville. Stillman Valley: Grant McClendon, Computer Engineering, UW-Platteville.

UW-Oshkosh releases spring 2024 Dean's List and Honor Roll

OSHKOSH, Wis. — University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll in spring 2024 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point

average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a "C" and no

incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

Local students who made the list include Byron's Anika Roush (Dean's List), Oregon's Grace Kullgen (Dean's List) and Stillman Valley's Chad Gerig (Honor Roll) and Nolan Swenson (Dean's List).

LOCAL NEWS

SHERIFF: VanVickle details aftermath of Lost Nation shooting incident

From page 1

The Ogle County ERT then entered the residence and was immediately met with gunfire, before returning fire and incapacitating Jonathon Gounaris, 32, of rural Dixon. In the exchange, Ogle County ERT Members Tyler Carls (Rochelle Fire Department), Lt. Jason Ketter (Ogle County Sheriff's Office) and Sgt. Tad Dominski (Oregon Police Department) were hit.

Gounaris was located inside the front door of the residence with a gunshot wound. He was armed with two handguns, a fixed-blade knife, pepper spray and ballistic armor.

Gounaris was arrested on a no bond warrant and charged June 18 with four counts of attempted first degree murder, three counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm, three counts of aggravated battery and two counts of possession of a firearm without a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card stemming from the incident. The investigation into the incident was handled by the Illinois State Police and charges were handed down by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office.

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

Carls and Dominski were transported to KSB Hospital and treated for

their injuries and released the same day. Ketter was flown to OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, underwent surgery, and was released on Friday, June 14. Gounaris underwent surgery and was released from the hospital before being arrested. He is currently housed at the Winnebago County Jail as his court case unfolds.

VanVickle said July 9 that Carls and Dominski have returned to work and that Ketter is still on leave due to needing another surgery.

"Everybody is doing well," VanVickle said. "It's just a process. We've provided a lot of help to the deputies that were involved. It's been a lot of emotional support, that's the main piece of it. It's been well-received by most."

The Ogle County ERT is currently on hold due to "quite a bit" of its equipment being taken due to the investigation into the Lost Nation incident and needed training to ensure there are no lingering concerns for members from the June 12 shooting.

If an emergency response is needed, Ogle County would be covered by SWAT teams from Carroll/Jo Daviess counties and Stephenson County. Those teams have been used locally in the month since the Lost Nation event.

"Our biggest issue at this point is equipment," VanVickle said. "That is equipment built for ERT team members like ballistic vests and helmets and things like that. Those things have to be reordered

and some of it takes months to get. Our manufacturers have put a rush on new equipment, knowing the situation. It will still be a few months. We've got training coming up this week to try to get them back reacquainted to the work. They'll be in a facility that has a live shoot house this week for three days. Just putting the work back in to try to get back up to speed and make sure there aren't any lingering concerns both physically and psychologically. That's part of the rebuilding piece."

VanVickle said a true ERT call where the team is actually deployed typically happens about 4-5 times a year. That number has already been reached for 2024 due to an increase in warrants from the Ogle County Sheriff's Office special operations drug unit and an increase in mental health-related calls, he said.

The Sheriff's Office has utilized a peer support system in getting its employees mental health help both since and before last month's critical incident. VanVickle said he's found that "everybody needs something a little bit different" when it comes to mental health.

"Someone may need to go to the shooting range to refocus on their shooting because that piece settles their mind and makes them feel they can do the job," VanVickle said. "Another person may just need to talk to someone. Another person may just have concerns in general, so we put another deputy with them to go



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On the morning of June 12, members of the Ogle County ERT responded to 402 Wild Rice Lane in Lost Nation after a call from a parent regarding their adult son having suicidal and homicidal ideations.

out and make traffic stops and just get acclimated to high-intensity situations. We've found there is no single answer. One of the benefits of being a small agency like we are is we're able to know that intimate detail that our deputies need and be able to provide that to them. And some people don't necessarily need counseling, they just need time away from the job with their families. We're able to see that and talk with their families and understand the need and make sure they get what they need to return to work and serve the community."

Along with its peer support system, the sheriff's office offers connections to mental health organizations and a chaplain. VanVickle said he wants those with

mental health needs to find what works for them so they can be good deputies and family members to their loved ones.

VanVickle said that reports indicate that police officers see 400-600 traumatic events during their career, while the general public sees less than five. He's seen mental health resources become more available during his law enforcement career.

"The biggest issue with dealing with traumatic events on this job years ago, and I was part of it, was basically you just put it in a box and you put it in a drawer and you close the drawer and you moved on," VanVickle said. "We've learned that's not a really great way to deal with things. This is a good change and it's gotten our

employees help in a much more timely manner and we've been able to return them to a much more normal life in a much faster fashion."

A handful of times since the Lost Nation incident a month ago, VanVickle has referred to the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the ERT as a family. As sheriff for nearly 10 years, he's been involved with the hiring of most employees of the office.

"You see people have kids and get married, so you've been part of their life and their family and vice versa," VanVickle said. "We spend Christmas and birthday parties together. They truly are part of the family and that's a huge benefit you have working at a smaller agency like ours."

Ogle County Sheriff's Office releases Independence Day enforcement numbers

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office issued 97 citations for various offenses during the recent Independence Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Drive High Get a DUI" and "Click It or Ticket" safety campaigns.

The citations that were issued were for offenses including: 15 arrests for suspended, revoked, or no valid driver's licens-

es; one arrest for driving under the influence, one arrest for an outstanding warrant, 30 citations for speeding offenses, eight citations for no seat belt, 14 citations for no insurance, 18 citations for registration violations, and two citations for distracted driving. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office joined forces with more than 200 other state and local law en-

forcement agencies to get drunk and drugged drivers off our roads, encourage seat belt use, and enforce speeding and other traffic laws. The effort featured high-visibility enforcement combined with a variety of outreach activities including the "It's Not a Game" media campaign.

The enforcement period was funded by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois

Department of Transportation as part of the state-

wide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Drive High

Get a DUI" and "Click It or Ticket" programs.

OCSWMD re-establishes drop-off recycling stations

OREGON — In July of 2023 the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) re-established two drop-off recycling stations in Oregon and Byron. These bins are intended for Ogle County residents who do not have curbside recycling service.

After a year of use the OCSWMD is pleased to report that this program has been a success both in terms of budget and the proper use of the recycling stations by Ogle County residents.

Approximately 65 tons of material was collected between each recycling station in the first year of use. This tonnage represents a single stream of "co-mingled" materials and heads to a processing center all mixed together, and is separated and processed into their representative commodities at the recycling center.

Each site has galvanized metal decking to allow access to the bins, and signage for the proper use of the bins. The signage informs users of what can be accepted for recycling and also lists the more common items

that should not be placed into the bins.

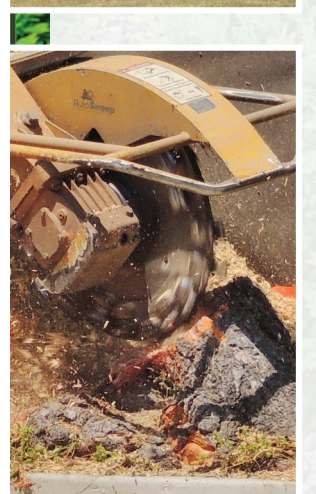
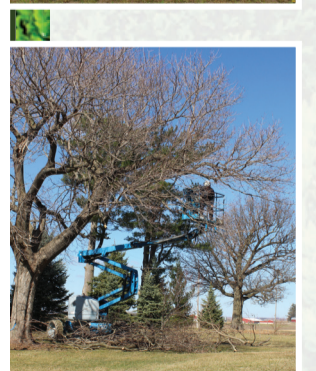
Items accepted in the bins include flattened cardboard boxes, magazines, office/school paper, newsprint, junk mail, and other clean paper products, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, food and beverage cartons (clean), and plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs. Items should be loose (no garbage bags), empty, and free from food/beverage residue.

Common items placed into the bins which are not recyclable through this program include scrap metal and metal junk, tangles like cords, hangars, and hoses, plastic shopping bags and garbage bags, Styrofoam, soiled pizza boxes and other soiled paper products, electronic items,

big items such as furniture, drums, doors or windows, and household garbage. Placing items such as these into the bins makes recycling more costly, less efficient, and could jeopardize this service.

In Byron, the recycling bin is located at the Forest Preserve District maintenance lot at 6845 N. German Church Road, and in Oregon, the bin is located in the Farm Bureau parking lot at 421 W. Pines Road. These bins are typically emptied 1-2 times per week depending on usage.

Please call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020 if you have further questions about these recycling bins, or other questions regarding waste reduction and recycling in Ogle County.



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Byron High School hosts annual summer basketball camp for youth and high school players

Byron High School held its annual summer basketball camp for youth and high-school players this past month. Among the camp highlights were three 1-on-1 tournaments as well as competitions for speed shooting, speed dribbling, buzzer beaters, free-throw shooting, 3-point shooting and more. (Courtesy photos)



NEW PRICE!

10045 W Edgewood Road, Polo NOW \$655,000 Call Carla

SELLER SAYS SELL! SET UP YOUR SHOWING AND BRING US AN OFFER! This tranquil 40-acre AG-1 retreat with its timber windbreak, fenced pastures, hay field, year-round creek, and turn-key Morton-built Equestrian Center (78'x112') has a well-lit indoor arena, 8 stalls, and 1,000 sq ft of climate-controlled living quarters. Seven stalls are 11'x12', the 8th is 14'x14' and combined with its neighbor can be a mare and foal stall or used for stall-kept recovery. Entering the driveway, horses grazing in a lush 4-board-fenced paddock will welcome you. At the parking pad, the walk-thru entry opens to living quarters on the right-a kitchenette and two bathrooms on the first floor-and a staircase on the left that leads up to a great room (33'x11') with baseboard heat, ceiling fan, window a/c, cable, Wi-Fi, and an office or bedroom that overlooks the mare and foal stall below. On both levels, windows provide an unobstructed view of the arena, stall fronts, and partial view of the dry lot. Upstairs, sliding-glass doors open onto a deck for picturesque views of 5 more fenced paddocks, 2 more automatic waterers, 3 more frost-free hydrants, and a 48'x18' loafing shed as shelter from storms or scorching heat. The first-floor's kitchenette adjoins the indoor wash rack (lined in fiberglass), with crossies and an indoor frost-free hydrant. Here, an equine enthusiast can board, train, or rescue horses, or conduct riding or equine-assisted therapy sessions while potentially adding onto the living quarters or building a separate residence.

Becky Adams

**TOP LISTINGS | TOP CLOSINGS
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605 S. 1st Avenue, Forreston \$129,900 Call Stephanie

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath on a large lot in Forreston! You will love the oversized rooms, main floor master and laundry. Upstairs you will find 2bedrooms with beautiful hardwood floors and wood trim. New furnace and central air in 2018.

3238 Latham Street, Rockford \$132,900 Call Jennifer Rybicki

Welcome to this charming, 2-story colonial home, on a corner lot, featuring 3 bedrooms. The home has original hardwood floors with a bonus room off the large living area that draws in natural sunlight. This versatile layout offers a potential fourth bedroom or a perfect home office to suit your needs. The spacious basement provides ample storage or additional living space options. The property includes a detached 1.5 car garage with fenced backyard. A newer roof and central AC, in addition to new carpet throughout. This inviting home combines comfort, functionality, and convenience in a desirable location. Don't miss this opportunity, schedule your showing today!

303 E. Center Street, Mt. Morris \$128,000 Call Lori

Wow. Seller has done so much! New roof in 2023 along with a new washer and dryer. New gas forced air furnace, central air and water heater all in 2022. Refrigerator purchased in 2021. The windows are newer replacement, double pane. The main floor bathroom has been completely redone and wiring has been updated, flooring is updated as well. House has 2 bedrooms on the main level along with a dining room or den space and a living room. Garage has an electric opener and the other side is a porch or storage, hang out or whatever you want it to be! Nothing left to do but move in.

401 Glendale, Loves Park \$149,900 Call Jamie

Searching for the ideal starter home in an excellent location? Your search ends here! Discover this charming 3-bedroom house that's ready for you to move in. It features fresh paint, a newly remodeled bathroom and kitchen, and brand-new LVT flooring throughout. It's also conveniently situated near schools, shopping centers, and restaurants. Book your showing today!

154 Joanne Lane, Rochelle \$205,000 Call Boone

Welcome to 154 Joanne Ln, a delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home nestled in the heart of Rochelle, IL. This lovely property offers a perfect blend of comfort and convenience, making it an ideal choice for families or first-time homebuyers. The home features many updates, including new flooring, renovated bathrooms, and an oversized deck. A short walk away and you can be at Helm's Complex or the Rochelle Recreation Center.

NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS! NEW LISTINGS!

1406 Mineral Springs Rd., Sterling \$299,000 Call Jenny Kirchner

This 3 bedroom 2.5 bath brick ranch home is a Sterling stunner! You will be in awe of the many features this spacious home with over 2375 sq ft provides. Pride of ownership shows throughout, beginning with brand new flat roofs and luxury vinyl flooring. Spacious living room features a gorgeous gas fireplace and views of the park-like yard. Inviting family room, kitchen, and main floor laundry are functional and perfect for a busy household. The massive master suite has ample closets, a slider to the backyard, and a tiled shower. There is an additional full bath, half bath, and 2 large bedrooms with an abundance of closet and storage space. Screened porch is a perfect spot to be this summer as it is coated concrete patio at the back of the house. New storage shed and a fenced area complement the tranquil 1.47 acre lot full of mature trees, beautiful flowers and landscape. Heated 2 car garage with built-ins and partial basement provide ample storage as well. Desirable location near shopping and parks. Don't miss the opportunity to make this well-maintained home your own! Additional information is available on the property- call today!

6934 N. Ill Route 2, Oregon \$599,000 Call Carla

Million Dollar Views! You'll fall in LOVE with this great find with its sweeping lawn and stately trees on both sides of the impressive entry. Nearly 4 acre wooded site in Byron School District! Two homes for the price of one! This custom all brick ranch with fully exposed lower level offers 3-4 bedrooms, new custom oak kitchen with quality cabinetry including a center island with granite countertops plus stainless appliances all staying! Floor to ceiling windows only accentuates the beauty that surrounds this little piece of heaven. 3- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, Large sunken living room with huge family room and wood fireplace plus the lower level offers a recreation room with a 2nd wood burning fireplace, game room, 4th bedroom and full bathroom. The spacious primary bedroom with its private bath and huge closets is on the main floor! All main floor living! The main house has a heated 3 car garage. There's an all brick inlaw quarters, apartment or potential rental unit above the detached brick heated 2 car garage plus there's a 3rd stall for additional storage. Total garage space houses 6 cars with an additional building for lawn mower and tool storage. Loads of trails on the nearly 4 wooded acres for your ATV riding or hiking pleasure! Generac generator, 3 TV's in lower level stay! Dream no more! Your vacation home opportunity has arrived! Conveniently located between Oregon and Byron high on the hillside overlooking the beautiful Rock River Valley!

1205 Robin Road, Dixon \$184,900 Call JD

Welcome to this well-maintained raised ranch home nestled in a quiet neighborhood on the outskirts of town. This charming residence boasts 3 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms, perfect for comfortable living, complemented by tons of natural light. You will also enjoy the large fenced-in yard, ideal for outdoor activities and relaxation. The walkout lower level / basement features a cozy wood-burning fireplace and a small wet bar, creating great additional space for entertaining or unwinding. Recent updates include a new roof installed in 2023, complete with a transferable 50-year warranty for peace of mind. Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a delightful home with great features and a serene setting.

10604 Whispering Pines Way, Rockford \$359,900 Call Matt

Relax into your quiet oasis in this 4 Bedroom 3.5 Bath in the sought after neighborhood in the Belvidere 100 School District. Every corner of this house comes with touches of quality. Hard to find hardwood floors in the kitchen. This home features Pella windows throughout to bring in ample light. Escape onto the screen wrapped porch for three season entertainment. The large backyard features an additional newer 2.5 car garage and shed along with a patio to relax. Special features include newer heating and central air 2019. Mr. Goodwater water softener and iron filtration system. Radon Mitigation system installed in 2011. New roof in October of 2020. Updated lower level bathroom and newly finished rec room. Tons of storage space throughout the house and outdoors. Kitchen boasts of tons of cabinet space and quartz counter tops. All appliances stay.

307 S 8th Street, Oregon \$142,900 Call Stephanie

Main floor living at it's best in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch home in Oregon! You will love the spacious eat-in kitchen, large living room, main floor master and laundry. This home is complete with a partially finished lower level perfect for a family room and recreation room or office. Outside you will find a nice backyard and 2 car garage. Updates to this home include 2 new window air condition units in 2023, roof and gutter guards in 2023, walk-in shower and bathroom vanity lights in 2023, siding in 2022 and windows approximately 2-3 years ago. All Appliances stay! Close to schools and parks, don't miss this gem!

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LOCAL SPORTS



Byron's Henkel receives \$5,000 scholarship
 Byron High School graduate Ashton Henkel was honored with a \$5,000 scholarship during the Coach Gary Lewis Scholarship Foundation's annual golf outing in June. Henkel will be continuing his academics and his football career at the University of St. Thomas. (Courtesy photos)



Byron High School holds first track/cross country camp

Byron High School held its first track and field and cross country camp in June. The camp was held for grade-school and middle-school athletes with help from BHS coaches and student-athletes. (Courtesy photos)



BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Get SSET 4 School
 Now through August 3rd SSET 4 School (Supplying Students Educational Tools 4 School) is a local group that collects and distributes school supplies for our free/reduced lunch students in the FVV school district. Bring new school supplies to Bertolet Memorial Library now through August 3rd. Markers, glue, calculators, lunch bags, backpacks, and more are all needed to help these students start the school year off on the right track! Distribution will be held in

Forreston on August 7th.
Summer Reading Program
 Thursday, July 18th at 10:30 AM Thanks for going on so many adventures with Miss Stacey! We've got one week left so bring in those reading logs and take home some fun prizes!
Farm Animals
 Monday, July 15th at 10:30 AM Join Miss Melinda from Ag in the Classroom on a fun farm adventure. Paint a sheep! Make a water bottle pig! Registration is requested at 815-738-2742.

Movie Adventure Begins At Your Library
 Thursday, July 25th at 10:30 AM Join us on one last adventure as we watch this movie filled with colorful balloons. As a boy, Carl Fredrickson wanted to explore South America and find the forbidden Paradise Falls. About 64 years later, he gets to begin his journey along with Boy Scout Russell by lifting his house with thousands of balloons. (IMDB)
A to Z Reading Challenge
 It's Christmas in July!

Search for a Christmas themed book to fill one of your titles.
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
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Plastic Recycling
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 Life, Loss, and Puffins by Catherine Ryan Hyde
Chapter Books
 The Flying Man by Mike Downs
 The Oregon Trail: Search For Snake River by Jesse Wiley
Picture Books
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LOCAL SPORTS



Polo High School holds summer volleyball camp for youth and high school players

Polo High School held its summer volleyball camps for youth and high-school players in early July. The camp was divided into three sessions with one session for first through fifth-graders, one session for sixth through eighth-graders and another for high-schoolers. (Courtesy photos)

A trip to the John Deere Classic

AWAY from the sports beat for a while, it was time to get back in the fray with a trip to the Quad Cities for the John Deere Classic golf tournament.

It is the only PGA-sanctioned event in Illinois and well worth the drive to Silvis, technically not one of the quad cities (Davenport, Moline, Rock Island and East Moline). The John Deere does not get the big-name golfers, but for a regular Joe like me, I can't tell the difference.

To qualify for any PGA tournament, it is still a cutthroat process and multitudes of aspiring golfers never quite make it to the big stage. Just ask some of the talented kids from Ogle County that have tried their hand at it.

There is still an elite field assembled at the TPC Deere Run every year. I remember covering the opening of the course 24 years ago, as a reporter for Sauk Valley Media.

At the time, it was a big deal and as an aficionado of golf, I felt honored to be present. After all, this was the same tournament I had attended off and on for past 50 years.

Thus, there has been some semblance of a love affair for me with professional golf at the Quad Cities, both as a spectator and reporter.

The combination of not having covered it for a few years and a bit of summer ennui prompted me to request a press credential, which was readily approved. Besides, who wouldn't want to spend a day traipsing on 385 acres of beautiful terrain along the scenic Rock River? Golf courses can be very therapeutic for the soul, provided one isn't actually playing.

With all of that settled, came the question of how to cover it?

As I drove to Silvis on Interstate 88 from Rochelle, rather than golf, my mind was more on why this stretch of roadway never became

highly traveled. Because of influence from Chicago, state officials unwisely decided Interstate 88 needed to be built well before Interstate 39, which is far busier.

Built in the 1970s, the first trip I probably took on Interstate 88 (Interstate 5 back then) was to the Quad Cities golf tournament. Though traffic has increased almost everywhere else, not so much on this lonely stretch.

Enough about transportation, but then again it does affect golf. Just ask the world's leading golfer Scottie Scheffler, who was arrested a few weeks ago for disregarding traffic restrictions in backed-up conditions at the PGA championship in Louisville. He did get out of jail in time to make his tee time, though.

No such problems here in Silvis, as I parked off site and took a shuttle to the course and began to look for an angle for coverage.

With 156 golfers coming from all over the world, there are truly 156 different stories, with most of these guys scraping by to stay on the Tour. Unless you are an elite, it is a pressure-packed situation keeping one's PGA card.

One such golfer is Hayden Springer of Texas. He had just gotten his card from qualifying school last fall and had missed the cut in six straight tournaments. But, he made PGA history by scoring a 59 on Thursday's round at the John Deere, becoming only the 15th golfer to break 60.

Coincidentally, I encountered his mother Jennifer two days later, as we were both walking the 12th hole. She told me how she cried tears of joy after Hayden shot the 59, watching from her home in Fort Worth.

She hadn't intended making the long trip to Illinois, but after the 59, how could she not. Being

the parent of a former high school golfer, I related to her, not in the sense of jaw-dropping scores, but of the joy that comes from seeing a child compete in sports.

Jennifer also told me another story, much more tragic and one I haven't experienced. And, that was the heart-breaking loss of Hayden's three-year daughter to a genetic disease.

It came a month before Hayden got his PGA card, definitely a case of extreme lows and highs. But, as grandma told me, she was grateful to get to know her granddaughter Sage for three years.

"It was a faith in God that sustained me and believing that heaven is real and I will see her again," said Jennifer.

A day after the 59, Hayden 'struggled' to an even-par 71 and fell off the lead, eventually finishing a respectable seventh place on Sunday and taking home a check for \$252,000, his biggest payday yet.

"There are bigger things in life than golf," Hayden told me a day earlier. "I don't want golf to be the sole thing that defines me."

With so much at stake for professional golfers like Hayden Springer, his story indeed tells us there is a greater purpose than what we do for a living. I only visited with him a short time, but sensed true humility.

"Hayden is so easy to work with, I could do it forever," said Michael Burns, his caddie and someone who has toted clubs for a wide variety of golfers.

For Burns and Springer, it is on to Nicholasville, Kentucky this week, the next stop on the PGA tour. My brief window with them is over, but look forward to following their journey the rest of the season.

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



Andy Colbert



Byron golfers medal in Rockford Junior Series tournament at Ingersoll Golf Course

Byron golfers participated in the 2024 Rockford Junior Series tournament at Ingersoll on Friday, June 14. Alayna Brandt finished second and Sophia Cross took third in their respective age groups, while Gina Baker added a third-place finish and Gwen Brandt finished first in her 9-hole division with a 4-over-par 39. (Courtesy photo)

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LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did you know... that the Byron Library can help you save your VHS home movies? Bring your VHS tapes to the library, and our staff will copy what is on the tape to a DVD or to a USB drive as a digital movie file! Blank DVDs can be purchased from the library for a fee of \$1.00 each, and blank USB drives can be purchased for \$5.00 each. Patrons are welcome to provide their own blank DVDs or USB drives. Due to copyright laws the library cannot copy commercially sold VHS tapes or anything recorded onto VHS from television. Limit 5 tapes per visit.

Did you know... that the Byron Library's electronic sign isn't just for advertising library events? The library will run messages on the sign for local churches, schools, and non-profit organizations at no charge. Messages must be sent to the library at least a week in advance, and can be run for a minimum of one week. Messages for the electronic sign can be submitted in-person at the library or emailed to the library at library@byronlibrary.org.

Creative Studio
Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Teens at the Byron Public Library enjoyed learning about the history of henna and then receiving a design from the artist. Julie Engh from Prairie Henna does fabulous work.

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 1-5:00pm, Monday 9:00am-1:00pm

& 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.

C h e c k o u t Our Mobile App
Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your

phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery
The library is open for browsing, but patrons

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

checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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

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.org
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dodd
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 Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am-8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 9:30-10:15am
Coffee & fellowship time: 9:30am-10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community"
Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell **Sunday Services:** Worship 10:30am, Childrens time during Worship Service.
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

Pastor Karen Stevens
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.
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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/LEAFRIVERBC/
Archived Sermons on our YouTube channel: Leaf River Baptist Church (Until further notice)
9:30 Church Service. Nursery available, 11:00 Sunday school for all ages. Nursery available
6941 N Mt Morris Rd, Leaf River, IL 61047
815-738-2205 leafriverbc@gmail.com

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MOUNT MORRIS

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

409 W Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 (Church of the Brethren Basement Entrance) Worship Services: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning, 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Sunday Evening, 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evenings of the Month.
Pastor: Norman 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 EOCCDministries@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 month. Lighthouse will lite up your life!

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon 732-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Website: saintribrides.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: stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship

POLO

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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
poloatcrossroadsccn.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.crossroadsccn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY STILLMAN VALLEY



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Last week, adult crafters met with Joanna at Julia Hull District Library to experience the joys of transforming torn, layered pieces of paper into a scenic collage of the sea.

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.

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.

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 southern city. Tuesday, August 6, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Sidewalk Chalk

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them! This month little ones will get to flex their creative muscle with sidewalk chalk. Friday, August 9, 10 a.m. All materials supplied. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Adult Craft: Punch

Needling for Beginners

Sew much fun! Meet up with Joanna on Zoom to learn the ins and outs of punch needling, then create a simple, beginner project that's cute enough to hang. Monday, August 12, 6 p.m. Email Joanna at jkluever@mail.meridian223.org to register for this Zoom program.

DNA & Genealogy: What to Know Before You Test

It's not a test you have to study for...but there are some things you may want to know before you use a DNA test to further your genealogical knowledge!

In this program, you'll learn how genetic testing can aid your family history research, the basics of how the tests work, and things to keep in mind so you can get the most out of your experience and protect yourself in the process. Monday, August 19, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Library Closed: Annual Cleaning

The library will be closed for annual cleaning Monday, July 29-Friday, August 2. Items may be returned to the drop box. However, no materials will be due during this time.

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Adventures in Art
Mondays July 15th - August 5th, 3:30 pm

Summer reading is wrapping up, so it's time for elementary age students to begin a new adventure! Each week we'll learn about a new

artist or art form and then spend time creating our own masterpiece!

Summer Reading Special

Monday, July 22nd, 10:30 am
Join Miss Melinda from the Ogle County

Extension Office as she takes us on a Chicken Adventure! She'll share a story, crafts, and a snack, so you don't want to miss this!

Summer Reading Program

Adventure Begins at

Your Library as our summer reading program continues every Wednesday through July 17th! Toddlers & Preschoolers meet at 9:30, Kindergarten and older meet at 10:30. We're excited to share stories, crafts, and games

as our adventures take us around the world, back in time, and even into space! Please call the library or stop in if you have any questions or would like more information.

Community Room

Looking for a place

to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family reunions, and more.

Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings
Thursday, July 25, 2024 library will close at 4pm for *Summer Reading Program Celebration*

Mary Head Retiring!

We are saddened to announce that long time librarian, Mary Head, has retired from the library! She has been here for over 35 years and many of the community will be sad to see her go. There is a card available to sign at the library. Let's all wish her the best in her retirement and send her off in style!

Summer Reading Program!!!

Just 1 week left 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! Final date for punch cards is Saturday, July 20th.

Summer Reading Program Schedule July 15th-20th

Kids Beginner Yoga! Program Monday, July 15th, 1pm with Olivia. *CD Wind Spinner, Drop-In Craft* Monday, July 15th, 2pm-7pm, while supplies last. *Sand Art, Take-N-Make* Tue-Sat, July 16th-20th, while supplies last. *Story Time* Wednesday,

July 17th, 11:15am. *Lego Night!*, Family Night Thursday, July 18th, 5:30-7pm

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.

Medicare Informational Program

Not sure where to start? Have questions about your Medicare insurance? Stop by on Tuesday, July 23rd at 3pm for all the information you need. Kelly Denton from the Broadmoor Agency will be here to discuss the when, why, what, and how of Medicare. She will also talk about the Inflation Reduction Act and how this will affect Medicare coverage. RSVP by calling 815-847-5533, walk-ins are welcome!

Hot Spots available at Mount Morris Library

The library has 2 hotspots available to check out for use at home. These are available to Mount Morris Library card holders and will be checked out for fourteen days. Get more informa-

tion from a librarian if you would like to use this free service!

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!

Part-Time Clerk Opening

The Mount Morris Library is looking for a part-time clerk to work on evenings and Saturdays. If you are interested please stop by for an application.

Cookbook Club Next Meeting August 6th

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 August 6th, 6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

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 Axis360 digital service has been upgraded to Boundless. The library can provide you with information about the transition to Boundless. All your user info and history, including holds position, bookmarks, notes, and other saved data will be seamlessly transitioned to the new Boundless platform.

Adult Programming

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Newspaper Available!

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

Curbside Services 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



9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OGLE COUNTY
LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE REPORT

June 18
At 6:15 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 800 block of Franklin Street for the report of a hit and run involving a parked 2016 Toyota belonging to Bryce M. Heeter, age 25, Oregon, was struck by an unknown vehicle at some point during the prior evening. If anyone should have any information regarding this incident, please contact the Oregon Police at 815-732-2162.

June 19
At 4:42 p.m., Oregon Police issued Anne M. Busser, age 37, Oregon, a citation for improper lane usage. This violation occurred in the 300 block of W. Washington Street.

At 7:34 p.m., Oregon Police issued Diego J. Peavy, age 21, Dixon, a citation for speeding, 44mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

At 7:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Alex R. Davis, age 33, Oregon, a citation for reckless driving. This violation occurred in the 700 block of E. Washington Street.

June 20
At 2:25 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Kristopher M. Mockovak, age 23, Rockford, for disorderly conduct – misuse of 911. Mockovak was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. Shortly after release, 911 was dialed again, with no need for assistance. Upon instruction from the State's Attorney's Office, the Oregon Police Department was instructed to take Mockovak into custody and detain him until his court appearance. Mockovak was located and taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail. These violations occurred in the area of 5th and Washington Streets.

At 1:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Samuel J. Woodyatt, age 51, Oregon, for driving while license revoked. Woodyatt was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 100 block of Webster Street.

At 5:30 p.m., Oregon Police issued Susan E. Carlson, age 40, Dixon, a citation for speeding, 46mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

June 21
At 9:11 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Staci L. Todd, age 45, Oregon, for driving while license suspended. Todd was also issued a citation for driving while registration suspended. Todd was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released. These violations occurred in the 100 block of W. Washington Street.

At 11:46 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 100 block of S. 5th Street involving a 2005 Ford driven by Andy N. Khouang-savanh, age 44, Byron, and a parked 2022 Toyota belonging to Annette L. Smith, age 53, Oregon. No citations were issued.

June 23
At 5:13 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Charmaine R. Annoreno, age 53, from Wood Dale, IL, for driving while license suspended. Annoreno was also issued citations for improper lane usage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Annoreno was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released. These violations occurred in the 100 block of S. 9th Street.

Five verbal warnings issued during the week of June 17-23.

June 24
At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of Madison Street for an unwanted subject, resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 3:00 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Dayvon K. Long, age 21, of East Troy, WI, for possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a weapon by a felon. Long was also issued citations for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with no valid license. Long was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the Corrections Officers. These violations occurred in the 200 block of S. 4th Street.

June 25
At 12:52 a.m., Oregon Police issued Richard L. Gallagher, age 40, Oregon, citations for operation of a vehicle with an expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of S. 3rd Street.

June 26
At 7:07 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Madison Street resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 7:59 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 300 block of W. Washington Street involving a 2015 Subaru driven by Margaret Archer and a 2021 Jeep driven by Cayce A. Bridges-Groves. No citations were issued.

At 10:02 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Diane B. Smith, age 60, Oregon, for driving while license revoked. Smith was also issued citations for operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of Madison Street for an unwanted subject, resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

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At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of Madison Street for an unwanted subject, resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of Madison Street for an unwanted subject, resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 7:00 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of Madison Street for an unwanted subject, resulting in the arrest of Brittany A. Highbarger, age 33, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. Highbarger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 11:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Terelle D. Puckett, age 35, of Cortland, IL, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Puckett was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

June 29
At 1:35 p.m., Oregon Police issued Matthew B. Leshar, age 45, Byron, a citation for speeding, 46mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

At 3:11 p.m., Oregon Police issued Andrea M. Jacobs, age 42, Byron, a citation for no valid driver's license. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

10 verbal warnings issued during the week of June 24-30.

July 1
At 4:31 p.m., Oregon Police issued John J. Parks, 49, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, a citation for speeding, 49 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

July 2
At 12:57 p.m., Oregon Police issued Anthony Brown Jr., 37, Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North 4th Street.

At 3:30 p.m., Oregon Police were notified of a hit and run that had occurred at some point between July 1 mid-afternoon and 3:30 p.m. on July 2 where a 2018 Chevrolet owned by Robin A. Otten, 64, Oregon, was struck causing damage to the vehicle. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Oregon Police Department at 815-732-2162.

July 3
At 8:19 a.m., Oregon Police issued Lexuss F. Wallace, 23, of Davenport, Iowa, a citation for speeding 47 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 11:57 p.m., Oregon Police issued Danny E. Roos, 67, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the intersection of 6th and Madison Streets.

July 4
At 4:02 p.m., Oregon Police issued Stephanie A. Triggiani, 36, Sycamore, a citation for speeding 54 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 200 block of East Washington Street.

At 5:15 p.m., Oregon Police issued a 17-year-old of Chana a citation for speeding 40 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Washington Street.

At 5:46 p.m., Oregon Police issued Michelle S. Goodrum, 48, Oregon, a citation for failure to wear a seat belt as a driver. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 6:02 p.m., Oregon Police issued Richard D. Reisman, 65, of Skokie a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 500 block of South 4th Street.

At 6:08 p.m., Oregon Police issued Paige A. Naber, 18, Chana, a citation for failure to wear a seat belt as a driver. This violation occurred in the 300 block of East Washington Street.

At 7:01 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jaime R. Raum, 36, of Milledgeville, a citation for failure to wear a seat belt as a driver. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

July 5
At 9:31 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Brantel B. Valentine, 24, DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Valentine was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

At 10:55 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 300 block of South 2nd Street for a two-vehicle traffic crash involving a 2016 Mazda driven by Michael E. Heller, 25, Oregon, and parked 2018 Jeep belonging to Myria L. Bailey-Reber, 39, Oregon. No citations were issued.

July 7
At 12:22 p.m., Oregon Police issued Enkhzaya Ochirbal, 48, of Elk Grove Village a citation for speeding 46 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 1:33 p.m., Oregon Police issued Austin L. Blume, 34, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 4th Street.

At 4:18 p.m., Oregon Police issued Roy E. Glasgow, 54, of Dakota a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 400 block of West Washington Street.

At 5:13 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Tiffany J. Hedrick, 45, Oregon, for disorderly conduct and domestic battery. Hedrick was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the custody of the corrections officers. These violations occurred the prior evening in the 700 block of South 3rd Street.

Five verbal warnings and four parking citations were issued during the week of July 1-7.

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

North Illinois Route 2 on a vehicle. During the investigation, Harvey T. Cooley, 36, of Mississippi, was arrested for driving while license suspended and possession of cannabis/improper container/driver. Passenger, Alexandra M. Johnson, 32, of Robbins, was arrested for possession of a firearm without a FOID. Cooley and Johnson were transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a court date later this month.

On July 8 at about 5:03 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of South Lilac Lane, Rochelle for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation Aaron Brown, 31, of Rochelle, was located in DeKalb and with the assistance of Dekalb Police Department was arrested for aggravated domestic battery. Brown was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On July 9 at 12:24 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Fitina Lazaro, 36, of Rockford, for driving without a valid license. Lazaro was released with a notice to appear. Lazaro was additionally issued a citation for inoperable taillight.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On June 25, Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a gray Ford Edge in the 12,000 block of N. Baileyville Road. The driver of the vehicle, Fredy N. Herrera Jr. (age 31 of Dixon) was cited for speeding and operating a motor vehicle without insurance. Herrera was issued a warning for expired drivers license. He was taken into custody for an outstanding Lee County Warrant. Herrera was transported to the Ogle County Jail on that warrant. All subjects presumed innocent.

On June 29, at approximately 7:24 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at IL Rt 72 & Rural Road in Stillman Valley. It was determined that a 2014 Volkswagen Jetta, driven by Madelyn Adkins, age 18 of Monroe Center, was westbound on IL Rt 72, when the driver made an improper left turn, and collided with a Ford Explorer operated by Jessica Klecka, age 34 of Byron. Both drivers were treated at the scene by Stillman Fire/Ems for minor injuries. Deputies were assisted by Stillman Fire/Ems. Adkins was issued a citation for improper left turn. All suspects are presumed innocent.

On June 29 at 6:19 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1000 block of South Illinois Route 251 for a traffic control violation. After a brief investigation, Deputies

placed David Aarvig, age 51 of Byron, under arrest for Driving While License Revoked. Aarvig was additionally cited for the traffic control violation and was released with a Notice to Appear court date. All subjects are presumed innocent.

On June 29, at 8:04 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 26 and Coffman Road. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Ryan Cushing, age 44 of Clinton, Iowa, for driving while license revoked. Cushing was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. Cushing was additionally issued a citation for expired registration. All subjects are presumed innocent.

On July 1 at approximately 10:31 p.m., Deputies responded to the 7800 block of S. Rte. 2 and made contact with a male. The male was identified as Christopher Rasmussen, age 47 of Dixon, who was placed under arrest for a Lee County Contempt of Court warrant and FTA Ogle County warrant for a traffic violation. Rasmussen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On July 3 at 9:48 p.m. deputies, assisted by Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department, responded to a three-vehicle accident in the 13,500 block of East Illinois Route 72. After a brief investigation it was determined a Ford F-150, driven by Mary Burriell,

35, of Rochelle, with three juveniles, struck the rear of a Hyundai Ioniq, driven by Ronald Kayser, 75, of Winnebago, with three juveniles and one adult passenger, which then struck the rear of a Tesla driven by Timothy Aulner, 48, of Rockford, with one juvenile passenger. All occupants were assessed by EMS and refused treatment. Burriell was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On July 3 at 6:14 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of South Illinois Route 251 and East Bethel Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Xavier Zepeda, 27, of Rochelle, for no valid license. Zepeda was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was processed and released with a notice to appear court date. Zepeda was additionally cited for suspended registration.

On July 3 at 9:32 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of East Illinois Route 38 and South Chana Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Emily Snyder, 23, of Ashton, for driving while license suspended. Snyder was released with a notice to appear court date and was additionally cited for suspended registration.

On July 4 at 11:48 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. As a result, Nicholas L. Laborde, 20, of Mt. Morris was arrested for

no valid driver's license. Laborde was additionally issued citations for no muffler, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Laborde was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On July 5 at approximately 12:56 p.m. deputies were advised of a domestic battery that had occurred earlier in the morning at 6027 W. Lowell Park Road. Deputies later made contact with the male involved in the domestic at the residence. The male, Erik Page, 47, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for aggravated domestic battery and domestic battery. Page was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On July 5 at approximately 6:11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at 340 E. Illinois Route 38 in Rochelle. After investigation, deputies placed Steven Bolt, 33, of DeKalb, under arrest for a failure to appear DeKalb County warrant. Bolt was transported and released to DeKalb County deputies.

On July 6 at approximately 2:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies cited Daniel Chavez Gerde, 19, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended and illegal window tint. Chavez Gerde was given notice to appear for his citations at the scene.

On July 6 at approxi-

mately 2:33 p.m. deputies were dispatched to 8428 S. Main St., apartment B, just outside of Rochelle in reference to a domestic. After an investigation, Deputies arrested Anthony Cody, 31, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. Cody was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On July 6 at approximately 6:33 a.m. deputies responded to an address in the 9,000 block of North Kennedy Hill for a reported battery. After an investigation, deputies arrested Matthew Young, 32, of Freeport, for battery. Young was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he released on a notice to appear. Deputies were also assisted by the Byron Police Department.

On July 8 at approximately 12:28 a.m. deputies responded to a residence in the 17,800 block of East Illinois Route 72, Monroe Center, for the report of a domestic disturbance. After investigation, Beth A. Gorsuch, 64, of Monroe Center, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Gorsuch was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail. Gorsuch was booked and released on a notice to appear with a court date set for later this month.

On July 8 at approximately 8:23 a.m. deputies conducted a motorist assist in the 3,000 block of

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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)

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 24-03
The Julia Hull District Library Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on August 19, 2024 at 6:15 PM for the purposes of considering the Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. The meeting will be held at Julia Hull District Library, 100 Library Lane, Stillman Valley. Copies of the Tentative Budget and Appropriate Ordinance are available for public inspection. Contact Joanna at jkuever@mail.meridian223.org to request a copy, or stop by during regular library hours.
No. 0711
(July 15, 2024)

NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-2

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AND ASSESS A TAX FOR BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF OGLE, STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025
BE IT ORDAINED, that the Bertolet Memorial Library District of the County of Ogle and State of Illinois shall levy a tax of .02% of the value of all taxable property within said District, for building and maintenance purposes, subject to the right of the electors in said District to petition and require an election concerning the imposition of such additional tax, pursuant to 75 ILCS 16/35-5.
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that within fifteen (15) days from the date of adoption of the ordinance, it shall be published in the Ogle County Life, a newspaper of general circulation in the Bertolet Memorial Library District.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunder set our hands in Leaf River, Illinois this 8th day of July, 2024.

1. The specific number of voters required to sign a petition requesting that the question of adoption of the resolution be submitted to the electors of the District is 100.
2. The petition must be filed at Bertolet Memorial Library on or before August 27, 2024.
3. The referendum would be held March 19, 2025
Krista Carlson
Secretary of the Board of Trustees Bertolet Memorial Library District
c / o Berto let Memorial Library District 705 Main Street
Leaf River, Illinois 61047
No. 0714
(July 15, 2024)

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Bertolet Memorial Library District Notice is hereby given to the Public that on September 9, 2024, at the hour of 6:00 P.M. at the Bertolet Memorial Library, 705 Main Street, Leaf River, Illinois, a public hearing will be held on the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Bertolet Memorial Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. Any person interested in said budget and ordinance may be present at said time and place and may be heard in regard to the budget and ordinance. The tentative budget is now on file with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Bertolet Memorial Library District, at the Library office and may be reviewed upon request prior to said hearing by the Public.
Date: July 8, 2024
Krista Carlson, Secretary
Board of Trustees Bertolet Memorial Library District
705 Main Street Leaf River, IL 61047
No. 0715
(July 15, 2024)

NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing

Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223
Ogle and Winnebago Counties, Illinois
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School Board of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223, Ogle and Winnebago Counties, Illinois, that a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 207 W. Main St., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 in this School District, from and after 4 p.m. on the 15th day of July, 2024.
Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6 p.m., on the 5th day of September, 2024, at 207 W. Main St., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 in this School District. Dated this 9th day of July, 2024.
By Tim DeVries Secretary
No. 0716
(July 15, 2024)

NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of Village of Stillman Valley, 120 N. Walnut St., PO Box 127, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 until 10:00 am on August 7, 2024. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of Village of Stillman Valley, 120 N. Walnut St., PO Box 127, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 at 10:00 am on August 7, 2024.
DESCRIPTION OF WORK
Location: Drainage ditch between Pine and Walnut Streets from Roosevelt Street to Main Street
Project length: 265.3' (0.05 miles)
Proposed Improvement: The project consists of improvements to an existing drainage ditch that include, but are not limited to, earth excavation/re-shaping, paved ditch construction, retaining wall removal, concrete structures, geo-web soil reinforcement, precast concrete box culvert, HMA paving, seeding, erosion control, and

traffic control.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available at www.willetthofmann.com. Click "Bid Login" at the bottom of the home page. The plans and proposal documents are available via Quest (www.Quest-CDN.com) for a non-refundable \$22 fee. The Quest project number is 9217414. Paper/hard copies of the plans and proposal will not be furnished.
2. X Prequalification – If checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.
3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.
4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:
a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (If applicable)
5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased, or omitted as hereinafter provided.
6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in-depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.
7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.
8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.
9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the

request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals.
No. 0718
(July 15, 2024)



Not sure why business is slow?
OUT OF SIGHT IS OUT OF MIND...
is not just a saying in business.
Advertise today and let your business be in sight and in the minds of your customers.

103 AUCTIONS

ALEX CO. MACHINE SHOP & PIPER AIRPLANE ONLINE AUCTION
BIDDING OPENS: THURS., JULY 18th @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: Thurs., July 18th & Fri., July 19th – 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
6309 Material Ave., Loves Park, IL 61111
hibid.hacksauction.com

Complete Liquidation! Lawrence Alex has Spent a Lifetime in The Precision Machine Business. Featuring LeBlond-Hardinge-South Bend Lathes; Bridgeport Vertical Mill; Van Norman Milling Machines; Wells Metal Band Saw; Taft Surface & Lee Tool Grinders; Di-Arco Bench Break; Niagara Shear; Drill Presses & Vintage Metal Working Machines; Challenger Big Joe Lift; Geometric Threading Tools; Hardinge Collet Sets & Indexing Fixtures; Lathe Chucks-Centers-Plates-Die Heads; Tool Posts & Holders; High Speed Cutting-Mills-Taps-Drills; Quality Selection of Precision Instruments; Vises-Blocks-Gauges-Indicators; Steel & Metal Stock; Air Compressors; Vintage Industrial Work Benches-Stools-Cabinets-Lighting; Snap-On & Craftsman Socket Sets & Wrenches; Automotive & Electrical; Antique Woodworking Tools; Signs; Shop Equipment; Steel Racking & Shelves; Many More Precision Machine Related Items. **1962 Piper 2-Seat Airplane.**

LINTS ESTATE AUCTION
SATURDAY, JUNE 20th – 10:00 A.M.
485 N. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061

Large, Onsite Live Auction! Featuring Antiques & Collectibles; Primitives; Coins-Silver-Jewelry; Pocket Watch; Furniture; Harman Kardon & Bose Stereo Equip.; Speakers; Goal Zero Solar Power Sets; Pelican Transport & Travel Cases; Electronics & Flat Screen TVs; Appliances; E-Cells AWD New Electric Bikes; Camping-Recreational-Survival Gear; Modern Furnishings; Ladders; Tools & Shop Equip.; New Hybrid Dual Fuel 8500 Generator; Lawn & Garden; **Many Other Newer Items.**

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If you love them enough to suck the snot out of their nose at 4 a.m., then surely you'll check to make sure they're in the right car seat.

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted
\$500 Sign on bonus
Earn up to \$33/per hour
Local Trucking Company seeking full time, year-round driver to haul grain.
815-938-3644
Please leave message.
09052022

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper - \$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Free kittens to adopt
Cute golden tabbys and others.
Call or Text: 815-615-1171

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

OREGON/MT. MORRIS
Newer 1, 2 & 3 BR APTS. Water, sewer, garbage inc. w/most units. HOUSES some w/garages, all in like new condition.
Starting at \$425/mo.
815-734-4348
815-590-2302

511 STORAGE UNITS

K&P SELF STORAGE
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage)
815-247-8518
OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Storage Unit Sizes:
5' x 10' 10' x 10'
10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'



203 HELP WANTED

BYRON SCHOOL DISTRICT
KITCHEN OPENINGS
UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR
5 hours per day
3 hours per day
Apply online at www.byron226.org
Under the 'About Us' tab - Then the Employment Opportunities Section

PART-TIME LIBRARY CLERK

Mount Morris Public Library is looking for someone who can be available flexible hours. We are looking to fill some evenings and weekend hours, but the ideal candidate may take on more hours as necessary. Requirements include working with the general public in checking books in and out, helping patrons find items, putting away materials, helping with programs as needed, and Other duties as assigned. Interested persons need to apply in person at the Mount Morris Public Library.

Quitting smoking was hard. Screening for lung cancer is easy.

If you smoked, you may still be at risk, but early detection could save your life. Get SavedByTheScan.org

American Lung Association ad

315 WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: RECORDS
33's, 45's and 78's
Rock, Blues, Jazz, Country, Funk, Punk
(We will look at Anything!)

Contact Scott: 815-847-0382

PIA #81

ADVERTISE WITH US

AUCTION: COMMERCIAL BUILDING & 32 AC FARM
TUE, AUG 20, 2024 Address: 48W811 Melms Rd, Hampshire, IL 60410
12:00 PM
IN-PERSON & LIVE ONLINE BIDDING
Offered as Two Individual Tracts.
(1) 8200 SqFt Shop/Office Building w/4 Outbuildings on 8 Acres
(2) 32 Acres of Farmland corner of Melms Rd & Walker Rd
Sellers: EVLA PROPERTIES LLC
Auction conducted by Richard A. Olson & Assoc. Morris, IL - 815-942-4266
See website for Flyer, Terms, Maps and more info.
www.richardaolson.com

INTERNATIONAL LAMP SHOW & SALE
JULY 26-27, 2024
Friday 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
100 CONFERENCE CENTER DR, EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS
ADMISSION \$5.00
For more information contact: 785 379-9537 or 630 851-4504
bjcarlson1979@gmail.com or jsantiques@aol.com

305 GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

GARAGE SALE
Moving/Garage Sale
834 W. Chinquapin Drive, Oregon
Thursday, July 18th
Friday, 19th from 8AM to 5PM
Saturday July 20th from 8AM to 1PM
Furniture, Yard Equipment, Household Items, Seasonal Decor, Men's and Women's Clothing (M-L), Mirrors, Wall Decor, Picture Frames, Wedding Decorations, Bar Stools, and Many Other Misc. Items!
PIA#86

Garage Sale
1546 Acorn Rd. Byron (Off of Razorville Rd.)
Friday, July 19th & Saturday, July 20th from 9AM to 5PM
Baby girl clothes, dresser, wood kitchen table, men's and women's clothing, household decor, anything and everything!
PIA#82

GRAND DETOUR
Village Wide Garage Sales
Friday, July 19th & Saturday, July 20th
7:30 a.m.
30+ Sales
Maps Available at Shell
PIA#80

Garage & Tool Sale
Oregon - 310 Illinois Street (Corner of Route 2 & Illinois)
Thurs 7/18 & Fri 7/19 from 9AM - 5PM
Rain or Shine
Huge Tool Selection, Antiques, Collectibles, Home Decor, Holiday Items, Clothing, Jewellery & Much More!
PIA#85

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GET DOWN WITH YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

Check it every day. Self-monitoring is power.

ad COUNCIL American Heart Association AMA AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Visit: ManageYourBP.org

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In partnership with HHS Office of Minority Health and Health Resources and Services Administration under cooperative agreements CPMP211227 and CPMP211228.

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration
6331 11th Street | Rockford
New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
Freezers
Washers/Dryers
Stoves
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers
We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.
815-262-3900

Stay Connected With Your Hometown News

LOCAL NEWS

From page 7

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 improve brain function. It also reduces anxiety and relieves stress. This 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.

Local Author Open Mic Night

Thursday, August 8th at 6:30pm. Local authors are invited to an open mic night to share poetry, short stories, excerpts of their novels and more. Come and support our local authors. Authors and participants can register at www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724 for more information. Registration required.

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1 pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill 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 Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, July 17 at 1 pm to discuss The Note by Angela Hunt. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, July 21. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, July 25 at 6 pm 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. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, August 14 at 12:30 to discuss The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks.

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.

Fehr Graham recognized as Engineering News-Record Midwest Top Design Firm

ROCKFORD—Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm in the Midwest, is proud to announce its debut on the Engineering News-Record (ENR) Midwest Top Design Firm list, securing the No. 60 position. The list highlights the largest Midwestern-based design firms, ranking them based on design-specific revenue. While Fehr Graham has consistently ap-

peared on the ENR Top 500 Design Firms List, this marks the firm's first recognition within the Midwest-specific category. This underscores Fehr Graham's expanding influence and dedication to excellence in engineering.

Fehr Graham President Mick Gronewold is proud of the firm's continuous recognition.

"Our team's commitment to solving our clients' challenges is at

the heart of everything we do," Gronewold said. "Being listed on the ENR Midwest Top Design Firms shows our technical proficiency and the meaningful impact we have on the communities we serve."

Founded in Freeport, Illinois, on Sept. 15, 1973, by Al Fehr and Joe Graham, the firm has grown from a modest office with five employees to 15 offices across three states with 250 people.

Growth has come organically and by acquisition. On April 1, Fehr Graham acquired Midwest Engineering Associates. In May 2023, Fehr Graham joined Trilon Group.

ENR conducts annual surveys and ranks companies within general contracting, specialty contracting, engineering, architecture and environmental services based on annual revenue. These rankings are categorized into specific

markets.

Fehr Graham partners with private and public clients on projects ranging from water and wastewater treatment facilities to roads, bridges and highways. Our team also designs stormwater solutions, sanitary sewer collection systems, water distribution, production and storage facilities, parking lots, residential and commercial developments, parks and much more.

About Fehr Graham

Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fehr Graham is an Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm.

For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.



SULLIVAN'S FOODS

California **BLACK OR RED PLUMS**
1.49 lb

US Gov't Insp **BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS**
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE



Certified Angus Beef® brand
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6.99 lb



A COOKOUT FAVORITE!
Sullivan's Signature **GARLIC PORK BURGERS**
3.99 lb



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Best Choice **BAKED BEANS** Select Varieties 28 oz **1.69**

Folgers **CLASSIC GROUND COFFEE** 25.9 oz **7.89**

Sunny D **TANGY PUNCH** 15 pk **8.99**



Bellatoria **ULTRA THIN PIZZA** Select Varieties 13.35-21.71 oz **2/\$10**



Tru Moo **WHOLE MILK** Chocolate or Star Wars Blue half gallon **2/\$5**



Sullivan's Signature **Fresh, Super Lean GROUND BEEF SIRLOIN**
4.88 lb



US Gov't Insp **BONELESS PORK CUTLETS**
3.99 lb



Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP STEAKS
4.99 lb

2

Day Sale

JULY 20 - 21 2024



HOT BUY!

USDA Choice **BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAK**
10.99 lb



Top Value **SLICED BACON** 16 oz **4/\$10**



Betty Crocker **FROSTING, CAKE OR BROWNIE MIX** Select Varieties 11.9-16.3 oz **3/\$5**



California **PEACHES** **99¢ lb**



Bakery **TEXAS TOAST** loaf **2.29**



Whole or Sliced **WHITE MUSHROOMS** 8 oz **2/\$3**



Sliced to Order **DELI SWISS CHEESE** **2.99 lb**

National Ice Cream Day!



Dean's **ICE CREAM** Select Varieties 128 oz **5.99**



Kemps **ICE CREAM OR SANDWICHES** 16 oz or 6 ct **2/\$4**



Blue Bunny **LOAD'D SUNDAES** Select Varieties, 8.5 oz **1.99**



DEVIL DOG CHOCOLATE CAKE 5x5 inch **2.99**



Deli **SUMMER FRESH PASTA SALAD** **4.99 lb**

DELI FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY

COD, CATFISH BITES, AND MORE!



Scan QR Code to view entire ad

Price Effective Wed., July 20 Thru Tues. July 21, 2024

Available at all 11 Sullivan's Foods including: 101 E HWY 64, MT. MORRIS 815.734.6868 | OPEN 6:30A TO 9P 7 DAYS A WEEK

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