



OHS golf teams back in action

The Oregon High School boys and girls golf teams turned in strong tourney finishes. **Section B**

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

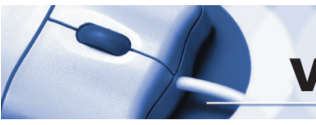
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 26

MONDAY
Sept. 9, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Meridian board earns recognition

The Meridian school board received IASB Governance Recognition. **Page 3**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
79 48	83 50
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
85 53	88 58
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
87 60	86 60

OBITUARIES

- Leonard Edwin Dewey
- Gene Edward McGee
- Geraldine E. Timmer
- Leta Elaine Blanchard Woolbright

See page 4

INSERTS

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

Dedication held for restored Veterans Memorial Fountain

'Now, you don't have to hear about the history. You can see the history.'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — On Thursday, Aug. 29, a dedication ceremony was held at the recently-restored Veterans Memorial Fountain in Mt. Morris.

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

The fountain fell into disrepair over the years and many of the stones became unreadable. Mt. Morris Economic Development Committee Executive



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, Aug. 29, a dedication ceremony was held at the recently-restored Veterans Memorial Fountain in Mt. Morris.

Director Paula Diehl and Chairman Rob Urish began contacting organizations and people to appraise and refurbish the fountain, and got in touch with The Kohler Foundation, which specializes in projects like it and agreed to take it on at no cost to the village. The Kohler Foundation has preserved art environments

across the country for over 30 years.

Heritage Restoration and Design, masonry conservators from Peoria, was selected by The Kohler Foundation for the work because of its expertise in the material. The work began May 28 and included thoroughly cleaning the surfaces, tuckpointing each

joint, and reattaching any fallen elements. Speakers at the dedication event included Mt. Morris Village President Phil Labash, Kohler Foundation Preservation Project Manager Beth Wiza and Michael Berlinger from Heritage Restoration and Design.

See FOUNTAIN pg 10



RFD receives grant funds for expansion

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Aug. 19, the City of Rochelle and the Rochelle Fire Department announced their receipt of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$919,368 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that will allow for the addition of three full-time firefighter/EMTs.

Last year, the city council agreed to a new contract with RFD's union to increase its staffing by a total of six new firefighters/EMTs.

See RFD page 7

RCH, Dr. Vogeler offer prenatal OB services up to 36 weeks, after-baby care

'It's been good to build those relationships with the mothers, children and families'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital and Dr. Kendall Vogeler of its Family Healthcare Clinic started prenatal/postnatal shared-care obstetrics (OB) offerings in January 2021.

Vogeler offers prenatal care for any OB patients from when they find out they're pregnant up to about 36 weeks. Since babies aren't delivered at RCH, care of patients is then transferred through the shared-care model to the UW Health Clinic in Rochelle and then to UW Health/Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, where babies are delivered. The mother and baby then return to Vogeler for postnatal care onwards.

"I wanted to offer OB

care for mothers because I did it in residency and delivered a lot of babies during that time," Vogeler said. "We don't do deliveries at RCH, but I wanted to still offer some OB care. We wanted to bring it here to start offering that local service, because most pregnant women in Rochelle had to go to either DeKalb, Rockford or Dixon for that care."

Vogeler's main offering is whole-family care from newborns to the elderly. She's been pleased with the turnout for OB care at RCH since the service started in 2021, with over 45 pregnant women utilizing the shared-care model. Some have used it for multiple pregnancies.

"It's been pretty successful," Vogeler said. "We can do everything here prenatally that they



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Community Hospital and Dr. Kendall Vogeler of its Family Healthcare Clinic started prenatal/postnatal shared-care obstetrics (OB) offerings in January 2021.

can do in Rockford with the exception of some ultrasound imaging."

Many expecting moth-

ers utilize Medicaid, a healthcare insurance program for families and individuals with low

income and limited resources.

See RCH page 11

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LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County 4-H members excel at Illinois State Fair

SPRINGFIELD — The best of the best were on display Aug. 9-11 at the 4-H General Project Show of the Illinois State Fair. Award-winning 4-H members from across Illinois competed at the county level before advancing to the state level. Nearly 3,200 4-H exhibits across Illinois were judged and displayed during the Illinois State Fair, including 39 Ogle County 4-H members.

They earned the right to exhibit by being selected at the top of their division at the Ogle County 4-H General Projects Show held in July at the Ogle County Fairgrounds. In 4-H, project areas represent the culmination of individual learning paths where youth can show off their skills and expertise in front of thousands of fairgoers. Youth also participate in conference judging as a part

of the experience. This brings members and volunteer judges together to evaluate project exhibits. It involves one-on-one, face-to-face communication in which the volunteer judge and exhibitor talk directly with each other. This technique provides a unique opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn from their experiences and knowledge of the volunteer judge. Volunteer judges are often experts

in that particular field or they have a passion that they have followed. All members receive a participation ribbon for being selected to participate. Exhibitors may qualify for grand champion, reserve champion, or an inspire award in their project area. Inspire Award winners occupy a special category of "judge's choice" and signified that the project inspired the judge in some way. Enrollment for the new 4-H year begins Sept. 1. To learn more about enrolling in 4-H, call University of Illinois Extension's local office at 815-732-2191. Ogle County 4-H members that participated at the state level include:

Carbon/Pigment-Div A, Inspire Award. Adalyn Bocker, Veterinary Science, Participant. Kasen Bocker, Visual Arts Plastic Block Art. Reserve Champion. Adrien Booker, 4-H Cooking 301 Dinner Rolls, Participant. Alex Booker, Outdoor Adventures, Participant. Katelyn Bowers, Photography 3, Grand Champion. Tessa Bruns, Food Decorating-Beginning, Participant. Harper Bruns, Vegetable/Fruit Display, Participant. Hayden Capes, Shooting Sports Rifle, Grand Champion. Harmony Coy, Family Heritage, Inspire Award. Alayna Doane, Photography 2, Inspire Award. Gregory Dorwaldt, Beekeeping 1, Participant. Colton Gehrke, Geology 2, Participant. Cora Herring, Electricity 2, Participant. Andrew Hickman, Photography 2, Participant. Lauren Hickman, Clothing 1-Sewn Non-Clothing, Participant. Kenzie Hongsermeier, 4-H Cooking 101 Cookies, Par-

icipant. Kodi Hubbard, Wildlife 1, Participant. Elizabeth Kennedy, Diversity & Cultural Aware, Reserve Champion. Anne Kennedy, Leather, Grand Champion. Mallory King, Clothing 1-Sewn Clothing, Participant. Madeline Kusnierz, Heritage Arts, Participant. Eli Lotz, Woodworking 4, Participant. Anna Marquardt, Child Development, Participant. Allissa Martin, Clay, Grand Champion. Cora Mickley, Interior Design-Beginning, Reserve Champion. James Runte, Entomology 1, Reserve Champion. Lydia Sherburne, Sports Nutrition, Reserve Champion. David Wehler, 4-H Cooking 201 Scones, Grand Champion. Briannah West, 3-D Design/Mixed Media, Participant. Zakkary West, Wood, Participant. Eralynn Wiltfang, Model Rocketry, Participant. Maxx Wiltfang, Model Rocketry, Participant. Addison Yordy, Animal Science 2, Participant.



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Stender named OJSHS September Senior of Distinction

OREGON — Anna Stender was recently named the Oregon Junior Senior High School September Senior of Distinction.

"Anna Stender exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated and driven individual, consistently pushing herself to reach her fullest potential," OJSHS Math Teacher Angela Reynolds said. "In her junior year, she took on the challenge of enrolling in two Advanced Placement (AP) math courses, showcasing her academic determination and passion for learning. This year, she continues to excel in the Calc series, furthering her



(COURTESY PHOTO) Anna Stender was recently named the Oregon Junior Senior High School September Senior of Distinction.

education in mathematics with remarkable success. Anna is also an active member of our school community. She serves on the student council and the National Honor Society, demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to making a positive impact on her peers. As a student-athlete, Anna embodies the qualities of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. She is not only a great athlete but also a role model to younger Hawks, always putting others first with her caring, positive, and understanding nature."

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LOCAL NEWS

Meridian CUSD Board receives IASB Governance Recognition

STILLMAN VALLEY—Meridian Community Unit School District 223 is proud to announce that its Board of Education has been honored with the 2024 School Board Governance Recognition by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). This prestigious recognition is awarded to school boards that have demonstrated exemplary governance practices and a strong commitment to excellence in public education.

The IASB's School Board Governance Recognition program acknowledges the important role that school boards play in ensuring quality education through effective governance. Meridian CUSD 223 is one of only 46 school boards across Illinois to receive this designation in 2024, highlighting the district's dedication to fostering a positive and impactful educational environment.

John Smith, board president, and Dr. PJ Caposey, superintendent, expressed their gratitude for the recognition,

emphasizing that this award is a testament to the board's continuous efforts to uphold the highest standards of governance and their unwavering support for the district's students, staff, and community.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the IASB," Smith said. "It reflects the hard work and dedication of our board members and their commitment to making decisions that benefit the entire school community. Our goal has always been to provide the best possible education for our students, and this award is a validation of those efforts."

Dr. Caposey added, "This achievement underscores our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in our governance practices. We are proud of our board's collaborative spirit and its positive impact on our district."

The IASB will provide further details on the delivery of the recognition plaque in the coming



Meridian Community Unit School District 223 is proud to announce that its Board of Education has been honored with the 2024 School Board Governance Recognition by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

(COURTESY PHOTO)

weeks. Meridian CUSD 223 looks forward to continuing its tradition of

excellence in governance and education.

For more information

about the Illinois Association of School Boards and the School Board

Governance Recognition program, please visit <https://www.iasb.com/>

Monroe Center Grade School recognized with GreatSchools Thrive Award

MONROE CENTER — Monroe Center Grade School, part of Meridian Community Unit School District 223, has been honored with the prestigious GreatSchools Thrive Award. This recognition places Monroe Center among the top 532 schools in Illinois, celebrated for creating a positive and supportive learning environment for both students and staff.

The Thrive Award is a first-of-its-kind, data-driven accolade that highlights schools fostering an environment where students can thrive academically and emotionally. This recognition is particularly significant as it is based on the results of the Illinois State Board of Education's annual 5Essentials Survey — a key indicator of school climate and culture.

The 5Essentials Survey is an annual assessment taken by students and staff across Illinois public schools. It measures five critical areas of school effectiveness: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. The survey results provide invaluable insights into a school's climate, offering a comprehensive overview that is often difficult for families to access otherwise.

Monroe Center Grade School's strong performance on this survey underscores the school's commitment to fostering an environment where all students feel supported, safe, and encouraged to succeed. This latest recognition builds on the school's past achievements, including being named a Lighthouse School by Franklin Covey. This honor highlighted Monroe Center's excellence in leadership and its dedication to developing a culture of student empow-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Monroe Center Grade School, part of Meridian Community Unit School District 223, has been honored with the prestigious GreatSchools Thrive Award.

erment and accountability.

"We are incredibly honored to receive the GreatSchools Thrive Award," Principal Deana Simpson said. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community — teachers, students, and families. At Monroe Center, we believe that a supportive and positive environment is the foundation of a successful educational experience, and we are thrilled that our efforts have been recognized. Being named both a Lighthouse School and a recipient of the Thrive Award reflects our incredible commitment to the success and well-being of our students. It speaks volumes when you are honored with an award that is based on the input of the community, your staff family, and your students.

I could not be prouder of those that created this environment."

GreatSchools, the nation's leading nonprofit school information site, developed the Thrive Award to meet the growing demand from parents for insights into school culture, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. By providing this information alongside data on advanced course offerings, STEM programs, and more, GreatSchools aims to empower parents with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their children's education.

For more information about Monroe Center Grade School and its programs, please visit the school's website or contact the school office at 815-645-2230.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured are Anthony Marchetti, OFPD director of water operations; and Kathy Groenhagen, president, Rotary Club of Oregon.

Oregon Rotary receives grant, purchases dive equipment for Oregon Fire

OREGON — The Rotary Club of Oregon received a grant from Rotary District 6420. The funds received were used to purchase five full-body wet suits and three venting dive hoods for the Oregon Fire Protection District. The total grant amount was \$2,445. The grant provided the Oregon Fire Department with much-needed water safety gear. The Oregon Fire Department responds to rescue operations,

recoveries, and evidence searches in a sizeable 126-square-mile area with swift river currents, streams, and lakes. Other area municipalities also ask for assistance from the Oregon Fire Department. The additional wetsuits and dive hoods will allow certified fire personnel to respond to water-related emergencies, searches, and recovery safely. Much of the Ogle County area will benefit from trained fire personnel with this

equipment. The Oregon Fire Water Safety Equipment Grant project achieves the Rotary Foundation mission by improving health and safety within our community. The dive suits will allow safe training of local personnel and quick responses to natural and vehicle/boat emergencies. Safety awareness provided by the Oregon Fire Department is a valuable tool for the community.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Leonard Edwin Dewey

ROCHELLE—Leonard Edwin Dewey, 68, of Rochelle, passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2024, after a long illness. He was born on January 11, 1956, in DeKalb, the son of Lois (Larsen) Bishop and Larry Edwin Dewey. He was a graduate of Rochelle Township High School. He married Rose Ann Magnuson on June 1, 1986, and was a loving husband to Rose for 38 years. He was the proud father of Matthew Edwin Dewey.

He was employed by A.O. Smith, was the manager of Sunset Liquors for many years, and he retired from Master Graphics. He was a lifelong history lover and trivia buff, who always had a joke or a funny story

to tell. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Rochelle Moose Lodge.

He is survived by his wife Rose and son Matt, both of Rochelle; his aunt Hope Willrett of Malta; his sisters and brother: Lori (Mike Cudden) Anderson of DeKalb; Lindon (Yvonne) Dewey of Stillman Valley; Christine (Theodore) Berg of Lake Norden, SD; and Pamela (Richardson) Juárez of DeKalb. He was preceded in death by his parents. His body will be donated to science. There will be no funeral services, but a celebration of Leonard's life will be held on October 19 from 1-5 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Rochelle. Special



thanks go to the caring nurses and doctors at Rochelle Hospital Family Healthcare Clinic, Castor Home Nursing, OSF Home Health & Hospice, and OSF Cancer Center.

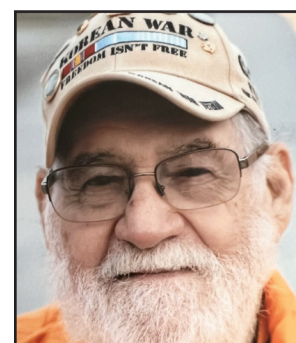
Thank you to Leonard's family and his many friends. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to OSF Cancer Center, OSF Home Health & Hospice, or the Rochelle Moose Lodge.

Gene Edward McGee

MT. MORRIS—Gene Edward McGee, age 92, a resident of Mount Morris IL, formally Land O' Lakes WI since 1993 died Tuesday May 28, 2024 at Serenity Hospice House in Oregon, IL. He was born April 9th, 1932 in Freeport IL to John and Bernice (Haire) McGee. Gene was a proud member of the U.S. Air Force from December 1951 – April 1955 where he served in the Korean Conflict from 1951–1952. Upon returning to his wife Ev McGee he started to work for his father in the McGee lumber yard, then became a U.S. Mail carrier in Mount Morris until he retired at the age of 57. Gene was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Mount Morris Moose, and N.A.L.C.. Gene served as a commander in the Land O' Lakes, WI VFW for many years. He was also a lifetime member of the Tebala Shriners where he participated in their marching unit. Gene start-

ed to visit the Northwoods of Wisconsin in the 60's with his family where he developed a lasting love for it and eventually making that their home in 1989. He was an avid outdoorsman (fishing, hunting, snowmobiling), he had such a love for the outdoors that he taught his kids, kids friends, and many others how to hunt and fish. He also loved spending time with his wife Ev, their 7 children, and eventually grandkids. After his wife Ev passed away in 2015 he moved back to Mount Morris where the ladies in his apartment building became his second family who he loved to be around.

Gene is survived by his children: Chuck (Nancy) McGee of Sayner, WI, Mike (Karyl) McGee of Sturgeon Lake, MN, Scott (Nancy) McGee of Marlborough, NH, Colleen (Roger) Miller of Mt. Morris, IL, Peggy (Ken) Greenlee of Sevierville, TN, Edgar (Crystal) Mc-



Gee of Geneseo, IL, Kelly (Mike) Pace of Polo, IL; 19 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, and numerous other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers memorials may go to Serenity Hospice & Home, Mt. Morris Senior Center, and/or Oregon VFW, Oregon IL.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Plainview Cemetery in Mt. Morris IL on Saturday September 14th, 2024. There will be a Celebration of life at the Oregon VFW in Oregon IL from 11am – 2pm also on Saturday September 14th, 2024.

Geraldine E. Timmer

FORRESTON — Geraldine E. Timmer, 82, of Forreton, IL passed away Friday, Aug 23, 2024. She was born on June 24, 1942 to George and Grace (Johnson) Hesenius. She married Roger Timmer on Sept. 9, 1961 in Baileyville, IL. Roger passed away in 2008. Gerry was a beautician in Forreton and a member of First United Methodist Church of Forreton. She also worked for Mack Auction for many years.

Gerry is survived by her son Curt (Jennifer) Timmer of Baileyville and her

daughter Debra (Kevin) Baumann of Baileyville; five grandchildren, Ben (Ashley) Baumann, Alex (Abi Bacon) Baumann, Andy Baumann, Annie (Ethan Klosa) Timmer and Dylon Timmer, and one great granddaughter Zoe Baumann.

Gerry was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Saturday September 7, 2024 at First United Methodist Church of Forreton with Pastor Cherie Quillman officiating. A visitation will be



held from 4:00-8:00 P.M. Friday September 6, 2024 at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home in Forreton, IL. Burial will be at Cranes Grove Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in Gerry's memory.

Ogle County 2024 4-H Fair announces Food Department winners

OREGON—The Ogle County 2024 4-H Fair recently announced its 2024 Food Department winners.

Cooking: Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Cereal Bars Exhibit: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Cereal Bars Exhibit: Lauren Hickman, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Coffeecake Exhibit: Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Coffeecake Exhibit: Lucia Wells, Carefree 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Cookies Exhibit: Kenzie Hongsermeier, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 101, Cookies Exhibit: Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 201, Biscuits Exhibit: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 201, Biscuits Exhibit: Preston Taylor, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 201, Nut Bread Exhibit: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H

Nut Bread Exhibit: Lucia Wells, Carefree 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 201, Scones Exhibit: David Wehler, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 201, Scones Exhibit: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Dinner Rolls Exhibit: Adrien Booker, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Dinner Rolls Exhibit: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Yeast Bread Exhibit: Cora Mickley, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Yeast Bread Exhibit: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Sweet Rolls Exhibit: Joshua Snow, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Cake Exhibit: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 301, Cake Exhibit: Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 401, Focaccia Bread Exhibit: Katy Snow, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H

Cooking 401, Focaccia Bread Exhibit: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club. Champion 4-H Cooking 401, French Bread Exhibit: Cora Mickley, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Reserve Champion 4-H Cooking 401, French Bread Exhibit: Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Food Science: Grand Champion Food Science Exhibit: Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club. Sports Nutrition: Champion Sports Nutrition Exhibit: Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club. Reserve Champion Sports Nutrition Exhibit: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club. Food Preservation: Top of Class Food Preservation Canning Exhibit: Tessa Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club. Top of Class Food Preservation Jams, Jellies & Preserves Exhibit: Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Grand Champion Food Preservation Exhibit: Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Reserve Grand Champion Food Preservation Exhibit: Tessa Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club.

Leta Elaine Blanchard Woolbright

DAVIS JUNCTION — Leta Elaine Blanchard Woolbright, She was born April 16, 1938, the eleventh child to Spencer H. and Eva Opal Etes Blanchard in Byron, Illinois. Went to be with her Lord and Savior on September 1, 2024 in Davis Junction. Leta married Deloss O. Woolbright, the love of her life, on August 10, 1957 in Byron Illinois.

Leta taught Sunday School at her first Sunday School at the Whitaker School (country school) she played the piano and helped teach SS. She attended there until her eighth grade, ultimately going to the public school in Byron. Leta graduated from Byron Community High School in 1956. Leta worked during her high school years for General Telephone Company in Byron, Illinois. She then attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, where she worked as a PBX Operator during her schooling there.

After getting married, Leta worked for Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Rockford, Illinois; Southern Bell Telephone Company in Petersburg, Virginia; Cotta Transmission Company in Rockford, Illinois; Kable Printing Company Mt. Morris, Illinois; Hanson Engineers, Rockford, Illinois; Julia Hull Library in Stillman Valley, Illinois. She served as a Director in the AWANA program at the First Baptist Church in Byron, Illinois. Leta was an "AVON Lady" for numerous years and enjoyed her

AVON ladies. Leta was given a special opportunity, because of her sales for AVON, won a trip to France and toured there and was able to enjoy a special dinner where Princess Grace spoke. Leta was a member of Kishwaukee Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church and enjoyed singing in the choir and was privileged to be part of the choir at Carnegie Hall in New York and in Vienna, Austria, special unforgettable memories. She also led the children's choirs at Kish Church, and the AWANA program.

She led the adult choir at the First Baptist Church in Byron, played the piano, organ, and guitar (to her own amazement) she confessed that God gave her the gifts and talent and she gave Him all the glory and served Him in that light. She enjoyed sharing in the many Bible study classes and loved the time spent with her friends there. For many years she was a leader and a member of the Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) in Rockford.

Leta loved music, i.e. singing, sewing, gardening, golfing, crafting, camping, and most of all spending time with her family, whom she loved very much. Leta found great joy in helping her family and others in time of need.

She is survived by her three daughters Laura (Steve) Appleby, Walton, KY; Lisa Bauer, Stillman Valley; Leigh (Steve Shephard) Woolbright, Davis



Junction; grandchildren: Heather Appleby Colyer, Walton, KY; Ryan Bauer (Danielle Cicogna) Rockford; Eric Appleby, Kansas City, MO; Drew (Taylor) Whitmire, Cincinnati, OH; Danae Bauer Savitski (Sonny) Rockford; Stephanie Appleby Jensen, St. Louis, MO; and Grace Whitmire, Chicago; great-grandchildren: Bryson, Brady, and Braxton Colyer; Annie and Tobias Jensen; and Aleah Savitsky; brother Charles Blanchard, and sister Marjorie (Dolly) (Al) Todd; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Leta was predeceased by her parents; husband, on March 2, 2002; brothers Kenneth Blanchard, Spencer Jr. Blanchard, Herbert Blanchard, Robert Blanchard, and Gerald (Jerry) Blanchard; sisters Shirley Blanchard, Frances Blanchard Buid, Mable Blanchard Johnson, Wanda Blanchard Holeyton, Ellen Blanchard Crabb Karstunen, and Cheryl "Jean" Blanchard Mattingley; sisters-in-law Joyce LaRue Blanchard and Sue Blanchard; brother-in-law Bernard P. Buid; nieces Leah Jones Howe, Dawn Johnson Jones Baker, and Teresa K. Blanchard; nephews Dean Lewis Crabb, Robert Blanchard, and Spencer Craig Blanchard; great nephews Dale Ritchard Buid, Shawn Michael Buid, and Jamison Baker. A funeral service will be held noon on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 506 West Merchant Street in Byron, Illinois with the Pastor Steve Buid officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service on Friday from 10:00 AM to noon at the Funeral Home. Burial will follow the service at the Byron Cemetery. A memorial fund is established in Leta's name and may be directed to her family.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper
 USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

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

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LOCAL NEWS



Steve Jones of Byron is making a temporary loan of his personal collection of political buttons, tokens, and pins. The museum has also revived the Crossing Boundaries Exhibit which features Ruth Hanna McCormick and highlights women in the area involved in the Women's Suffrage Movement. Both politically themed exhibits will be on display for viewing beginning Saturday, Sept. 7 through Saturday, Nov. 16.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

New political pins display at Byron Museum of History

BYRON — Since the first presidential election in 1789, politicians have looked for creative ways for supporters to publicly endorse candidates. The campaign pin goes back to 1824 when Andrew Jackson first used them as a means for voters to show support.

Steve Jones of Byron is making a temporary loan of his personal collection of political buttons, tokens, and pins. The museum has also revived the Crossing Boundaries Exhibit which features Ruth Hanna McCormick and highlights women in the area involved in the Women's Suffrage Movement. Both politically

themed exhibits will be on display for viewing beginning Saturday, Sept. 7 through Saturday, Nov. 16. The Byron Museum of History is dedicated to preserving Byron's rich history through exhibits, programs, and artifact preservation. The museum features local history displays throughout the his-

toric Lucius Read House and Byron Theater. Permanent exhibits include: Underground Railroad, Albert G. Spalding, Byron Schools, Byron Goes to War, Farming, Outhouse Archeology, Local Railroad, Clamming on the Rock River, and much more!

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

Questions will be answered by calling the Byron Museum at 815.234.5031, or sending an e-mail to director@byronmuseum.org. The Byron Museum of History is located at 110 N. Union St. in Byron, Illinois, 61010. Our website address is www.byronmuseum.org. The museum is open Wednesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ogle GOP donates dinner proceeds, to host debate watch party

ROCHELLE — Fresh off the successful 2024 Annual Lowden Day Dinner in late August, The Ogle County Republican Party will host another Presidential Debate Watch Party at Kennay Farms Distilling, 416 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10.

There will be free pizza on hand, the bar will be open for drink purchases, and a \$5 donation to the Ogle County Republican party is requested for food costs.

In addition, a fresh batch of Trump/Vance yard signs will be available to the public, compliments of the Ogle County GOP. A suggested donation of either canned goods/personal hygiene items for the Lifeline Food and Self-Help Project in Oregon, or a donation of \$10 per sign to the Ogle County GOP, is requested.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured: Jennie O'Rorke from Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, and Chairman of Ogle County Republicans, Mike Koolidge.

Sen. Chesney to host event in Oregon Sept. 12

OREGON — State Senator Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is wrapping up his Community Connections Tour with an event in Oregon on Sept. 12. The meeting will be co-hosted by Oregon Mayor Ken Williams.

"With these final meetings I will have held seven town-hall-style events across the 45th Senate District," Chesney said. "We have had large turnouts at each meeting so far, and

I have enjoyed talking with my constituents about the issues that are important to them." The event will take place from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Nash Recreation Center River Room at 304 S. 5th St. Additional Community Connections meetings were held in Genoa, Rockton, and Machesney Park in June, in Savanna in July, and in Freeport in August.



Phelps descendants present portrait to Ogle County Historical Society

Nancy and Michelle Ooley of Minnesota, descendants of James C. T. Phelps, presented this 142-year-old portrait to Arlene Sangmeister (left), president of the Ogle County Historical Society/Ruby Nash Museum. The painting is of Urilla Swingley Phelps Merritt, granddaughter of Oregon founder John Phelps. Urilla died at the Phelps home near Mt. Morris in 1879 of "consumption", now known as tuberculosis. (Courtesy photo)

Candidate forum Sept. 24 in Dixon

DIXON — Join Discover Dixon, as it hosts a Candidate Forum at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 at The Dixon: Historic Theatre, 114 S. Galena Ave. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

This forum presents an opportunity for voters to gain insight into the policies, visions, and personalities of the candidates vying for a critical role in shaping the future of Illinois. Engage in the democratic process and be part of a community dialogue as Illinois State Representatives candidates Brad Fritts (R) and David Simpson (D) discuss the pressing issues facing our state.

Illinois Senate Candidate Li Arellano (R), who is running unopposed, will also address the audience. The event will be moderated by Dr. Dave Hellmich, president of Sauk Valley Community College.

Area students graduated from MSOE in Spring 2024

Community members can go to bit.ly/canfor24 submit a question for the forum. The most frequently asked questions will be addressed at the forum. For more information, call 815-284-3361 or go to discoverdixon.com.

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

2024. Seth Nelson of Forreton received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with Honors.

Patrick Wright of Polo received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering with High Honors.

VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

The Ogle County Life is a division of
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Sept. 23, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt defended his beloved dog Fala's honor while dining with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union. The canine had recently been the butt of a Republican political attack, and the president remarked that while he and his family had been the object of "malicious falsehoods" in the past, he asserted the right to "object to libelous statements about my dog."

On Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened on the National Mall. President Barack Obama led the ceremony and rang the Freedom Bell, a bell from an African American Baptist church founded in 1776.

On Sept. 25, 1970, the hit series "The Partridge Family," about a musical clan that was inspired by the real-life singing Cowsills, made its debut on ABC. Though most of the fictional family was portrayed by nonmusical actors, the show did propel lead singer David Cassidy onto the path of teen idol stardom.

On Sept. 26, 1820, frontiersman Daniel Boone -- who, incidentally, nev-

er wore a coonskin cap, preferring one of beaver instead -- died in his sleep at his son's home near present-day Defiance, Missouri, at the age of 86.

On Sept. 27, 1989, Hollywood actress and socialite Zsa Zsa Gabor, while standing trial for slapping a police officer, stormed out of the courtroom in the middle of the district attorney's closing remarks. Later that day, she was convicted and given a sentence of 72 hours in jail, 120 hours of community service, and \$13,000 in fines and restitution.

On Sept. 28, 1918, a Liberty Loan parade in Philadelphia launched a severe outbreak of Spanish flu in the city that turned into a pandemic. By the time it ended, an estimated 20-50 million people around the world had died.

On Sept. 29, 1988, Stacy Allison of Portland, Oregon, became the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is Earth's highest point. She was later part of a team that marked the first successful all-women ascent of Ama Dablam, a mountain of 22,495 feet, in Nepal.

Looking at crop price outlooks

Streaking through summer and just a few weeks away from Fall. Seems as I get older it takes me longer to do things but there's less time to do 'em in. Not sure my internal clock has caught up with real time yet.

Crops are looking good as we slowly approach harvest season. Let's take a look at the price outlook; and I will warn you it's like a gloomy Fall day.

The June Acreage and Quarterly Grain Stocks reports brought a gloomy overcast to new crop markets. This Market Intel looks at the impact of the report on corn, soybeans and cotton.

Corn
The reports had the most bearish outcomes for corn. Corn came in at 1.4 million (+1.6%) acres above the March Prospective Plantings Report at 91.5 million acres, above all trade expectations. The increase in acres from the prospective plantings report primarily came from the Western Corn Belt states, including Kansas (600,000 acres, +10.5%), Iowa (300,000 acres, +2.3%), Nebraska (250,000 acres, +2.5%) and Minnesota (200,000 acres, +2.5%). Michigan and Wisconsin had planted acreage estimates reduced by 100,000 acres each, -4.4% and -2.6%, respectively. This still represents a 3.3% decline nationally in planted acres from last year, which is reflective of falling corn prices and the high input costs of corn making it a riskier crop for profitability.

As of June 1, 2024, total corn stocks were estimated to be 4.99 billion bushels with 3.03 billion bushels stored on-farm and 1.97 stored off-farm. Total corn stocks are up 22% from June 1, 2023, above pre-report trade expectations. There are some startling statistics that can be pulled from the Grain Stocks report, including that on-farm corn stocks are at the highest level since 1988. While this does not bode well for corn prices, when put into context the numbers look less extreme. On-farm stocks are marginally higher (+0.04%, 1.1 million bushels) than at the same time in 2019, but total stocks are 370.4 million bushels (6.9%) lower over the same period.

Another way to assess the state of corn stocks is to compare stocks to the previous year's production. As of June 1, 2024, stocks are equivalent to 32.5% of old crop production. This is an uptick from previous years, but below recent highs of 38.6% set in 2020 and well below the historic record of a whopping 81.9% set in 1988. So, while the on-farm stock total does mirror 1988, we are still in a much better position than the dreadful '80s.

The unexpectedly large increase in acreage coupled with the quarterly

grain stocks number sent corn futures prices tumbling. While December '24 corn futures have been continuously declining since June 20, on the day of the reports new crop futures fell 13 cents or 3.0%, closing at \$4.20 per bushel.

Soybeans
Soybean planted acres are estimated at 86.1 million acres, down 410,000 (-0.5%) acres since the March Prospective Plantings Report. The state-level changes in planted acres between the two reports were more mixed than corn, with Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Minnesota each gaining 100,000 acres or more, and Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, South Dakota, North Dakota and North Carolina each losing 100,000 acres or more. Year-over-year, soybean acreage nationally increased by 3.0%.

Soybean stocks as of June 1, 2024, totaled 970 million bushels. Mirroring corn, soybean stocks are up 22% year-over-year and estimates were again higher than trade expectations. With the reduction in planted acres, soybean planted acreage report.

Principal crops
USDA's definition of principal crops includes 22 crops ranging from corn to potatoes. One of the largest surprises in the March Prospective Plantings Report was a drop of 6.3 million acres (-2.0%) in principal crops acres, which were down to 313.3 million acres.

The June Acreage report finds principal crops at 315.2 million acres, a recovery compared to March estimates but still a 4.4 million acre (-1.3%) decrease from 2023. Corn and cotton made up the majority of these increased acres, with Texas (814,000 acres) and Kansas (672,000 acres) having the largest increases by state compared to the March report. While 11 states had increases of over 100,000 acres, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Colorado all saw reductions in estimated acreage of over 100,000.

Now that planted acre estimates are set, the markets will continue to focus on weather impacts this summer. It is notable that historic and tragic flooding at the intersection of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota will impact acres harvested. Floods began after surveys for the June Acreage reports were completed in mid-June and after planting was wrapped up for corn and soybeans in these states, so was not factored into the June Planted Acreage report.

"You know how when that steak hits the grill and the aroma gets your mouth watering. I wonder if vegetarians feel the same way when they mow the grass?" -Anonymous

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



Ron Kern

Letter: Thanks to fair attendees

DEAR editor, The Ogle County Fair Board would like to thank everyone who attended the fair this year. The 2024 fair was a success without our attendance slightly above last year. We had many positive comments and reactions to the changes and improvements this year. The fair board would also like to thank our wonderful volunteers that helped prepare the grounds and those that worked during the fair helping it run

smoothly. We have volunteers working year-round maintaining and improving the grounds along with planning to make the fair happen. Also, our fair would not be possible without private donations and our generous sponsors. The Ogle County Fair Association is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are looking forward to the 2025 Fair.

Brenda Holm
Ogle County Fair Association secretary



Letter: Have you had enough?

DEAR editor, As the 2024 election looms, campaign rhetoric is reaching a fever pitch. One particular campaign slogan that cuts through the cacophony and resonates with me simply asks the question: Have you had enough?

Have you had enough of paying higher and higher prices and being told that inflation is only transitory?

Have you had enough of a wide-open border letting in 10s of thousands of unvetted immigrants who enter illegally then demand taxpayer help? Have you had enough crime? Are you tired of a biased media that act as a propaganda mouthpiece for their chosen party? Have you had enough censorship from social media that does not allow you to state an opinion that does not align with their values? Have you had enough big government over-reach? (Do you remember during COVID-19 when the government closed schools,

churches and businesses and, in some states, did not allow you even to buy garden seeds?) Are you tired of the racism that seeks to divide us against ourselves? Have you had enough of all the "experts" who tout such nonsense as a man can become pregnant? Are you sickened by biological men dominating women's sports?

Have you had enough of our country funding constant wars all over the world with our tax dollars? Are you afraid of our ballooning national debt and the effect it will have on future generations?

Have you had enough of all the lies and distortions? Well, I sure have. That's why I am basing my vote not upon emotions but upon solid policies. Policies that put America first. Policies that will propel this country into a solid future where our kids and grandkids can realize the American dream. That's how I am basing my vote,

Barrett Smith
Byron



Facebook or Fakebook?

ON Aug. 26, 2024, Mark Zuckerberg (CEO of Facebook) sent a letter to the House of Representatives, essentially justifying (apologizing?) for left-leaning bias in Facebook that had affected the last presidential election. He states that the Biden Administration "repeatedly pressured our team" to censor certain COVID-19 content they disagreed with. Such content included the origin of COVID being from the Wuhan Laboratory in Central China, the funding of dangerous virus research by the CDC, etc. Zuckerberg states in the letter that this pressure from the Biden Administration was wrong, that Facebook should not have censored this information, and that "we're ready to push back if something like this happens again."

It is interesting to note that Zuckerberg is critical of the Biden Administration now that Biden is out of the picture. Zuckerberg acknowledges another instance of Facebook bias, the Russian disinformation operation. The recent House of Representatives Committee Report on

Oversight and Accountability presents evidence of the Biden family's dealing with foreign entities while Biden was vice president. Before the last presidential election, a story in the New York Post disclosed that the Biden family was involved in influence peddling, receiving payment from foreign governments. Facebook demoted (censored) this information, waiting for it to be checked out by left-leaning fact-checkers. As a result, the story was suppressed until after the last presidential election. In his letter, Zuckerberg states, "It's since been made clear that the reporting was not Russian disinformation, and in retrospect, we shouldn't have demoted the story." It's interesting that the terminology used by Zuckerberg, "demoted," is really "word salad" for "censored."

In conclusion, Zuckerberg states, "My goal is to be neutral and not play a role one way or another — or even to appear to be playing a role." Don't believe it! A recent photo of the former president with a bloody head and his fist raised in defiance immediately after the assassination attempt was determined to be misinformation by Facebook. Shortly afterward, Facebook admitted to an error "caused by their software" and withdrew the misinformation tag from the photo. For a company that employs hundreds of software engineers and operates a complexity of software to commit such an error is simply not credible. Characterizing the former president's photo as misinformation was most likely purposeful.

Other media platforms do the same thing. For instance, if one searched for Trump rally on Google, the top response was the Harris rally. Querying Trump rally on Brave.com resulted in the top response, Trump rally. With the newly-appointed (not elected) presidential candidate from the Democrat Party, the gas-lighting about her accomplishments has reached levels unheard of in politics, in my opinion. Dissertations on her accomplishments on Facebook and other social platforms should be viewed with skepticism and compared with her previous comments and actions.

Essentially, most social media platforms cannot be relied upon to provide unbiased information crucial for making an informed voting decision in the upcoming election. However, some search engines like DuckDuckGo.com and Brave.com do yield reasonably unbiased results. In my view, Fox News and Newsmax are usually informative and truthful. The Dan Bongino radio program also presents factual information that the mainstream media often ignores. The legacy media appear to be sycophants since their reporting is almost identical in wording, suggesting that they have been given "talking points." Zuckerberg now confirms that the past presidential election was affected by media bias and censorship. Zuckerberg says this will not happen during the upcoming election. Don't bet on it!



Chuck Roberts

LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication.

During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication.

Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks.

Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.

LOCAL NEWS

RFD: Grant funding received for firefighter/EMT expansion amid rising calls

From page 1

Three have already been hired and the cost of the next three hires will be covered by the grant for the next three years. After the coming hires, RFD will have 18 permanent full-time firefighter/EMTs.

The RFD staffing expansion came due to increases in emergency call volumes in recent years. Call volume went up 50 percent between 2020 and 2022, from just over 2,000 calls to just over 3,000 calls. RFD Firefighter/EMT Ben Johnson said the grant funds will give RFD the opportunity to respond to that change in need.

Johnson said the factors creating increased call volumes are permanent. Increased numbers seen during the COVID-19 pandemic have remained, and the Baby Boom generation has entered the age range that is the largest user of RFD's emergency services. Two housing developments are also currently being constructed on the south side of Rochelle.

"This is the busiest fire department I've ever worked with and our call volume has increased every year that I've been here," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. "You have to have the appropriate level of staffing to meet those needs and help people."

The grant required a lengthy application process led by Chief Dave Sawlsville and coordinated by RFD staff including Lt. Jason Underwood, Johnson and Firefighter Tyler Carls. Chris Cardott and the city's finance department provided a significant amount of data to support the grant application.

Johnson said the grant process took 30-40 man hours of collecting information and writing narratives. The grant allows RFD to make the new hires immediately and help with costs will be seen. Interested applicants should visit the City of Rochelle website at www.cityofrochelle.net to begin the application process for testing. Applications must be received by Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Applicants will then move onto a written test and oral interview. Qualifications and requirements are listed on the website.

"I can't overemphasize how hard our staff worked on this," Sawlsville said. This was all Lt. Underwood, Firefighter Johnson, Firefighter Carls, and Finance Director Cardott and her department. This is a need-based grant. You show need with the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The RFD staffing expansion came due to increases in emergency call volumes in recent years. Call volume went up 50 percent between 2020 and 2022, from just over 2,000 calls to just over 3,000 calls.

city's finances. That group did all the work. Their collaboration on this was tremendous and it paid off huge."

Sawlsville said the advertising and testing process will likely be completed by the end of September and then hiring off of that eligibility list will begin.

The RFD chief said he anticipates call numbers will continue to rise. The

fire department has supplemented its staffing in the past with paid on-call firefighter/EMTs in recent years and will continue to do so, but a shortage of people willing to do that work has been seen. RFD has also used its paid on-call and part-time firefighter/EMT rosters for recruiting for full-time positions in the past.

Fiegenschuh said the

potential of receiving the grant was first discussed during the negotiations of the last contract with RFD's union. He said the city owes it to its residents to find outside money to help with expanding staff if it can. What's more important to the city manager is that RFD is able to meet the needs of the community and that firefighter/EMTs have the time and support

they need.

"Thanks to the folks who rolled up their sleeves and got the job done on this," Sawlsville said. "Firefighter Johnson alone has brought over \$1 million in successful grants to RFD. This grant will ensure that we can get firetrucks and ambulances out the door in the most efficient and safest way possible."

Rep. Fritts to host household hazardous waste collection drive

DIXON – State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) and House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) are hosting an upcoming household hazardous waste collection drive on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take

place at Sauk Valley Community College, located at 173 North Illinois Route 2 in Dixon. This event is in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Sauk Valley Community College.

"I am excited to offer

this Household Hazardous Waste Collection Drive as a service to my constituents," Fritts said. "Countless individuals have reached out to my office asking for a way to safely dispose of hazardous household materials and I am excited that we are able to meet that

need. I encourage residents to come out and utilize this free service that will make our community safer!"

Accepted items: Oil Based Paint, Paint Thinner, Aerosol Paint, Cleaning Products, Insecticides, Herbicides, Pesticides, Mercury, Gasoline, An-

ti-Freeze, Used Motor Oil, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, and Household Batteries.

Non-acceptable items: Latex paint, Explosives, Fireworks, Ammunitions, Fire Extinguishers, Needles, Farm Oil, Agricultural Chemicals, Compressed Gas Cylinders, Electron-

ics, Appliances, Smoke Detectors, Lead Batteries, and Controlled Substances.

Reservations are required and can be made by clicking here or visiting Rep.Fritts.com.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit Rep.Fritts.com.

Stranger Danger

School has started, and with all of activities going on, there is no better time to discuss the danger of strangers with your kids. Telling them not to talk to strangers is not enough. You want to make sure they know what a stranger is and how to deal with them.

Here are some safety tips to include in your discussion.



- Do not mistake a friendly face for someone you know. Anyone you do not know is a stranger, regardless how nice they seem or what they have to offer. Just because the person has a cute dog or tons of candy does not mean you can trust them. Ask for identification from anyone in uniform.
- Do not walk to school or play outside alone, if you can help it. Strangers are less likely to approach groups of kids.
- Do not go places where strangers could be lurking, such as empty playgrounds or abandoned buildings. Stay in busy areas.
- Do not let your guard down. Always be on the lookout for strangers.
- Do not make contact with strangers. Be quiet and take their questions and pleas for help to an adult you know and trust.
- Do not panic should a stranger approach. Run to a reliable adult and let them know what is going on, whether a teacher in the parking lot, a clerk in a store or a neighbor down the street. If possible, take down the stranger's license plate number. Should the stranger grab you, do whatever it takes to get away from them and attract the attention of any reliable adults that may be around.
- Do not keep any incidents with strangers to yourself. Let your parents know as soon as possible so they can contact the police.

Tailor your discussion to your kids' ages and use role-playing to help them understand the gravity of the situation. Their safety is at stake!

LOCAL NEWS



Polo Lions deliver groceries

Tom Suits, a member of the Polo Lions Club, is shown loading the first of three grocery deliveries into his car. The Lions Club provides this service for free. This is done every Wednesday morning. If you know someone that has cannot get out or has a hard time getting around, have them call the Polo Fresh Food Market on Tuesday before 7 p.m. and it has to be at \$25 minimum to be delivered. If you forget to call Tuesday call Wednesday morning before 9 am. The Lions Motto is: Where there is need, there is a Lion. (Courtesy photo)

Register for Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' 20th Annual Thin Mint Sprint!

FOXRIVERGROVE – Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) will host its 20th Annual Thin Mint Sprint fundraising 5K fun run/walk on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 8:30 a.m.-noon in partnership with the Fox River Grove Memorial Library Running Club. The race route will begin and end at Lions Park in Fox River Grove and take participants along a scenic path through Fox River for a timed run, ending with an after-party. After-party event includes performances by School of Rock-Barrington, on-site Kona Ice truck, Face Painting by Kema, in-

flatables, and other local exhibitors!
Registration is \$40 per person through Sept. 13, and \$45 per person on race day, Sept. 14. Registration fee includes Thin Mint Sprint T-shirt, chipped-timing bib, medal, fun patch, box of official Girl Scout Thin Mints® Cookies, and extra swag items. Race packet pick-up will be available the week of Sept. 1. Register online at <https://www.girlscoutsni.org/fundraising#thin>.
All funds raised through the 20th Annual Thin Mint Sprint will support GSNI's financial

assistance programs ensuring increased access for more local Girl Scout memberships, activities, and leadership experiences!
GSNI would like to thank these generous Thin Mint Sprint sponsors and supporters: Northwestern Medicine, Squirrel's Nut Butter, 4imprint, Little Brownie Bakers, ALD Woodman's Markets, Ashton Farms, Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc., Grove Plating Company, Inc., Casey's, Bear Family Restaurants, Hurley & Volk Orthodontics, and Fox River Grove Memorial Library Running Club.

New library grants announced to help improve services

OGLE COUNTY — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is pleased to announce several area library districts are receiving grant funding to help ensure all residents have access to quality resources and programming. The grants included annual per capita grant funding and one-time newly created technology grants to help libraries most in need to upgrade their technology infrastructure.
Libraries throughout the 89th Legislative District are receiving a combined \$215,362 in grants. "Libraries are essential to our communities and continue to be a great asset to residents," McCombie said. "This funding will help libraries continue to be an asset to residents and bring them up to speed with technology and resources needed in

this day in age."
The grants were awarded throughout Illinois and announced by Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias to following libraries in the 89th District:
Byron — \$11,670. Chadwick — \$1,375. East Dubuque — \$6,244. Elizabeth Township — \$1,496. Forreston — \$2,130. Galena — \$6,709. Genoa — \$7,815. Hanover Township — \$1,786. Kirkland — \$2,450. Lanark — \$14,733. Bertolet (Leaf River) — \$2,144. Lena Community — \$7,539. Milledgeville — \$2,753. Mount Carroll — \$3,834. Mt. Morris — \$16,748. Oregon — \$9,070. Pearl City — \$3,611. Pocatonia — \$8,185. Polo — \$3,997. Savanna — \$5,565. Julia Hull (Stillman Valley) — \$11,912. Stockton — \$3,388. York Township (Thomson) —

\$4,068. Warren Township — \$2,202. Winnebago — \$10,839. Freeport — \$63,099.
The public libraries can use grant funding for operational needs, including purchasing materials for their library collections and capital improvements to their facilities.
Libraries have two years to use the technology grants to help fund technology upgrades like adding hardware and software, expanding online collections and e-resources, purchasing digital devices and mobile apps, increasing Wi-Fi capacity and internet accessibility, incorporating patron self-checkouts, and assuring ADA compliance for library websites and purchasing adaptive technologies that accommodate service needs for persons with disabilities.

Are you looking to make a future plan for you or your loved one with a disability?

Not sure what to do when high school special education ends?



For individuals with disabilities and their caregivers:

Future Planning Seminar

Information on what every parent should know about guardianships and alternatives, special needs trusts, representative payee, Illinois' waiting lists (PUNS), and more.

If you desire to attend, please RSVP.
Refreshments Provided

When: Saturday, Sept. 28th

Where: Nash Recreation Center

304 S. 5th St.

Oregon, IL 61061

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

R.S.V.P.: To Sue by phone at

815-965-3455

Cost: FREE



NAMI Sauk Area spreads awareness in September, Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a crucial time dedicated to raising awareness about mental health. NAMI Sauk Area (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering support to those in need and educating communities. This month, they will highlight the importance of suicide prevention and provide critical resources. NAMI Sauk Area is actively engaged in several initiatives to support and educate the community this September.

Suicide is a major public health concern. In 2022, over 48,000 Americans died by suicide, making it the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S. Recognizing warning signs, such as persistent feelings of hopelessness, social withdrawal, increased substance use, giving away possessions, and verbal cues of suicidal thoughts, is crucial.

On September 17th, NAMI Sauk Area will host a presentation called "Mental Illness & Hospitalizations: What Families Should Know" at Rooted Wellness in Sterling. Speakers Amy Meyer, CGH Behavioral Unit, and Mary Thormahlen, NAMI In Our Own Voice presenter, will provide insights on hospitalization and suicidal ideation for loved ones.

The organization will be hosting a suicide TALK presentation by Jeff Hippen during the Survivors of Suicide Support Group on Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., and the presentation is

open to the public. This presentation aims to end the stigma around suicide and help people understand it better. The event will take place at 300 W. South St., Morrison.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10-14-year-olds and the third leading cause among 15-24-year-olds. NAMI Sauk Area is committed to raising awareness and preventing youth suicide. They will be distributing silicone bracelets, bookmarks, and informational resources to 7000 high school students across Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, and Carroll Counties. This initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of the 988 Lifeline during Suicide Prevention Awareness Week and ensuring that young people have access to important information about mental health and support services.

Through a grant for NAMI Illinois Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Collaborative, NAMI Sauk Area will be hosting a state training for NAMI Ending the Silence at Rooted Wellness, Sterling on Sept. 28-29 (applications due Sept. 16). NAMI Sauk Area is looking for people to take the training to teach the course at local high schools. We are also looking for young adults to help describe their journey from mental illness to recovery. Ending the Silence is a free, evidence-based, 50-minute session designed for middle and high school students. Your students will learn about mental health

conditions through a brief presentation, short videos, and personal testimony from a young adult who describes their journey to recovery.

One of the main focuses of this year's awareness campaign is to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Launched in July 2022, 988 is a free, confidential, 24/7 hotline that provides immediate support to individuals in crisis or those who are concerned about someone else. By calling or texting 988, individuals can connect with trained crisis counselors who offer emotional support, crisis intervention, and resources for ongoing help. The establishment of 988 represents a significant improvement in making mental health crisis intervention more accessible and effective. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has designated Sept. 8 as 988 Day, further emphasizing the importance of the 988 Lifeline and encouraging communities to spread the word about this vital resource.

As Suicide Prevention Awareness Month unfolds, NAMI Sauk Area is committed to raising awareness, providing educational resources, and nurturing a supportive community for those impacted by mental health challenges. By uniting and staying informed, we can all play a part in preventing suicide and promoting mental health wellness. Find more information at namisaukarea.org.

LOCAL NEWS

Stillman Bank awards grant to Whispering Willow Pet Funeral & Cremation Services

ROCKFORD – As a locally-owned and head-quartered community bank, Stillman Bank values every opportunity to give back to their communities. In partnership with FHLBank Chicago and its Community First® Program, they are honored to award Whispering Willow Pet Funeral & Cremation Services an Accelerate Grant for Small Businesses, totaling \$15,000.

Headquartered in Rockford, Whispering Willow Pet Funeral & Cremation Services is owned by Nick and Kate Capriola. With Kate being a funeral director and embalmer for more than 16 years, they first saw the need for end-of-life care

for pets in the Rockford region after their dog Bella suddenly had to be euthanized. Whispering Willow Pet Funeral & Cremation Services offers pre-arrangements, in-home euthanasia, on-site cremation, as well as senior pet and end-of-life photography. They also work hand in hand with local veterinarians to provide preferred services to their customers.

Through FHLBank Chicago's member institutions, like Stillman Bank, Accelerate Grants assist the growth and development of small businesses in Illinois and Wisconsin. All grant recipients are small businesses that make a difference in their community,

and funds are intended for the following purposes: The purchase or improvement of property, the purchase of machinery, tools, or equipment; the purchase of inventory, materials, or supplies; workforce development or training, and new or upgraded technology.

For more information on Stillman Bank or to find out more about Stillman's products or services, visit www.stillmanbank.com. To learn more about FHLBank Chicago and their Accelerate Grants, visit www.fhlbc.com. For more information about Whispering Willow Pet Funeral and Cremation Services, visit www.whisperingwillowpetfuneral.com.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Mortgage Banking Bryan Markham, Stillman Bank Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer Chris Agnitsch, and Stillman Bank Executive Vice President Ed Munguia present the \$15,000 Accelerate Grant for Small Businesses check to Nick and Kate Capriola and family, owners of Whispering Willows Pet Funeral & Cremation Services.

MT. MORRIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

MT. MORRIS — On July 21 at approximately 12:05 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of North McKendrie Avenue for a traffic offense. The driver, a juvenile, 17, Freeport, was issued a citation for no valid driver's license. The juvenile was released on scene with a notice to appear.

On July 21 at approximately 2:20 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the 100 block of South Wesley Avenue for the report of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Matthew R. Dewey, 20, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Dewey was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On July 25 at approximately 8 p.m. the Mt. Morris Police Department was contacted about a firearm that was recently purchased by a citizen, and the citizen requested a check on the firearm. The firearm in question was confirmed to be reported as stolen. After an investigation, Darlene Thompson, 53, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with possession of a stolen firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm/ammunition, and unlawful sale or delivery of firearms. Thompson was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On July 28 at approximately 1:50 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 300 block of West Front Street for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Jahrod M. Bell, 23, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with battery. Bell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On July 29 at approximately 7:50 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Center Street. The driver, Clinton D. Cleveland, 53, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended. Cleveland was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On July 30 at approximately 11:15 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 10 block of West Center Street for the report of a disorderly sub-

ject. After an investigation, Kerry A. Beckingham, 62, Mt. Morris, was issued an ordinance citation for disorderly conduct.

On Aug. 3 at approximately 7:45 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Hitt Street. The driver, Robert D. Vandyke, 43, Oregon, was arrested on an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear on traffic offense. Vandyke was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Aug. 3 at approximately 2 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Center Street. The driver, Ramon N. White, 51, Chicago, was arrested and charged with driving while license is suspended, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. White was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear.

On Aug. 3 at approximately 11:50 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Hitt St. The driver, Jeffrey D. Tallacksen, 47, Leaf River, was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration. Tallacksen was given a notice to appear.

On Aug. 4 at approximately 4:15 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of West Illinois Route 64. The driver, Trei T. Sanders, Mt. Morris, was arrested on an Ogle County Warrant for driving under the influence. Sanders was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Aug. 7 at approximately 9 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 100 block of South Mulberry Avenue for the report of a loose dog. The owner, Eli E. Rothermel, 35, Mt. Morris, was located and issued an ordinance citation for dog running at large.

On Aug. 12 at approximately 6:10 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of Carr Court for a traffic violation. The driver, Devon M. Judkins, 18, Mt. Morris, was issued citations for illegal operation of sound amplification system and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Judkins was given a notice to appear.

On Aug. 18 at approximately 3:30 a.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 400 block of South Ogle Avenue for the report of a disturbance in which the victim reported that a subject entered the home without permission and battered several subjects. After an investigation, Corey J. Twombly, 36, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with home invasion, criminal trespass to residence with persons present, domestic battery and battery. Twombly was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Aug. 18 at approximately 7:10 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a disturbance in the 10 block of West Center Street. After an investigation, Steven W. Wetzel, 67, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with battery and disorderly conduct. Wetzel was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Aug. 24 at approximately 9:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 10 block of South Wesley Avenue for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Cornelius Sandoval, 52, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with battery. Sandoval was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Aug. 26 at approximately 6:45 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Mt. Morris Road. The driver, Jeffrey C. Culp, 34, Franklin Grove, was arrested and charged with driving while license is suspended. Culp was also issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Culp was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On Aug. 27 at approximately 6:05 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 10 block of South Clark Street for a traffic offense. The driver, Ralph E. Cardott, 76, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for no valid driver's license. Cardott was given a notice to appear.

On Aug. 27 at approximately 11:30 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a

traffic stop in the 300 block of West Center Street after observing a subject on a motorcycle commit a traffic offense. The driver, Eric J. Bryer, 48, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with aggravated driving while license suspended,

aggravated driving under the influence, driving while license is revoked, driving under the influence of drugs or combination of drugs, unlawful use of weapon, improper lane usage, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and

no valid registration. Bryer was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

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

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline 800-452-7990
Sinissippi 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
Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs

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 815-222-8869

Mental Health

Family Counseling Services 962-5585
Sinissippi 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 & Community 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

Stoller to hold September traveling office hours

DIXON – State Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) has announced his staff will be on hand throughout the 37th District during the month of September for Traveling Office Hours.

“Traveling office hours are a great way for constit-

uents to reach my office without having to drive to my district offices,” said Senator Stoller. “Whether you need help with a FOID Card, a licensing issue, or any other state related issue, my staff will be on hand to help you navigate any issues or

concerns you many have with state government.”

Traveling Office Hours for the month of September will be held as follows: Friday, Sept. 13. *Polo Public Library*, 302 W. Mason St., Polo, IL 61064. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The fountain, on the northeast corner of the campus square, was a project of Mt. Morris Post 143 of the American Legion, presented to the village and dedicated on Nov. 14, 1926, to honor Mt. Morris veterans of World War I, and the five local soldiers who were killed in action.

FOUNTAIN: Dedication held for veterans memorial project in Mt. Morris

From page 1

The event was attended by village officials, community contributors and residents.

Labash said that when he and his wife moved to the village about 30 years ago, one of the first things they attended was a Memorial Day service hosted at the Veterans Memorial Fountain. He was surprised by how many people attended that event, and he knew then that the fountain was important to the community.

“As we lived here longer we heard more about the fountain and its history,” Labash said. “This is the first of a few phases to restore the fountain. It’s not a working fountain yet, but everything we need is here. I’m really excited by its appearance after this work. Now, you don’t have to hear about the history of it. You can see the history. I think it’s just a beautiful part of our community. This was done at no charge to the village.

It was really the kindness of the Kohler Foundation and their grants and ability to do this. Art is impactful. I believe this piece of art is very impactful to our community. We very much appreciate it.”

Wiza called her work exciting because she gets to help increase access to the arts and build community through preservation. She thanked Diehl and Urish for bringing the project to The Kohler Foundation’s attention and praised Michael and Stephen Berlinger for their work.

“We’re honored to invest in a full masonry conservation of the Veterans Memorial Fountain, an important piece of Mt. Morris’s history, as well as vernacular art,” Wiza said. “Families and other American Legions contributed to this memorial with stones to create the monument of fallen soldiers. We selected Heritage Restoration & Design Studio out of Peoria for their expertise. The beloved



sculpture has returned to its original aesthetic to honor the soldiers lost in World War I.”

Michael Berlinger said his company’s motto is “Design, restore and preserve for the future.” The

restoration work done on the fountain will have it in good shape long into the future, he said.

“There’s a lot of history here and it represents sacrifices made by local people and the entire com-

munity and country in a great time of conflict,” Michael Berlinger said. “It’s something that should be preserved for the future. I think preservation is critical to our nation’s history. Without knowledge of

the past, you don’t know where you are or where you’re going. History is critical to knowing who we are. A monument like this is a very visible sign of that history and it’s very specific to Mt. Morris.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sept. 11: A Join Scouting Event with Pack 337 will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Centennial Elementary School at 308 S. Pleasant Ave. in Polo. Boys and girls in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to participate and must have a parent or adult with them. The cost for a one-year membership is \$85 and financial assistance is available. Contact: Heather Roop

at 779-245-1564 or hmzellers87@gmail.com. Find out more about scouting at blackhawkscouting.org

Sept. 14: Come and join us at Byron’s Hairy Cow Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 14 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.

Oct. 5-7: The Oregon United Methodist Church will hold its annual White Elephant Sale over the Autumn On Parade weekend Oct. 5-7. The church will begin accepting donations

of clean, gently used items on Monday, Sept. 30 and Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Items not accepted are clothing, printers, computers, TVs, microwaves, typewriters, or carpet. (Rugs may be donated.) Volunteers for sorting, pricing and sales are needed. To volunteer text 815-440-1894.

Nov. 2: The Byron Forest Preserve’s 33rd Annual

Holiday Gift Sale features many unique items. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Road, Byron. With over 35 vendors, the show features exhibitors who offer a variety of hand-crafted items, including Christmas ornaments and decorations, candles, wreaths, quilts, dolls, baskets, birdhouses, and much more! Along with hand-

crafted items, home based businesses will be selling their items such as Avon, Pampered Chef, and Mary Kay. Admission is free and reservations are not required to attend the event. The Jarrett Prairie Center is accessible to the physically challenged.

A cash bar serving wine and mimosas will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like more information, please call 815-234-8535 ext. 232.

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LOCAL NEWS

RCH: Hospital offering prenatal services and after-baby care

From page 1

Some other OB providers don't always accept Medicaid, but RCH and UW Health do. The shared-care model also came about through Vogeler's connections with colleagues at UW Health and SwedishAmerican.

RCH is one of the few critical access hospitals of its size in the area that offers OB services, which are becoming more scarce, Vogeler said. She saw that need after doing a rural care training program and wanted to offer the service at RCH to keep patients local so they don't have to drive 30-45 minutes away.

"I grew up in a small town," Vogeler said. "We never had a ton of services, so we always had to travel up to 45 minutes away for certain healthcare. It was always my goal to try to bring as much as we could locally at whatever level we could to keep patients here and offer them those

services. The days of the old-school rural family doctor that does pretty much everything are going away because everything is so specialized now. The more we can offer, the more we can keep people here."

Vogeler said building relationships with expecting mothers and their families through offering the OB service has gone well. She believes that patients feel more comfortable with her because she's usually already their primary care provider beforehand. RCH and UW Health offer support for pregnant patients if they have concerns and need to schedule an appointment ASAP or after hours.

"It's been good to build those relationships with the mothers, children and families," Vogeler said. "The moms really like it because they already know us from before their pregnancy and they trust us and they bring their newborns back and we can

get them everything they need. We have kids we've seen since birth and now they're three or four years old. We'll keep being there for everything they need."

RCH has been working in recent years to raise awareness of the OB services it offers. Its Family Healthcare Clinic also offers other women's healthcare such as birth control services. Vogeler and the hospital want the community to be aware of the offerings it has, and even if a patient's needs exceed what it can offer, RCH has a network of other regional healthcare partners to help patients that start their care journey locally.

"We want to keep people local and healthy and help them with what they need and get them where they need to go if needed," Vogeler said. "In rural medicine, we see a lot of more-advanced or complex things, but we have a good network and we can get people where they



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

RCH is one of the few critical access hospitals of its size in the area that offers OB services, which are becoming more scarce, Dr. Kendall Vogeler said.

need to go if they start with us. I think that's important. With rural medicine, some people are prone to

think that hospitals like us only do so much and they'd be limited to what we do. That's not the case

here. We can do a lot at RCH and OB services is one thing I always wanted to bring."

Byron Bank hosts 'Art in the Lobby' featuring students' work throughout September

BYRON — Byron Bank is proud to announce the launch of its "Art in the Lobby" event, a month-long showcase of artwork created by talented students from the Byron School District.

Throughout September, the bank's lobby will be transformed into a vibrant gallery, offering customers and community members the opportunity to experience the creativity of local youth in a unique setting.

This event is part of Byron Bank's ongoing commitment to fostering

community engagement and supporting local talent. Visitors to the bank will have the chance to view a diverse range of artistic expressions, all created by students of various ages and skill levels.

Samantha Ciaccio, marketing officer at Byron Bank, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating, "At Byron Bank, we believe in the power of community and the importance of supporting our local schools. Our 'You Ask We Help' philosophy is all about meeting the needs of our community, and this

event is a perfect example of that. We're excited to provide a platform for these young artists to share their work and to offer our customers a chance to see the incredible talent within our schools."

The event will run from Sept. 1-30 in the Byron Bank lobby at 200 N. Walnut St., Byron, IL 61010. The lobby is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public is encouraged to visit the bank throughout the month to view the artwork and support the creative endeavors of Byron's young artists.

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Oregon boys golf team takes sixth in LWPC Invitational at Wolf Hollow Golf Course

The Oregon High School varsity boys golf team shot 334 to finish sixth in the LWPC Invitational at Wolf Hollow on Saturday, Aug. 31. Jackson Messenger carded a 75 to finish fourth individually, while Nole Campos recorded a 79 and Brogan Wilkinson fired an 86. Tucker O'Brien added 95, Landon Anderson added 100 and Cameron Folk scored 102 for the Hawks. (Courtesy photo)



Oregon girls golf team places second in Oregon Invitational at Sunset Golf Club

The Oregon High School varsity girls golf team finished second with 416 in the Oregon Girls Invitational at Sunset Golf Club on Saturday, Aug. 31. Sarah Eckardt shot a 93 to finish second individually, while Aniyah Sarver placed third with a 96 and Hailey-Jane Becker took eighth with a 110. Toni Withers followed with a 112 to take 12th in the individual standings. (Courtesy photo)

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon boys soccer team falls against Mendota

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team suffered a 9-0 loss against Mendota on Wednesday, Aug. 28. Deryk Withers recorded six saves for the Hawks (0-1) in the loss.

Forreton boys golf team defeats River Ridge/Scales Mound

The Forreton High School varsity boys golf team edged out River Ridge/Scales Mound 165-171 at Eagle Ridge on Wednesday, Aug. 28. Kaden Brown fired a 37 to earn medalist honors,

while Darin Greenfield shot 42 and two players including Aspen McGlynn and Daylen Rahn recorded 43. Kendall Erdmann carded a 49 for the Cardinals on Wednesday.

Forreton and Polo volleyball teams clash

The Polo High School varsity volleyball team

took down Forreton 25-13, 26-24 in a matchup of Ogle County schools on Wednesday, Aug. 28. Jaiden Schneiderman totaled 14 kills and two aces for the Cardinals, while Ennen Ferris compiled 14 assists, six digs and four kills.

Oregon cross country

teams race at Rocket Run

The Oregon High School varsity cross country teams raced at the Rock Falls Rocket Run on Wednesday, Aug. 28. The girls finished sixth as a team, while the boys took 10th as a team. Christine Ramirez recorded a time

of 23:28 and Jillian Hammer followed with a time of 23:44 to lead the girls on Wednesday. Daniel Dominguez ran a 17:13 for 11th place on the boys side, while Caleb Brooks clocked in with a time of 19:31.

See SPORTS page 3

603 Jackson Street Oregon \$127,900 Call Jenn Rybicki
Welcome to this charming 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath home, offering 1,200 sq. ft. of comfortable living space. The home has a newly installed roof in 2023, updated water heater in 2022, furnace has an updated heat exchanger replaced this year, providing peace of mind for years to come. There's a fenced yard, perfect for outdoor activities or pets. Detached 1.5 car garage, offering ample storage or workshop space. Ideal for those seeking a cozy and well-maintained home in a convenient, quiet location. Schedule your showing today!

101 & 103 Iron Court Dixon \$8,000 Call Taylor
Welcome to Lost Lake, an idyllic retreat located near Dixon, Illinois. This property presents a rare opportunity with two large, expansive lots, ideal for building your dream home. Situated in a peaceful cul-de-sac, the location offers a serene and quiet environment, perfect for enjoying the natural beauty of the community. The double lot features mature trees, providing both shade and a picturesque setting, while still offering plenty of space for your future plans. As part of a gated community, residents have access to an 88-acre lake, a basketball court, tennis court, clubhouse, and beautiful beaches. For golf enthusiasts, the nearby Lost Nation Golf Club offers a well-maintained 18-hole course, providing a challenging and enjoyable experience.

3973 S Chana Road Chana \$589,000 Call Rebecca
Exceptional 2-Bedroom, 2-Bathroom House on 5.5 Scenic Acres! Discover a unique blend of comfort, functionality, and stunning natural beauty with this extraordinary 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, set on 5.5 scenic acres. This property, built in 2018, offers a harmonious mix of modern living and practical workspaces. Many wonderful key features include: Primary suite with living quarters: Enjoy the luxury of a spacious primary suite, complete with private living quarters and a library adorned with custom red-oak bookshelves, offering a cozy retreat for relaxation or study. Accessibility in Design: Thoughtfully designed with accessibility in mind with wide doors and no step on the first floor. This home ensures ease of movement and comfort throughout. Gourmet Kitchen: The large kitchen is a chef's dream, featuring granite countertops, soft-close cabinets, and a double oven, making meal preparation a delight. Attached Heated & Cooled Garage: The attached 2-car garage spans 900 square feet and is fully heated and cooled, providing ample space for vehicles and additional storage needs. Backup Generator and 200 Amp Service: Rest easy knowing your home is equipped with a backup generator and 200 amp service, ensuring uninterrupted power supply. Additional Heated Outbuilding: A versatile outbuilding was built in 2021 with a 20x12 door, concrete floor, and heating offers endless possibilities as a workshop, for storage, or hobbies. Expansive Scenic Acreage: Enjoy the tranquility of 5.5 acres of picturesque land, offering ample space for outdoor activities, lush landscaping, or simply soaking in the natural beauty. Full basement with high ceilings and rough-in for an additional bathroom, offering the possibility for additional living space.

401-402 Circle Drive Rock Falls \$368,000 Call JD
Two, 4-unit buildings on adjoining parcels with active tenants. All units feature 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Tenants pay all utilities. Garbage provided. Turn Key investment opportunity. Sold as-is.

403 Circle Drive Rock Falls \$120,000 Call JD
This ranch duplex offers two 2-bedroom units with improved rental rates. Tenants cover all utilities, making it an attractive investment. Turn key! Recent upgrades include a new roof, some new siding, interior remodels, and other minor updates. Ideal for steady rental income. Make it yours today.

1201 Dixon Avenue Rock Falls \$2,100,000 Call JD
Huge investment opportunity! This complex is composed of 44 total residential units, stretching across 5 buildings, all on one parcel. 4, 8-unit 1 bedroom apartments, and a 5th featuring 6, 2 bedroom and 6, 1 bedroom units. Tenants pay all utilities. Each building features brand new sewer lines. Two 8 unit buildings were subject to massive renovation projects including, but not limited to, all new plumbing, roofs, windows, doors, covered porch, and siding. Said units are just awaiting final touches and interior completion, to maximize rental capabilities. Many materials already acquired and ready to go. Garbage & exterior parking provided. Possible additional income potential could be achieved through operation of coin laundry on the premises. Add some sweat equity, and let your passive income dreams be accomplished all in one place!

208 S Fletcher Avenue Mt Morris \$124,900 Call Becky
Lots of space for all your toys!! The large 2 story home has 4 oversized bedrooms, 1.5 BA and a 4 car garage that could be divided into a 2 car and a 2 car shop (garage has it's own electrical box & drain in the floor)! Spacious Family room with built-in shelves for TV & equipment and decor. Dining room for the family dinners and a sizable kitchen with main level washer/dryer hook up, refrigerator, & gas stove. Enclosed porch for sitting or mudroom area. First floor has all laminate flooring and upstairs has newer carpet from '20. Most bedrooms have ample walk-in closet space. Upstairs bath has new toilet, vanity/sink & LVP floors along with fresh paint. Roof - '22, furnace - '21, electric water heater - '23, newer windows throughout. 2 patios, covered front porch.

1101 S Third Street Oregon \$177,000 Call Carla
What a Charmer!! This 4 bedroom 2 bath 2 story on a corner lot in Oregon offers loads of living space throughout! Partially finished lower level. Cozy living room with an open staircase leading to the upper level that has 2 bedrooms and one bathroom. The main floor hosts 2 bedrooms with a full bath. Gorgeous throughout! Fenced in yard with oversized 2.5 car garage with separate shop area. Close to city parks!

5205 Murray Drive Dixon NOW \$165,000 Call Rebecca
RIVERFRONT PROPERTY AT A GREAT PRICE! Escape to your own riverfront ranch in a quiet neighborhood with 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. This property is located minutes from Grand Detour and a short drive to Dixon. You will love spending your days and nights on the freshly stained deck overlooking the Rock River River. Open concept living space with large living room open to the kitchen with eat in dining area. Kitchen has been updated with gorgeous cabinets and plenty of countertop space. Added bonuses are the oversized & heated garage, boat launch and boat dock that is included! Call for your showing today!

7985 S Green Street Dixon NOW \$289,000 Call Rebecca
SHOWSTOPPER WITH A BRAND NEW ROOF! Welcome to this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home in historic Grand Detour. Many updates throughout, you will fall in love with this move in ready home. Laminate flooring on the main floor with the updated kitchen featuring granite counter, beautiful cabinets, black stainless appliances and a large eat up island. Living room and dining room boast large windows overlooking your inviting front porch. Main floor master bedroom with large jacuzzi tub, spacious vanity and walk in closet. Upstairs you will find laminate flooring throughout 3 bedrooms, full bathroom, additional room with potential and a laundry room! 2 of the upper bedrooms feature walk in closets. Lower level could be finished for additional living space, too. Attached over-sized 2 car garage and a detached 1 car garage offer plenty of parking space and room for toys. Large concrete patio off the back of the house leading to the pool makes for great entertaining space. Updates include: new roof installed just last week, flooring, Anderson windows, AC, radiant floor heat, tankless hot water heater and septic.

123 E 3rd St Byron NOW \$199,900 Call Becky
Spacious 4 BR 2 story near the heart of Byron! Every room in this home is extremely large and boasts lots of character with the original oversized 8" woodwork, hardwood flooring, and 5 panel doors. Kitchen had a complete remodel 5 years ago with the tall cherry color cabinets, granite countertops island with seating for 3, pantry, coffee bar, farm style sink. Dining room has crown molding, side door to front porch, transom windows over doorways, and full size pocket door to LR. Bathroom on main level was updated '24 and included new shower, vanity & toilet. LR has two large picture windows and another pocket door to foyer. Curved open stairway to the 4 upper bedrooms and a large remodeled (7 yrs ago) bathroom with a walking tile shower, claw foot tub, heat lamp and large vanity with granite. This home sits on .37 acres and is unique with its double wrap around L-shaped porches-both up and down. Fenced yard (picnic tables stay), single garage w/opener plus an additional 2 car garage off alley, 14' round pool stays roof 10 years, water softener. Located in the outstanding Byron school district!

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 Jen 773-849-3322



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

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 1

Melanie Carrillo finished second in the open fresh-soph race with a time of 28:59.

Oregon golf teams win over Stillman Valley

The Oregon High School varsity boys golf team edged Stillman Valley 187-189 on Thursday, Aug. 29 at PrairieView Golf Course. Nole Campos earned runner-up honors with a 44, while Brogan Wilkinson fired a 47 and two players including Jackson Messenger and Tucker O'Brien finished with 48. The Hawks are now 4-2 overall and 1-2 in the Big Northern Conference.

The Oregon High School varsity girls golf team defeated Stillman Valley 201-233 behind a runner-up finish from Aniyah Sarver, who carded a 44. Sarah Eckardt followed with 48 and Hailey-Jane Becker added 49 for the Hawks, who are now 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the BNC.

Oregon volleyball team outlasts Dakota

The Oregon High School varsity volleyball team held off Dakota for

a 25-18, 18-25, 26-24 win on Thursday, Aug. 29. Madi Shaffer compiled 28 digs with three assists, while Anna Stender totaled nine assists, nine digs, two kills and two aces. Grace Tremble finished with 12 digs and five kills for the Hawks, who saw Skylar Bishop add four kills, one block and one ace. The JV Hawks fell 21-25, 19-25 and the fresh-soph Hawks lost 5-25, 14-25 against Dakota on Thursday.

Polo football team blows out South Beloit

The Polo High School varsity football team cruised over South Beloit 44-8 on Friday, Aug. 30. Gus Mumford completed 3-of-9 passes for 59 yards and Noah Dewey caught two passes for 53 yards while rushing for 38 yards and two touchdowns. Gus Mumford ran for 140 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries, while JT Stephenson ran for 100 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries. Gage Zeigler rushed for 23 yards and Kailin Gulbranson added 27 rushing yards.

Forreton football team shut out against

Fulton

The Forreton High School varsity football team conceded a 28-0 shutout loss against Fulton on Friday, Aug. 30. Evan Boettner rushed for 65 yards and Coehen Kirchner rushed for 55 yards to lead the Cardinals on offense. Dane Setterstrom added 32 rushing yards in the loss.

Oregon football team falls against North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity football team fell 18-13 against North Boone on Friday, Aug. 30. Logan Weems rushed for 97 yards and one touchdown, while Cooper Johnson threw for 27 yards including a 12-yard touchdown pass to Josh Crandall and a 15-yard pass to Keaton Salsbury.

Byron football team dominates Rock Falls

The Byron High School varsity football team dominated Rock Falls 56-7 on Friday, Aug. 30. Kaden McGough rushed for 88 yards and one touchdown, while Andrew Talbert rushed for 70 yards and one touchdown. Brayden Knoll rushed for 50 yards and one touchdown. J.J.

Edmonson returned a punt for a 42-yard touchdown and Maddex Draheim recovered a fumble for a touchdown. Kye Aken, Bennet Hiveley and Isaac Alvarez each added touchdown runs.

Oregon boys soccer team beats Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team won 4-1 over Rockford Lutheran on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Steven Guardado led the Hawks (2-2-2, 1-0 BNC) with three goals, while Cruz Hernandez added a goal and four players including Irvin Acosta, Aiden Hammer, Nick Ciesiel and Danny Chisamore notched assists. Deryk Withers finished with four saves.

Oregon volleyball team falls at Rochelle

The Oregon High School varsity volleyball team fell 8-25, 23-25 against Rochelle on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Madi Shaffer finished with 11 digs and an ace, while Grace Tremble had eight digs and two kills. Anna Stender totaled five digs and three assists. The JV Hawks lost 19-25,

20-25 and the fresh-soph Hawks fell 25-20, 18-25, 5-15 against Rochelle on Tuesday evening.

Oregon boys golf team wins over Rock Falls

The Oregon High School varsity boys golf team scored a 185-191 win over Rock Falls on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Nole Campos fired a 38 for medalist honors and Brogan Wilkinson tied for runner-up honors with a 43. Matthew Pham (51), Coen Schafer (52) and Lexton Pham (53) each had personal-best scores for the JV team.

Forreton boys golf team sweeps DuPec-Polo meet

The Forreton High School varsity boys golf team took down both DuPec and Polo at Lynx Golf Course on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Kaden Brown earned medalist honors with a 37, while Daylen Rahn was the runner-up finisher with a 38. Kendall Erdmann fired a 41 and Aspen McGlynn followed with a 43. Darin Greenfield and Conrad Krigbaum notched scores of 44 and 46. Forreton finished with 159, while DuPec had 198

and Polo carded 203.

Forreton volleyball team edges Byron

The Forreton High School varsity volleyball team edged Byron for a 25-17, 25-19 win in a matchup of Ogle County schools. Jaiden Schneiderman had 13 kills and three aces, while Ennen Ferris collected 10 assists, four blocks and two kills. Aubrey Sanders totaled 11 digs, five assists and one ace, while Ayla Kiper had nine digs and two aces.

Oregon cross country teams race at Sycamore Invitational

The Oregon High School varsity cross country teams raced in the Sycamore Invitational at Kishwaukee College on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Among the top varsity boys were Daniel Gonzales, who medaled in 25th with a time of 17:16, and Caleb Brooks, who ran a time of 19:17. Among the top varsity girls were Jillian Hammer, who placed 34th with a PR of 23:40, as well as Christine Ramirez and Madeline Rogers, who finished with times of 24:15 and 26:43.

Andy Colbert: Takeaways from Week 1

WHAT did we learn from the first weekend of high-school football?

How about Dixon taking it to Stillman Valley, 56-14. Yes, Dixon is a formidable foe and has a pronounced BNC enrollment advantage, but to put eight scores on the Cardinals wasn't an expected outcome.

Up front, the Dukes set the tone with complete domination, especially in the first half where SV only mustered 24 yards, save for a long halfback pass that caught Dixon off guard.

A big plus for Dixon is having a coach's son at quarterback in Cullen Shanner, who was 24-35 for 285 yards and four touchdowns. Be it point guard in basketball, pitcher in baseball/softball or QB in football, there is an intangible about having the coach's kid in those type of positions.

Can Dixon give Byron a genuine test in conference play?

Considering they had 419 yards offensively

against a decent Cardinal squad, the answer is maybe. Right now, Byron's program has a stronghold over everyone. It was a year ago that Dixon pushed 5A state runner-up St. Laurence to the brink in the playoffs, but had a running clock put on them by Byron.

Put Oct. 18 on your calendar. That's when Dixon hosts Byron, in what looks to be for the league title.

Two things stand out in Rockford Lutheran's 49-6 whipping of Winnebago.

Lutheran's returning skilled players are as good as advertised. For the last few years, once-proud Winnebago has struggled with low participation and this year is the same scenario.

Besides losing their three-year starting quarterback Jack Washburn due to health concerns, Oregon dropped a heartbreaker to North Boone 18-13, with mistakes and penalties being a factor.

With such a close margin for making the playoffs,

this was a game Oregon was counting on to win. A year ago in week one, the Hawks eked out a 6-0 win over NB and made the playoffs at 5-4.

As has been documented since the current crop of seniors were freshmen, the talent is there for Oregon to repeat as a playoff team.

The biggest question is whether the Hawks have the mental fortitude to persevere?

It's been lacking in boys sports at Oregon for a long time and difficult to restart without team leaders stepping to the forefront. Give me kids with determination and discipline over gifted ones.

Football is such a unique game that mental toughness often means more than physical ability. Countless times, I have seen so-called underdogs come through because of simply playing smart and a passion for competition.

It doesn't even have to

be winning a game. How about keeping Byron from putting a running clock on you, like the Tigers did against everyone in the conference except SV.

I'm not discounting Byron's prowess, but not giving up when things start to go bad is a way to build team morale and character. We grow more from adversity than when things go our way.

Long advertised as the top small-school football conference in Illinois, the NUIC is heavily loaded again, as demonstrated by Forreton's 28-0 loss to Fulton.

Allowing both a fourth-down touchdown and kickoff return and then fumbling away scoring chances, Forreton made this score a bit misleading. But, could the Cardinals streak of playoff success be in danger one game into the season?

Stockton proved to be

a legitimate contender by taking league favorite DuPec to the brink in a 32-26 loss. Le-Win is Le-Win and Dakota, Galena, Morrison, and EPC have tradition behind them.

However, before too much panic sets in Forreton, remember they started 2-2 in conference play before winning a state title in 2018. In terms of the aforementioned mental toughness, what was most notable about that season was Forreton going on the road to beat Le-Win in the playoffs after losing to them by three touchdowns in the regular season.

In the eight-man ranks, newcomer West Carroll won its first football game since before COVID-19 with a 64-14 victory over River Ridge. With an enrollment about double over the rest of the teams in the eight-man conference, West Carroll is still a good fit after demonstrating they could not compete in the NUIC.

Biggest blowout was

80-8 by Milledgeville over Ashton-Franklin Center and new coach Dave Smith, whose long-time experience will be an asset to AFC. For now, though, Milledgeville might be team to beat in eight-man, along with Amboy.

As usual, Polo will make its presence felt. It remains to be seen if the Marcos have personnel to run with the big dogs, though.

I missed the first Friday night of the season, as I drove south of Peoria to set up to run a 100K race at the Sand Ridge State Forest. Like lighthouses along the ocean beckoning ships to safe harbor, I would occasionally see rural towns in the distance aglow with football field lights.

Like a ship, those sights made me feel all is right in my little world.

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



Andy Colbert

ROCK RIVER SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Mexican Train Domestinos

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

John Denver Tribute on Sept. 11

10:00 - 11:30 A.M. Advanced Registration Requested.

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Dolly's Book Bash

Wednesday, September 18th, 10:00 am. Join our friends from United Way as they present a special storytime for our toddlers and preschoolers. It will be a fun-filled hour of stories, snacks, and crafts as well as an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn more about receiving free books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We look forward to seeing you! **Fall Storytime**

requested.

Brain Health on Sept. 16

10:00 - 11:30 A.M. Advanced Registration Requested.

Activities with Mary on Tues., Sept. 17

TP Pumpkins: 1:00 - 1:45. Drumming: 1:45 - 2:30

'My Two Elaines' Alzheimer's Program on Sept. 18

10:30 - 11:30 A.M. Registration by September 11 Requested.

SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 4th Wednesday

in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

DIABETICSUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 1st Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOWVISIONGROUP

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

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

meetings, parties, showers, family reunions, and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

Soft Plastic Recycling

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



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 sharon.bowers@remax.net
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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

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.

Outdoor Games!

We're indulging our competitive spirit and enjoying the great outdoors all at the same time! Come play fun games like cornhole, ring toss and more out on the library lawn. Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Bagged Book Sale

Books for children, teens

and adults will be pre-packed by library staff with a surprise assortment! Each bag will include a selection of gently used books, labeled by genre. Bags will be sold (as is) for \$5 each. Cash and exact change only. While supplies last. Saturday, September 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

European Travel: Pack Light. Pack Right!

Overpacker, underpacker, backpacker. Whatever your style, packing for a European vacation can be overwhelming. But, it doesn't have to be. Join frequent flier, Joanna, as

she talks about packing for your European vacation: what to leave, what to bring, plus tips, tricks and a packing demonstration. Monday, September 30, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Tween Scene: Monster Making Lab

Crafty + creepy = the perfect combination. This month we're embracing the spooky season by creating plush monsters. Will yours be strange and scary... or cute and cuddly? Tuesday, October 1, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Have a Ball

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. This month's meeting features interactive play with tunnels and rainbow balls. Friday, October 4, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Puzzle Palooza

Because... you just fit! In our second Puzzle Palooza, teams of 2-4 will face off to see who can assemble the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in 90 minutes. Prizes will be given to first, second and third-place team fin-

ishers. Saturday, October 5, 2 p.m. Space is limited. Register your team early by calling the library at 815-645-8611.

Fun Day Monday: Tales & Tails with National Mississippi River Museum

Why do some animals have tails and what do they do with them? The National Mississippi River Museum will help us discover how animals use their tails and other adaptations by introducing us to some live animals up close. We'll also share some animal tales along the way. Monday,

October 14, 1 p.m. All ages. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Instagram for Beginners

Help! I have an Instagram account, but I don't know the difference between a hashtag and a mention! Join library staff as they cover everything you need to know to get better acquainted with the platform. Bring your favorite mobile device (app installed and logged-into) for hands-on practice. Monday, October 21, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Financial Education Workshop Series! Bare Bones Budgeting

For those newly in recovery, or just starting out with no experience in budgeting or saving. Join us as we go on a financial learning adventure! Workshops by Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northern Illinois will be offered every other Tuesday at 4pm. Dates and classes are: Sept. 10th-Bare Bones Budgeting. Sept. 24th-Classic Budgeting. Oct. 8th-Credit Reports. Oct. 22nd-Credit Reports and Scores. Nov. 5th-Card and Banking Features. Nov. 19th-Savings and Investments.

Story Time! Wednesdays at 11:15am

We will be reading books and the children

will create a craft this Wednesday. Story time is every Wednesday @ 11:15, bring your little ones to enjoy stories and a craft at the Mount Morris Library!

Lego Club Thursday, September 19th

Lego night is the third Thursday of each month. Join in the fun with all the family as they build and create together. Families can build on Thursday, September 19th at 5:30 - 7pm! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

Display Case Showings

New display at the Mount Morris Library! Thank you cards from students who were given books from the 9x9x9

Mount Morris Library Foundation program! The 9x9x9 Program collects donations so that every first-grade student can receive a new book every month of the school year! Stop by the library for more information. 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.

Cookbook Club Next Meeting October 8th

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 October 8th,

6pm at The Senior Center for another exciting meal!

Adult Book Club Meeting, October 28th

Would you like to be part of a group and read great books?? Join us in October for friendship and great book talks! Everyone is welcome to join this book club group! Do you have suggestions for a book to read? Stop by the library and let them know you would like to join. Meeting will be held at the library on October 28th at 3:30pm.

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.

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.

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!

See MT. MORRIS page 6

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefamilychurch
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director: Katie 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 Rasinski.
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 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 Spelliious
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) during the 10:30 worship
Coffee & fellowship time: 10:00am - 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: chanaumc@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 Tews
West Grove Rd. At Columbine Rd.
Worship Service 10:30 am. Communion is served every Sunday.
"Singing the Song of Christian Faith in Worship, Service, Learning, Outreach and Welcome" in a beautiful rural setting.
Everyone is cordially invited to be with us.

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Billy Hardy
Live Service 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 Rosebark
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 Paddock

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

MOUNT MORRIS

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Bryanton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh 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 Bryanton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 (Church of the Brethren Basement Entrance) Worship Services: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning, 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Sunday Evening, 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evenings of the Month.
Pastor: Norman Reinford 779-861-3700

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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

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.EBENZERRFORMED.com • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each of month. Lighthouse will 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
Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail:saint.bride.church@gmail.com
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255
polo@crossroadsccn.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/VECCSV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office MF 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

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

From page 5

Many thanks to all who gave memorial gifts in 2023.

Newspaper Available!
We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle

County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!

Curbside Service is available!
We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your

materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

Additional Services

Offered
We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer without a

library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Library Board Meetings
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

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

No Longer Accepting Plastic
Thanks to our community and the years of our successful partnership with Trex and other local organizations, we collected enough plastic bags to donate several benches to Ogle County! However, the library will no longer accept donations as we pivot to other projects. Instead please visit Meijer, Schnucks, Target and Kohl's to donate your bags.

Passport Fair
Saturday, Sep. 14. 10:00

am - 1:00 pm. Are you applying for your first passport or is yours about to expire? The Byron Public Library District is once again partnering with the Oregon Public Library District to help you through the application process. Applicants must bring their original birth certificate and a valid photo ID. The cost is \$130 for adults and \$100 for children under the age of 16, plus \$35 processing fee and \$13 for a picture. After the application process, please allow 8-11

weeks for delivery. Passport application forms are available at the Byron Public Library, or online at travel.state.gov. Walk-ins are welcome; no registration is required.

Creative Studio
Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle

school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1-5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5-8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5-8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App
Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the Prai-

rieCat 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!

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Bingocize!
September 6th & 9th - Bingocize! This is a unique solution that mixes exercise, health education and Bingo to help overcome health problems

in participants across the entire spectrum of care. This 10 week program meets twice a week at 1:00 pm for about 1/2 an hour each time.

Diamond Painting
Friday, September 6th - Diamond Painting at 11:00 am. No skill involved. We will have choices of

paintings for sale.

Hagemann/Miller Memorial Golf Outing

We would love for you to join us for our annual golf outing that will take place on Saturday, September 7th. We are looking for hole sponsors, donors of prizes and goodie bag items, and of course, golf-

ers! Shotgun start at 2:00 pm with a steak dinner at 5:00 pm. The cost for each golfer is \$60. Others are welcome to attend dinner only for \$25. Please contact Melissa at The Center.

Zentangle Class
September 17th at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$15.00. Zentangle is a meditative,

abstract easy to learn art form that involves drawing in repetitive patterns called tangles. At this class the instructor will teach us to Zentangle and we will leave class with some holiday cards. Contact The Center to reserve your spot.

Sponsor a Chair!

We are in the process of replacing our worn out chairs and can use your help. For \$50.00 per chair you can sponsor one of the new chairs we are hoping to purchase. Stop by the center during open hours (9am to 1 pm) and talk with Melissa. All help is appreciated!

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

September is National Library Card Sign Up Month

With a library card you can discover new and exciting worlds! Access to technology, innovative programming, educational resources, borrowing books, audiobooks, dvds & more. There is so much you can access with a library card. Pursue your passions and dreams through your library's resources and programs. Visit the library's website, Facebook page or call 815-732-2724 to find out more about your library.

New Resource at the Library! EBSCO Databases has arrived!

Do you want to know more about arts and crafts, car repair, starting a business, or planning an estate? Maybe you need to prep for the GED or study for college-entrance exams. Have you ever wished you could research academic topics from home? Oregon Public Library patrons can now find full-text e-resource materials on a variety of topics. Follow the links from our website to access the new EBSCO databases from the library, or login remotely from

adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Preschool Story Time
(18 months - 6 years). Sessions begin again on Monday, September 9 at 10 am. Registration is required. Our guest reader on the 9th is from the United Way Of Ogle County and will be sharing information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

We Didn't Start The Fire

Wednesday, September 11th. The History of Billy Joel - Though Billy Joel has not released a new rock album in over 27 years, he remains one of the world's most popular live performers. Using performance and interview video clips we'll trace the arc of Billy's career from his humble beginnings in Hicksville, NY...to his slow rise to fame...to his long string of hits including "Just The Way You Are", "It's Still Rock N Roll To Me", "Uptown Girl" and "River Of Dreams"...to his love life including his marriage to supermodel Christie Brinkley...and finally to his current status as one of the world's most successful touring

acts. "If you're in the mood for a melody...the Piano Man will make you feel alright." Registration required, visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. or call (815) 732-2724.

Passport Fair

Saturday, September 14th, 10am -2pm at Byron Public Library. The Oregon Public Library is hosting a special passport event at the Byron Public Library, 100 S. Washington St, Byron, IL, on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 10 am to 2 pm to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications. U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government. Information on the cost and how to apply for a U.S. passport is available at travel.state.gov or contact the Oregon Public Library at 1-815-732-2724. U.S. citizens

may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, September 16th 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 http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, September 17th at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your timeslot)-Lavender Soap. Learn to make soap, simple DIY project. This an

adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Lego Club

Wednesday, September 25, 2:30 pm (2nd grade & up) (Early school dismissal). Get together and spend some recreational time building! The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence.

Laura Keyes, as Elizabeth Packard

Wednesday, September 25th at 6:00pm. Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard was committed to the Illinois State Hospital (the state mental asylum) in 1860, and was kept under lock and key for three years, all the while protesting her sanity. While her husband, Theophilus, insisted to everyone - Elizabeth's children, extended family, neighbors, friends, and the asylum employees - that she was, in fact, insane, Elizabeth was able to obtain her release. But her battle did not stop there. Conscious of the fact that the current law allowed married women to be placed in asylums

by their husbands without the benefit of a formal trial or medical examination, Elizabeth started a campaign to change that unjust law. Hear from Elizabeth Packard in April 1864, while the Civil War rages around the nation, and her private war is raging in her soul. Bio: Laura Keyes graduated from UW-Madison with a Master's Degree in Library Studies, and is a lifetime member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Laura recently won the Excellence in Performing Award from that Association. Registration required, www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

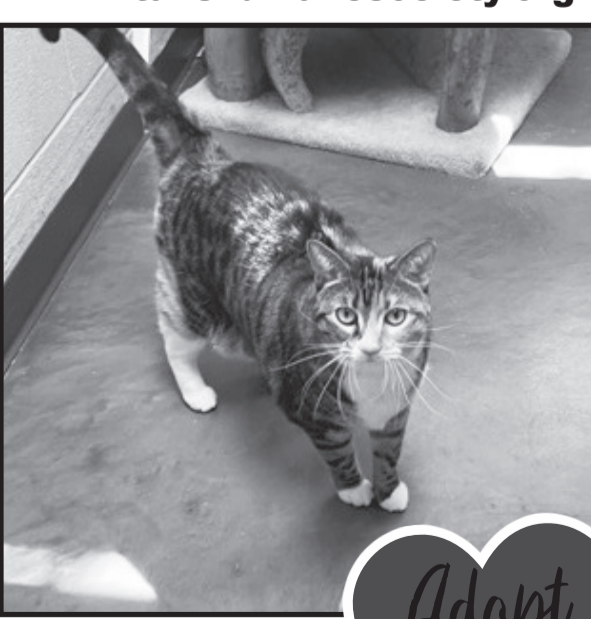
Book Clubs


The 2WBC meets Wednesday, September 11 at 12:30 to discuss The Secret Lives of Book-sellers and Librarians by James Patterson & Matt Eversmann. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, September 15 at Chrissy's Corner at 2 pm. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 17 to discuss Lightlark by Alex Aster.

See page 7

TAILS PET OF THE WEEK

Humane Society
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org





Fiona

Hello, my name is Fiona. I'm a sweet, gentle cat searching for a peaceful home where I can be the center of attention. A quiet space without other pets or young children would be perfect for me. I love to bask in the sun and would adore a loving family to cuddle with.

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or
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!



LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

From page 6

The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, September 18 at 1 pm to discuss Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros. Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, September 26 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss When the Jessamine Grows by Donna Everhart.

Functional Movement Type Yoga

Wednesdays at 9:30am. In this class, we use exercises based on whole-body movements to restore posture, improve body mechanics, build strength

and endurance, and fine-tune balancing skills. We start with a slow warm-up followed by core exercises – then explore how to utilize these tools based on real situations in daily life. Bring your yoga mat! All levels are welcome. - OREGON PATRONS ONLY - Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

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 <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com> or call (815) 732-2724.

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.

Community Seed Library

Harvesting your garden? Have extra seeds? Donate them to the community seed library. We have seed envelopes for you to fill for our collection. Seeds are FREE for anyone.

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 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-Our Incredible Library Book by Caroline Crowe At the StoryWalk is Apple Picking Time by Michele Benoit Slawson.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Aug. 27 at approximately 5:39 a.m. deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 11,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After conducting an investigation, it was determined that a beige 2005 Chevrolet 2500 was southbound on South Center Road, when it exited the west side of the roadway, and partially entered a standing corn field. The beige Chevrolet then reentered South Center

Road, crossed East Illinois Route 38, and entered the southwest ditch. The beige Chevrolet drove through a standing bean field south of East Illinois Route 38, before turning east, crossing South Center Road, and then entered the east ditch. The beige Chevrolet struck a utility pole with the passenger side of the truck, and entered a standing corn field. The beige Chevrolet turned around in the standing corn

field, before re-entering South Center Road, and proceeding westbound on East Illinois Route 38. The beige Chevrolet then became disabled in the lane of traffic. The driver of the beige Chevrolet, William Mongan, 31, of Oregon was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of a combination of drugs and alcohol. Mongan was also issued citations for leaving the scene of an accident,

improper lane usage, operating an uninsured vehicle, transportation of an open alcohol container, and no seatbelt. Mongan was taken by Rochelle EMS to Rochelle Community Hospital for treatment of his injuries during the incident. Mongan was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Aug. 27 at approximately 2:37 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of North

Mulford Road. After investigation, deputies placed Jamie Howard, 35, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Howard was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Howard was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Aug. 27 at approximately 12:26 p.m. deputies

made contact with a male in the 1,100 block of North 6th Avenue in Rochelle. The male was identified as Christopher Jones, 41, of Rochelle, and was placed under arrest for an active Ogle County failure to appear warrant for driving under the influence of alcohol. Jones was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

See page 8

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Broadway flop
5 Foot part
9 Urban carrier
12 Vivacity, in music
13 "Funny!"
14 Flamenco cheer
15 Rural tourist attractions
17 Skier Tommy
18 Actress Neuwirth
19 Serious
21 Wide, fancy necktie
24 Jazz singer Laine
25 Noggin
26 Reeve role
30 Einstein's birthplace
31 Mini-plateaus
32 Green prefix
33 Pudding choices
35 Firecracker sound
36 Grecian vessels
37 Embedded spies
38 Bas-relief medium
40 Reed instrument
42 Pirates' quaff
43 Duncan Hines products

DOWN

1 Telly network
2 Granada gold
3 Russian space station
4 Chocolate-coated treat
5 Melville captain
6 Demolish
7 "Evita" role
8 Pestors
9 Fast-food deal
10 Balm ingredient
11 Tavern order
16 Bumped into
20 "— the ramparts ..."
21 Border on
22 Actress Ward
23 College handout for a freshman
24 Tax prep pros
26 Brief moments
27 Can. neighbor
28 Dreaded breakout
29 Eggy drinks
31 Prop for Mr. Peanut
34 Apr. address-ee
35 Aircraft manufacturer
37 May honoree
38 Clench
39 Franc replacer
40 Gumbo need
41 Existed
44 Have a cold
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Sch. URL ender
47 Filming site

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MAGIC MAZE

THINGS WE LOOK THROUGH

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

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

- Bifocals
- Contacts
- Eyepiece
- Field glasses
- Fog Lenses
- Magazine
- Microscope
- Monocles
- Newspapers
- Peephole
- Periscope
- Spyglass
- Telescope
- Windows

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

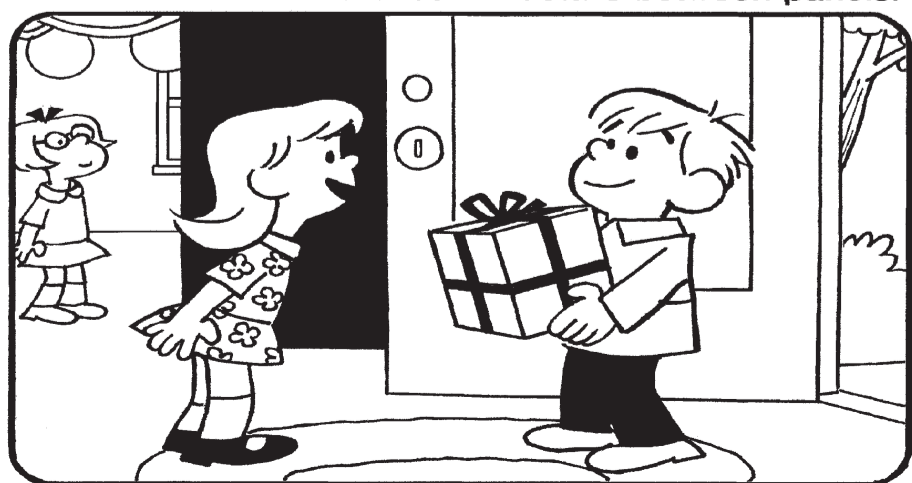
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Present is smaller. 2. Sock is higher. 3. Girl is not showing. 4. Bush is different. 5. Balloon is missing. 6. Arm is not

Answers

King Crossword

THINGS WE LOOK THROUGH

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

THINGS WE LOOK THROUGH

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

From page 7

On Aug. 27 at approximately 5:55 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,600 block of North Illinois Route 2 on a black Harley Davidson. After conducting an investigation Najib Atiyeh, 55, of Wayne, Illinois was placed under arrest and cited for driving under the influence. Atiyeh was also issued citations for speeding 95 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone, improper passing in a no passing zone, reckless driving, and driving under the influence over .08. Atiyeh was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released.

On Aug. 28 deputies responded to 11461 N. Pecatonica Road in reference to a check welfare. Upon investigation, Huberto Hernandez-Pineda, 42, of Leaf River and Luis Mario Gutierrez, 21, of Leaf River, were placed under arrest for possession of firearms without a FOID card and possession of ammunition without a valid FOID card. Both were released on notices to appear.

On Aug. 28 at 6:17 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 20,000 block of East Illinois Route

64. As a result, deputies arrested Anna L. Varner, 27, of Rochelle for driving while license revoked. Varner was additionally issued citations for no front registration, and expired registration. Varner was transported to the Ogle County Jail, and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Aug. 28 at approximately 9:57 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a green Hyundai sedan in the 7,000 block of North River Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Robert C. Baker, 19, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Baker was also cited for disobeying a stop sign. Baker was released with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Aug. 29 at 2:31 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Kilbuck Road. The driver of the vehicle, David Rasmussen, 46, of Rockford was arrested for driving while license revoked and no vehicle insurance. He was taken to the Ogle County Jail and later released on a notice to appear.

On Aug. 30 at approximately 1:47 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile

marker 112 northbound. After further investigation Jamall Fisher, 53, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Fisher was also cited for expired registration. Fisher was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On Aug. 30 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2005 Saturn Ion for an equipment violation at Illinois Route 2 and Illinois Route 72. After conducting an investigation, Mandrell Woods, 32, of Davenport, Iowa, was arrested and cited for driving while license revoked. Woods was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was processed and released on a notice to appear.

On Aug. 31 at approximately 10:12 p.m. deputies responded to the 200 block of South 2nd Avenue in Forreston in response to a domestic problem. After an investigation, Andrew L. Heidenreich, 20, of Forreston, was placed under arrest for two counts of domestic battery. Heidenreich was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held awaiting an appearance before a judge.

On Aug. 31 at approximately 6:15 a.m. deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1,600 block of North Freeport Road with a male passed out behind the wheel. Prior to arrival, the vehicle left the scene and began traveling southbound on Freeport Road. At approximately 6:29 a.m. deputies located the vehicle in the 2,000 block of South Freeport Road and conducted a traffic stop on a black Hyundai Passenger car. After investigation, deputies learned the vehicle sustained minor front-end damage from going off the roadway. The driver, Brenden Petersen, 21, of Dixon, was checked out at the scene by Polo Fire and EMS and completed a refusal form. Petersen was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Peterson was additionally issued citations for DUI over .08, improper lane usage, and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. Petersen was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Sept. 1 at approximately 11:40 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and Merrill

Road. After investigation, deputies placed Kalei Williams, 24, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Williams was additionally issued a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Williams was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Sept. 1 at approximately 12:46 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Steward Road in Rochelle. After investigation, deputies placed George Broches, 61, of Compton under arrest for two active Ogle County felony forgery warrants. Broches was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Sept. 1 at approximately 11:15 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and Dement Road for an equipment violation. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Raymond Haney, 24 of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Haney was released on scene with a notice to appear and a future court date provided.

On Sept. 1 at approxi-

mately 2:19 a.m. deputies responded near US Highway 52 and Freeport Road in response to a vehicle stopping in the middle of the roadway. After an investigation, Jacob S. White, 28, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. White was also cited for driving under the influence of alcohol with a breath alcohol concentration greater than .08 BAC and for illegal stopping, standing, or parking in the roadway. White was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was processed before being released with a notice to appear.

On Sept. 2 at 8:56 p.m. deputies responded to the area of Illinois Route 72 and Limestone Road for a driving complaint. Deputies located the vehicle in the 5,000 block of North Limestone Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Justin Weycker, 39, of McFarland, Wisconsin for driving under the influence of alcohol and unlawful use of a weapon. Weycker was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing. Weycker was released with a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Dugout construction starts in Polo
The Polo Lions Club started the construction on the dugouts at Westside Park on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 24. (Courtesy photos)

Fall art classes sponsored by Encore! Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — Encore! Mt. Morris and Highland Community College's division of Lifelong Learning are collaborating to host four art classes between Oct. 2 and Nov. 5, most 6-8 p.m. or all day on a Saturday: Clay Vases; Intro to Watercolor Painting; Working with Color: Mixing and Blending in Watercolor Painting; Linocut Printmaking; and Rug Hooking (postponed to Spring due to illness of

instructor). All supplies are included in the course fees. Classes are held in several locations around Mt. Morris. For course details (descriptions, locations, fees, instructors, photos of projects) and to register for one or more of the classes, go to the Encore! Mt. Morris web site (encoremmtorris.com) and click on the "Fall 2024 Art Classes" button. On the courses page, click on the title or photo of the class

that interests you. That will take you to the Highland Community College Lifelong Learning page to register. Contact Molly Baker at mollyb@encoremmtorris.com if you have any questions. Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris, IL into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in northwest Illinois. Learn more at EncoreMtMorris.com.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Emily Harbaugh with her Reserve Champion milk cow.

Ogle County Carefree 4-H Club reflects on time at fair

OREGON — The Carefree 4-H Club in Ogle County held its August meeting at the Ogle County Farm Bureau in Oregon. Discussion topics included reflecting on their time at the Ogle County 4-H Fair. Members who participated in the Ogle County 4-H Fair had fun showcasing their general projects and being part of the livestock shows. The

club discussed having a Thanksgiving Food Drive and other ideas for a community service project. The club will participate in the Autumn On parade this October in Oregon. At their November meeting, the club will hold officer elections for their members. Also coming up is Achievement Day, which is the 4-H awards program where members

can win prizes for their efforts. 4-H is an informal youth education program of University of Illinois Extension. For more information or to get involved with the program, contact the Ogle County Extension office at 815-732-2191 or visit us online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo>. This is the best time of the year to join!



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Nicholas Smith receiving the Robert Stahl Friendship Award at last year's Village of Progress Annual Banquet. Also pictured in the photo is Diane Stahl, Aaron Smith, Jobina Smith, and Kim Stahl.

Village of Progress annual banquet is Oct. 9

OREGON — The Village of Progress' Annual Awards Banquet is coming soon! Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of those who attend the Village and the many volunteers who donate

their time and talent. It's a great evening to spotlight our Ogle County men and women with developmental disabilities. They value your support, and so do we. The annual dinner will be held at St. Mary's Lean-

ing Center, Oregon, on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling 815-732-2126. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for those age four and under.

PATRIOT DAY

President George W. Bush's address to the nation on September 11, 2001

On the evening of September 11, 2001, United States President George W. Bush addressed a nation that earlier that day witnessed the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history. That morning, hijackers took control of four airplanes, ultimately crashing two into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the plane from the hijackers. All passengers and crew on board all four flights died on September 11, and thousands of others on the ground lost their lives that day as well. It was under those conditions that President Bush delivered the following speech to a shaken nation.

Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed;

our country is strong. A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America — with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight, and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as

well. The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.



The 9/11 Memorial

AMONG the more indelible images to emerge on September 11, 2001 was the sight of two planes crashing into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center. Still photos and video footage of those planes flying into the Twin Towers were the first images of the attacks many Americans saw, and no one who watched events unfold that morning will ever forget those images.

Though both the North and South Towers fell on that day, today the site where each tower once stood is a serene retreat in the bustling lower Manhattan neighborhood that was shaken to its core on the day of the attacks. The 9/11 Memorial was designed by architect Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker.

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum notes that Arad and Walker's proposal was chosen in a design competition that featured 5,201 submissions from 63 countries.

The 9/11 Memorial is located on the western side of the formal World Trade

Center where the Twin Towers once stood. Two enormous reflecting pools are part of the Memorial Plaza, which is where the North and South Towers once stood. The pools feature the two largest man-made waterfalls in North America. Around the edges of the pools, the names of people who were killed in the 9/11 attacks in New York, the Pentagon, on Flight 93, and in the 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center are etched in bronze.

In recognition of the crash sites, 400 swamp white oak trees were selected from nurseries located in New York, Pennsylvania and near Washington, D.C. These trees are located throughout the Memorial Plaza, providing

a peaceful respite separate from the surrounding city. The Memorial Plaza also includes one Callery pear tree. That tree was discovered at Ground Zero weeks after the attacks and it was severely damaged. The tree, now known as the Survivor Tree, was nursed back to health by members of the New York City Parks and Recreation Department and returned to the World Trade Center site in 2010, where it still stands as an enduring symbol of resilience and perseverance.

The 9/11 Memorial is free and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information about the 9/11 Memorial and the 9/11 Memorial and Museum can be found at www.911memorial.org.



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
TO: MARTIN RAMOS ACEVEDO, LAURA ACEVEDO, IMER ASHIKU AS TRUSTEE OF THE IMER ASHIKU REVOCABLE TRUST DATED 31ST OF JANUARY 2019, COUNTY CLERK OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID REAL ESTATE, OCCUPANTS OR PERSONS IN ACTUAL POSSESSION OF REAL ESTATE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED CITY OF POLO TAX DEED NO. 2024TX20 FILED JULY 15, 2024

60035 Phone-(800) 470-8661 Dated July 15, 2024 gdaniels@gmd-law.com #2150029 No. 0827 (Sept. 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on August 28, 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: NRI, LLC DBA Northwest Recovery 14035 Hwy 72 Davis Junction, Illinois 61020 Dated August 28, 2024 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0907 (Sept. 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on August 28, 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: Northwest Repossession, LLC DBA Northwest Transport 14035 Hwy 72 Davis Junction, Illinois 61020 Dated August 28, 2024 Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk No. 0908 (Sept. 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

TAKE NOTICE
COUNTY OF OGLE DATE PREMISES SOLD NOVEMBER 2, 2022 CERTIFICATE NO. 2021-00099 SOLD FOR GENERAL TAXES OF 2021 SOLD FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF (MUNICIPALITY) AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NUMBER (NOT APPLICABLE) WARRANT NO. (NOT APPLICABLE) INST. NO. (NOT APPLICABLE) **THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES** Property located at: 118 W Mason St., Polo, IL 61064 Property Index No: 14-16-204-010 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on January 15, 2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before January 15, 2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Ogle County in the Ogle County Courthouse, 106 S 5th St, Oregon, Illinois, on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 302. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. **YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY** Redemption can be made at any time on or before January 15, 2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Ogle County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Oregon, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk Address: 105 South 5th Street, Ste 104, Oregon, IL 61061 Telephone: (815)-732-1130 Ripple Creek Investors of Chicago LLC Purchaser or Assignee Genevieve M. Daniels, P.C. Genevieve Daniels—ARDC# 6215939 Attorney for Petitioner 600 Central Avenue, Suite 318 Highland Park, IL

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

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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.

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HOPE of Ogle County



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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Happily Homegrown is a 12-acre homestead where the Bruns family grows and raises most of their food. Orion Organics is Tim Benedict's apiary and garlic farm.

U of I Extension hosting the Ogle County Farm Stroll Oct. 13

OREGON — Have you ever wanted to see a beekeeper in action? Or pick your own apples and berries? Join us for this free, family-friendly event that will satisfy your local food cravings and curiosity!

the University of Illinois Extension will host the Ogle County Farm Stroll, a self-guided driving tour of highly diversified family farms open to the public on one big day. There will be farm tours, demonstrations, and fresh local food samplings and sales. Please dress

according to the weather; it will take place rain or shine. The farms participating in this year's Farm Stroll are Barnhart's Stone Corner, Berry View Orchard, Dietrich Ranch, Happily Homegrown, Hough's Maple Lane Farm, and Orion Organics.

See farm-raised cows, organic fruits and vegetables, pigs, and more. One of the farms is full of antique farm equipment and farming history. How does the stroll work? Choose which farms you want to see and create your route using the map and brochure. This is a

free event, but bring cash to stock up on local, farm-fresh products. Follow Ogle County Farm Stroll on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information, brochures, maps, and spotlight features on each farm at [https://www.facebook.com/northernil-](https://www.facebook.com/northernil-farmstroll/)

farmstroll/. View the event flyer here: <https://go.illinois.edu/2024OgleCountyFarmStrollflyer>. Contact the Ogle County Extension office at 815-732-2191 with any additional questions or if you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program.

Country Road Greenhouses 2nd Annual Fall Native Sale Sept. 28-29

ROCHELLE—Country Road Greenhouses, wholesale growers of native plants, native restoration specialists, and the exclusive producers of the Prairie Plugs™ grow method, will be hosting its second annual Fall Native Plant Sale on Sept. 28-29 at the farm, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. The Fall Sale and the annual Spring Sale are the only two public sales conducted at the farm each year. A full line of native plants (forbs, grasses, sedges, rushes) will be offered

in containers ranging from individual "plugs" to individual three-inch pots, to three-gallon native trees and shrubs, with discounts offered for whole flats and five or more tree and shrub discounts. The farm is located 10 miles west of DeKalb, three miles east of Rochelle and one mile north of Casey's gas station in Creston at 19561 E. Twombly Road, Rochelle, IL 61068. CRG also supplies native plants to many organizations' native plant sale fundraisers as well, including the Chicago

River restoration project. CRG continues their mission to restore native habitats and replace the millions of acres of native prairie that Illinois has lost due to farms and industrialization. CRG has been providing solutions to native restoration and native landscaping challenges for the past 40 years with growing practices that are time-tested. "We welcome the public twice a year to our nursery, and we have seen native plant awareness increase in homeowners seeing the value of native plants,"

co-owner Bryan Redington said. "We sell only native perennial forbs, grasses, sedges and most recently, native trees and shrubs. These plants are hosts to pollinators such as butterflies, bees, birds and more." The 150-plus native plant species offered to this area include milkweeds, native sunflowers, asters for emergent wetlands and from woodlands to full-sun dry areas. The Prairie Plug™ method (2.5" top diameter by five inches deep) is a native plant grown in a flat container with a hole on the

bottom that can be used to pop the plant out for easy planting. Peggy Redington said, "Native plants grow to have deep root systems — up to 15 feet deep, with flood and drought resistant characteristics. Prairie plants are like the icebergs of the real world. Their true scope can only be realized beneath the surface. Each spring we burn our prairies to eliminate weeds and other invasive species. The root systems remain intact and plants begin to resurface almost immediately."

For the past 40 years, CRG has specialized in providing native prairie plants for: environmental restoration, native landscaping, wetland mitigation, streamside and lake bank stabilization and environmental education. "We welcome the public to our second annual Fall Plant Sale on Sept. 28-29 — we love to help our customers 'Go Native!'" For further info, like us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/CRGreenhouses Or www.PrairiePlugs.com

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- BABY CARROTS 1 lb bag 99¢
- RED POTATOES 3 lb bag 2/\$5
- WHOLE CARROTS 1 lb bag 99¢
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- Deli Fresh EGG ROLLS Chicken, Pork or Veggie, 4 ct 3.99
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- Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS RIBEYE STEAKS 13.13 lb
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