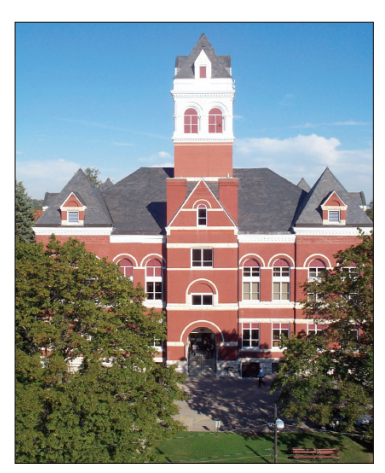


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VOLUME 36, ISSUE 29 **MONDAY** Sept. 30, 2024 **FREE**

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KNOW IT TODAY



Senior golfers honored
 The Oregon High School golf team recently honored its senior players.
Section B

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
77 61	67 48
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
67 41	78 49
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
70 54	73 50

OBITUARIES

- James L. Moon Sr.
- Kurt Elliott Bevill
- William Gore Nye Sr.

See page 4

INSERTS

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

Champley retires after 28 years as Ogle County animal control administrator

'People don't really understand the importance of animal control'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
 MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Dr. Thomas Champley recently retired from his position as Ogle County Animal Control administrator after 28 years of service. Champley was honored for his service since 1996 at the Ogle County Board's Sept. 17 meeting.

Champley said he felt honored to be recognized that night. As animal control administrator, he was tasked with supervising two full-time and two part-time employees in the animal control department and working with them on cases such as animal vaccination and stray animals in the county. Champley also ran Pines Meadow Veterinary Clinic in Oregon until about five years ago. "It will be strange not doing it anymore," Champley said. "But I'll have plenty of other things to occupy my time. I'll continue to stop in and say hi.



Dr. Thomas Champley recently retired from his position as Ogle County Animal Control administrator after 28 years of service. Champley was honored for his service since 1996 at the Ogle County Board's Sept. 17 meeting.

It just felt like the right time. I'm 77 years old. It was time for someone else to take a turn at it." Champley applied for the animal control administrator position in 1996 after one of the employees in the office asked him to after the

previous administrator left. Champley finds it hard to believe that 28 years have gone by since. He liked working with the staff, so he kept doing it, "I think everyone in the department does a great job," Champley said. "Peo-

ple don't really understand the importance of animal control. 60,000 people die of rabies in the world every year, but most of them are in third-world countries."

See **CHAMPLEY** page 10



Ogle Sheriff talks first year of no cash bail

BY JEFF HELFRICH
 MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Sept. 18, 2024 marked one year since the elimination of cash bail statewide and in Ogle County due to the state's SAFE-T criminal justice reform act.

An individual's wealth no longer plays a role in whether they are incarcerated while awaiting trial. Judges can still order someone to be detained as they await trial, but the new system is instead based on an offender's level of risk of reoffending or fleeing prosecution. Illinois was the first state to fully eliminate cash bail.

See **SHERIFF** page 10

Lorado Taft Field Campus to be closed permanently by NIU

Aging buildings, needed infrastructure among reasons for closure

OREGON — The Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon will be closed permanently later this year by Northern Illinois University, a Sept. 23 Facebook post by the campus said.

"Last Friday, the staff at Lorado Taft were informed that NIU is discontinuing programming and closing the site permanently, effective Dec. 15, 2024," an NIU statement said. "This was a difficult decision because Lorado Taft has been a favorite destination for members of our community as well as Illinois children and youth who have enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and camp facilities.

Why Lorado Taft and why now? Since it began operating as a youth camp

when the university discontinued the Outdoor Education degree program in 1999, the operation of the facility has required significant financial backing. That support has climbed substantially as client preferences changed after the pandemic. While the rustic buildings are picturesque, they are inefficient, antiquated and in need of costly repair. The aging infrastructure, including a wastewater treatment facility that has exceeded its functional lifespan, would require millions of dollars of investment to bring it to modern standards. Lorado Taft is a special place and has provided great outdoor experiences for generations of young people. We will always value that

legacy. But operating a youth camp has minimal alignment with NIU's current mission and goals. The university must invest its resources in programs and initiatives that more directly contribute to NIU student success and our other academic priorities.

While we will all be sorry to say goodbye to Lorado Taft, we look to the future with optimism as we collaborate on new and creative ways to meet the current needs of our students, faculty, staff and regional community."

"So while the university is optimistic, the staff here at Taft are very saddened by this announcement and appreciate your kind words," a Lorado Taft Field Campus post said.



There was no evidence found of shooting at Shangri-La Mobile Home Park near Rochelle after two calls came in reporting shots fired late Tuesday night, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said Wednesday morning.

No evidence of shooting after call to Shangri-La mobile home park

BY JEFF HELFRICH
 MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — There was no evidence found of shooting at Shangri-La Mobile Home Park near Rochelle after two calls came in reporting shots fired late Tuesday night, Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said Wednesday. Ogle County Sheriff's

Office deputies and Illinois State Police officers responded to the area of Shangri-La Mobile Home Park at 10978 E. Fisher Road in unincorporated Ogle County near Rochelle at 10:58 p.m. Tuesday for the two calls that reported shots in the area.

See **SHANGRI-LA** page 9

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LOCAL NEWS

First Fridays Open Mic is Oct. 4

OREGON — The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW this Oct. 4. This indoor event attracts many talented performers, but musicians and singers of all skill levels find acceptance from its supportive audience.

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

The VFW is located at 1310 W. Washington St. in Oregon. It provides ample parking, along with the availability of a restaurant and bar within the building. A fish fry runs from 4-8 p.m.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

First Fridays Open Mics often end with all the performers coming to the front for a final jam.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

This year the show will be dedicated to the memory of artist Jan Harvey who passed away on May 22, 2024. A display of her artwork and one of the flags she designed for the City of Oregon will be a part of the show.

Eagle's Nest Art Group Show is Oct. 5

OREGON — The Eagle's Nest Art Group will host its annual fall art show at their Conover Square studio during Oregon's Autumn On Parade festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year the show will be dedicated to the memory of artist Jan Harvey who passed away on May 22, 2024. She was an active Eagle's Nest Art Group member and a wonderful painter and supporter of the arts. A display of her artwork and one of the flags she designed for the City of Oregon will be a part of the show. A special memorial book has been created to honor her, with pages for friends and visitors to jot down their thoughts or memories of Jan.

The show of over 50 works of art will include paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor as well as calligraphy, oil pastels and works in ink. Also on display are works in glass, wood, and ceramic. Artprints and note cards will also be available for sale.

Everyone is invited. There is no charge. Artists will be on hand to welcome you to this annual community event for a celebration of local art along the Rock River. The Conover Square ENAG Studio is located on the second floor at 201 N. 3rd Street, Oregon.



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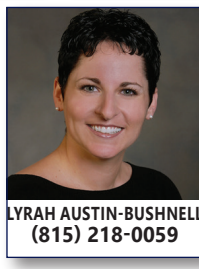
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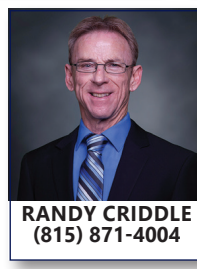
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LOCAL NEWS

Illinois Association of County Clerks & Recorders releases statement on upcoming election

OREGON — The Illinois Association of County Clerks & Recorders, including local clerks Laura J. Cook (Ogle County), Nancy Petersen (Lee County), Jazmin Wingert (Stephenson County) and Dana Nelson (Whiteside County) recently released the following statement on the upcoming election in November.

"Local election officials in Illinois have the responsibility of being defenders of our democracy. We benefit here in Illinois by having local control of our elections, rather than state centralized control as in many parts of the United States. This local control of our elections is done by 108 independent local election officials; overwhelmingly locally-elected county clerks and a few appointed election commission directors. This gives you the cit-

izens the highest level of oversight of your election's operations. These activities are not being conducted by some faceless bureaucrat in a secret centralized office far from your home but rather by individuals who live within your jurisdiction, shop at your local supermarket, have children in school with your kids, and located in offices that you can easily visit and inspect.

As a matter of fact, we want you to visit our offices, ask us questions, tell us your concerns, and see for yourself how we safeguard your vote here in the State of Illinois against all threats, foreign and domestic.

Even better, we want you to join our team and manage your local election!

Election judges are citizens within each jurisdiction that are appointed

by the political parties, managed by the local election authority, and work under the authorization of the local circuit judge as officers of that circuit court to run elections at their polling location. With that responsibility comes unobstructed access to see for yourself the procedures and policies we have in place to safeguard elections here in Illinois. You will be in a position to oversee all decisions surrounding all votes cast in that polling location and can take immediate action to call attention to any problems you may encounter.

Don't have the ability or time to serve as an election judge but still have questions and concerns about elections in Illinois? That's okay, call our office to pre-arrange a tour, ask your local election official directly the questions you

have, see for yourself the policies and procedures we have in place to safeguard your election process. All of our offices are required to be Polling Locations open and available to the public from Sept. 26 through Election Day Nov. 5.

We want the opportunity to talk with you about your questions and concerns!

Since 2016, questions have been raised concerning the security and the results of our elections. A growing mistrust of our election procedures and policies has resulted. This must stop, for a secure non-violent democracy is only possible when the citizens have faith in the results of fair, free elections. The ability to visit our offices, ask us questions, express your concerns, and see for yourself how the election process works has always

been available from us, the local individuals responsible for this activity here in the State of Illinois. If in the past this was not well communicated and you the citizens did not feel we welcomed your inquiries, we want that to change and we want you to know we want to talk with you!

Your local election official here in Illinois does not answer to any state or federal government official. Our actions cannot be dictated to us by any state legislator, congressional leader, president, and especially no foreign government. Your local election official is only accountable to you, the citizens of the local jurisdiction we serve. All votes within your jurisdiction here in Illinois must be cast on paper, which can and is audited following each and every election, and can only be counted by individuals

from within your local jurisdiction. No mysterious individuals from the state or federal government, no internet hacker, and no foreign government can change your local vote total within the State of Illinois without the direct illegal assistance of your local election authority.

We take our responsibility to preserve our nation's freedom serious, and we also take it personal when our trust with the citizens we serve is in question. We want all the citizens we serve to trust in their local election authority. We understand trust must be earned, and as such we stand ready to work with each and every one of you to prove the safety and security of our election procedures and policies.

-Signed on Behalf of All Members of the Illinois Association of County Clerks & Recorders



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Recently, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded Sweetbean Café & Bakery a grant of \$15,000 through its Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program.

FHLBank Chicago awards \$15,000 Community First grant to Sweetbean Café & Bakery

BYRON – Recently, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded Sweetbean Café & Bakery a grant of \$15,000 through its Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program. FHLBank Chicago offers grants of up to \$30,000 to eligible small businesses to advance economic opportunity in the communities it serves.

Since 2016 when Sweetbean opened, Melinda Hellyer & her family have provided a trusted family business for the small town of Byron. Many locals bring their family/friends/co-workers to Sweetbean because of the professional, knowledgeable and welcoming customer service from not only Melinda, but also from her employees. Sweetbean is dedicated to delivering the best experience for their customers by providing fresh, homemade food and coffee in a friendly environment where customers are warmly welcomed when they visit.

Not only does Sweetbean go above and beyond customers' expectations within their café, but they also make a great impact throughout the Byron community as well. Melinda and William Hellyer make it a priority to sponsor the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce and various community organizations or festivals. Even with a busy schedule, Melinda and William make a great effort to fund-raise for numerous local charities/organizations.

One charity they enjoy promoting the most is the "Rockford Barbell". This charity was founded by a couple members of the local community. Rockford Barbell is a non-profit organization with the mission of improving the social and emotional well-being of youth through mindful movement and trauma informed practices. For the past three years, Sweetbean has been hosting a "Cars & Coffee" event with a car show, live music, bouncy house for kids, and a small business market. All proceeds from the event go right to the "Rockford Barbell" organization.

In 2020 Sweetbean Café & Bakery moved to their current location which now provides them a greater space for both business operations and customer service. However, as the business has grown so have the equipment needs. Melinda plans to use the grant funds to purchase a much-needed walk-in cooler to store more product and also create more service space to setup an additional espresso machine.

Through FHLBank Chicago's member institutions, like Holcomb 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.

"Small businesses play an integral role in local communities in driving economic growth, from creating jobs to fostering community development," Katie Naftzger, senior vice president, community investment officer, FHLBank Chicago, said. "As a leader in the housing and community development space, FHLBank Chicago recognizes that affordable housing isn't just about the homes themselves — it's about ensuring entire communities have what they need to thrive, including economic opportunities for the residents and small businesses who call them home."

The grant was sponsored by local community partner Holcomb Bank.

According to Perry W. Byers, president/CEO - Holcomb Bank, "Sweetbean Café & Bakery is a well-known name to the Byron community due to their exceptional quality of service. They show kindness and compassion not only to their customers, but to all the community businesses and members as well. They are a true representation of a small-town family business. We are proud to offer additional support for their business through the FHLBank Chicago grant program."

For more information on Accelerate Grants and eligibility, visit www.fhlbc.com.

Oregon man sentenced to 180 years for criminal sexual assault

OREGON — Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock recently announced that on Sept. 12, James S. Clevenger III, 61, of Oregon, was sentenced to a total of 180 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge John B. Roe for six counts of criminal sexual assault.

In 2022, the Oregon Police Department investigated a sexual assault complaint made by a minor female that occurred in 2021.

During the investigation, the defendant was devel-

oped as a suspect. The case was reviewed by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office and charges were authorized.

The defendant was found guilty of six counts of criminal sexual assault on Feb. 16, 2024 by Judge Roe after a bench trial.

Criminal sexual assault is a class-one felony with a sentencing range of 4-15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The defendant's criminal record qualified him for a special sentencing range of 30-60 years for each count in the Illinois Department



James S. Clevenger III

of Corrections. Judge Roe sentenced the defendant on each count to 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections to be served consecutively to each other.



Byron Hairy Cow Farmers Market holds final outing

Byron's Hairy Cow Farmers Market would like to thank all of the vendors and customers that have come to the farmers market this summer. This year's market has been bigger and better than previous years and we hope that next year is even bigger. (Courtesy photo)



Rock River Riders Motorcycle Club



Be There or Beware!

Saturday, Oct. 12th, come out to the Rock River Riders M.C. for our Open House, Play Day and Halloween Party!

Hot Dogs, Chips, Pop and Water Provided

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

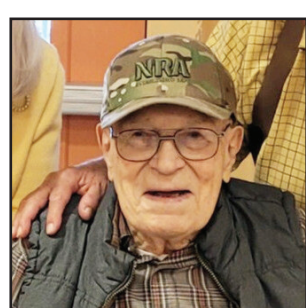
James L. Moon Sr.

MT. MORRIS — James L. Moon Sr., age 99, passed away while under the care of Serenity Hospice on September 22, 2024 at Allure of Pinecrest, moving there in 2017 from Peoria, Illinois. Born on September 21, 1925 he was the son of Aaron and Bessie Mae (Watrous) Moon. After losing his mother to leukemia at the age of 3, his grandparents, Loman and Dessie Watrous helped raise him until his father married his stepmother, Margaret.

His inquisitive mind led him to pursue beekeeping, winemaking, genealogy, and computers. His love of the outdoors led him to hunting and fishing. In his early seventies he took up bicycling and riding rail-to-trails around Peoria, which led him to build, install, and maintain bluebird boxes on the Rock Island Trail.

He was a do-it-yourself handyman whose friends could always count on his helping hand and to give his all. He is preceded in death by his parents, stepmother, wife, June, grandson, Jamie Moon, and siblings Ruth Rehard, Donnie Moon, and Lonnie Moon.

He is survived and missed by his children James (Susan) Moon of Monroe Center, Illinois and Roxanne Konopi of Carol Stream, Illinois; siblings Bea Jonas, Shirley Kremer, Sue Ann Rigano, and Mike Moon; grandchildren, Nicole Konopi, Natalie (Larry) Boswell, Molly (Gene) Engelkes,



Amanda (David) Poulin; and great grandchildren, Connor, Dalton, Carson, Neveah, and Caeden. A memorial service with military honors will be held on October 19, 2024 at 11:00, at Kishwaukee Community Church in Stillman Valley with Dr. Rus Howard officiating.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 until time of service. Burial will be held privately at a later date at Swan Lake Memorial Garden in Peoria, Illinois. Memorial donations in his name may be made to either Kishwaukee Community Church or the Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellholland-gale.com

William Gore Nye Sr.

PHOENIX, Ariz. — William (Bill, Billy, Mr. Nye, The Science Guy) Gore Nye Sr., beloved father, grandfather, friend and partner, passed away on July 11, 2024 at his home in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 82. Bill was born on July 21, 1941, in Rockford, IL to Philip Sr. and Mary Kay Gore Nye. He was the proud younger brother to Philip Hastings Nye Jr. Bill graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1959.

nix), Continental Bank Trust Company, Valley National Bank of Arizona, and the Maricopa County Public Fiduciary. For over forty years, Bill was a faithful member of Valley Presbyterian Church where, over the years, he served as a deacon, taught Sunday School, and assisted other members with transportation to worship services and appointments.

Bill was married to Margaret Ann Wiese on April 11, 1974. He was a loving and dedicated husband; his support never wavered through their 29-year marriage. Bill was the proud father to four boys, Joseph, William Jr., Peter, and Scott, and grandfather to eight grandchildren. To those he loved, he passed along his passion for the Chicago Cubs, sharks, the great outdoors, aimless road trips, and dressing overly formal for all occasions. Bill's closest friend and the person he looked up to most was his brother, Phil. They could sit for hours, recounting humorous memories and ribbing each other endlessly.

Their stories were priceless and laughter contagious. Throughout his life, he loved conversing with family, friends, and random strangers on an array of topics including sports, history, and current affairs. Though not always attuned to sarcasm, Bill had a great



sense of humor, and loved to laugh and make fun of himself. He was the most genuine, honest, caring, and inquisitive person. In his honor, please pay these qualities forward.

Bill is survived by his brother, Philip Jr., sons: Joseph, William Jr., Peter, and Scott (Ashley), grandchildren: Mairead, Grace, Joseph Jr., Aoife, John, Brigid, Loyal, and Henry, and his loving partner, Neta Sue Melton. Bill is predeceased by his spouse, Margaret; mother, Mary Kay; father, Philip Sr.; and stepmother, Lenore. Memorial services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 10th at Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, AZ, and at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at Riverview Cemetery in Oregon, IL.

Bill's life was marked by his dedication to his family, his community, and his faith. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his honor to the Phoenix Rescue Mission.

Visit www.ungerhomer.com to sign the online guest book.

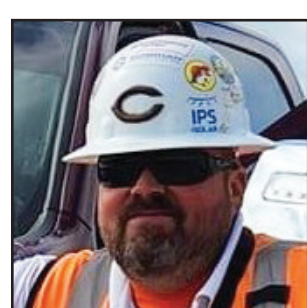
Kurt Elliott Bevill

ROCKFORD — Kurt Elliott Bevill, age 45, passed away August 15, 2024 while on a trip to Romania. Kurt grew up in Mt Morris, IL. He was born on June 9, 1979 in Rockford, IL to Janice Elliott-Borota (Michael) and Michael Bevill (Jenny Gann) who all survive. He is also survived by one brother, Seth Bevill of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and special niece, Paige Bevill of Milwaukee and nephew, Marine PFC Kaedyn Bevill of Camp LeJuine, NC. Also surviving are step-brothers Chris (Kim) Borota of DeKalb and Scott (Jaimie) Borota of

Loves Park. He leaves behind a very special friend, Catalina Cipriana Rusila of Ploesti, Romania. Catalina spent many, many hours, days and weeks assisting Kurt's father in paperwork and being interpreter while he was there preparing for Kurt's return.

He also leaves behind many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Kurt was a passionate Chicago Bears, Cubs, Blackhawks and Bulls fan. He was employed by DepCom Solar as a field supervising manager and traveled extensively all over the USA.

He was preceded in



death by both maternal and paternal grandparents and one uncle, Randy Bevill. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday October 12, 2024 in the Mt. Morris Moose Lodge, Moose Lane, Mt. Morris, IL from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. A memorial will be set up in his name. Family requests no flowers.

Highland Community College names 2024 summer graduates

FREEPORT — Highland Community College recently announced its 2024 summer graduates. Grad-

uates were awarded associate degrees, associate of applied science degrees, or certificates. Local graduates in-

cluded: Leaf River: Laci Meyer, Associate of Arts. Oregon: Reese Theisen, Associate of Arts.

Bailey named to SNHU Summer 2024 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2024 Dean's List: Casandra Bailey of

Mt. Morris. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.699 for the reporting

term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Serenity Hospice advocates using Medicare compare website

OREGON — Serenity Hospice and Home, a leading provider of end-of-life care, is encouraging the public to utilize the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) health provider compare website to make informed decisions about their healthcare providers.

This recommendation is part of Serenity's ongoing commitment to promoting transparency and empowering patients in their hospice choices. You can access this vital tool by visiting www.medicare.gov/care-compare.

The Medicare website offers a robust platform for individuals to evaluate and compare healthcare providers based on metrics such as patient satisfaction, levels of care provided, and



Serving our community for 40 years!

facility performance. Serenity Hospice, rated five stars by CMS, believes this tool is particularly valuable for families and individuals seeking high-quality care during critical times.

"Choosing a healthcare provider, especially in a hospice setting, is deeply personal and important," said Lynn Knodle, CEO of Serenity Hospice and Home. "We are proud to recommend the Medicare Compare website as an essential resource for anyone looking to ensure they receive the best possible

care." The website's user-friendly interface allows users to filter and sort providers based on location, specialty, and specific services. It provides detailed profiles of hospice providers, hospitals, physicians, long-term care, and other medical facilities, offering insights into their quality of care and performance.

Additionally, it includes real-time data from recent surveys and reports, ensuring that users have access to the most current and relevant information.

Byron Forest Preserve announces upcoming board openings

BYRON — The Byron Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners has two upcoming board commissioner openings; the openings are four-year terms. Persons interested in seeking

a position as a member of the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners should go online to www.oglecounty.org, click on Departments, County Clerk, Elections (on left

side of page), Consolidated Election – April 1, 2025, Petition Packets and Forest Preserve to get the necessary forms or pick them up at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Road, Byron. The board consists of five members.

Petitions must be filed between Nov. 12-18, from 8:30 am until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the office of Kitra Ross, local election official, located at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 N. River Road, Byron. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on the last day of filing.

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LOCAL NEWS

Nash Recreation Center pool to reopen Oct. 3 following renovation

OREGON — The Oregon Park District Nash Recreation Center pool renovation project began with an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) engineering pre-approval to install a climbing wall on the south end of the pool deck to replace the aging diving board.

Late this summer, the district received notification from IDPH that the existing pool water depth, due to the slope of the deep end, did not meet IDPH requirements.

While the IDPH code does not outline any criteria for aquatic climbing walls, an independent study conducted by FEMA-max shows the Nash Pool water depth does meet and exceed the water depth required. As a result, the engineers at Williams Architect, along with the Oregon Park District staff, requested a variance to allow the installation and this was denied.

As a result, staff began reviewing additional

aquatic amenities and were approved by IDPH to install an AquaZip'N. The AquaZip'N is a poolside attraction combining a zipline with a rope swing. Participants of all ages can enjoy the new recreation amenity. A final installation date has not been announced.

"While the district was very disappointed in the final decision by IDPH on the climbing wall, we are excited to announce the installation of the AquaZip'N. This new recreation amenity will be a fantastic addition to the pool and be enjoyed by all ages," Erin Folk, executive director, said.

The addition of the recreation amenity will replace the diving board. The diving board was removed during pool renovation due to age and no longer meeting IDPH standards. Due to the depth of the pool manufacturers can't replace or repair Nash's diving board.

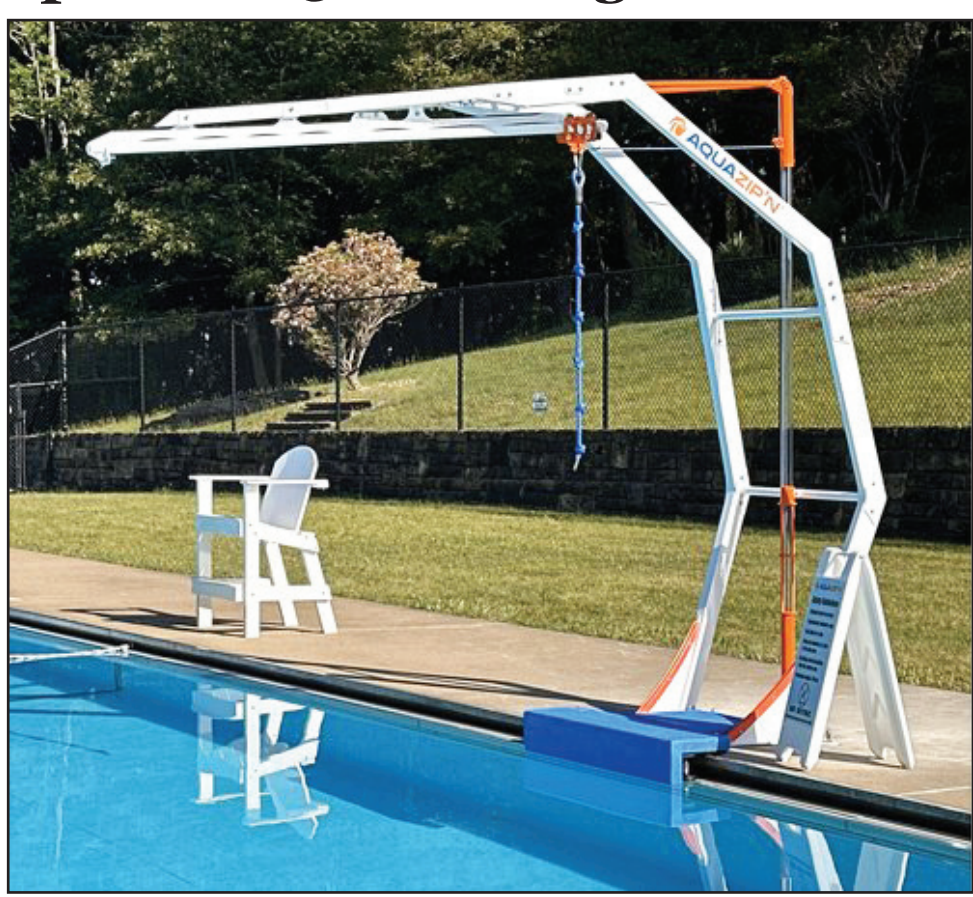
A date for installation has yet to be determined

but the district is hopeful to have it in place in 2024.

"The district is excited to announce we have an opening date for the pool," Folk said. "The pool will be reopened on Thursday, Oct. 3. We appreciate our patron's patience for construction and the delays we experienced. A full open swim party will be set once we have the installation date for the AquaZip'N. We do invite everyone to join us on Thursday to welcome back our loyal patrons."

Admission for lap swimming and water aerobics will be waived on Thursday, Oct. 3. The day will begin with lap swim from 5:45-7:30 a.m. Three water aerobics classes will be offered that morning free of charge: 8-9 a.m. Water Aerobics; 9:10-10:10 a.m. Deep Water Aerobics; and Twinges from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lap swim will also be offered from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

In addition to the swim opportunities, donuts will



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Oregon Park District announced the future installation of an AquaZip'N at the Nash Recreation Center pool. The AquaZip'N is a poolside attraction combining a zipline with a rope swing.

be served in the lobby from 7 a.m. until gone and hot dogs and chips will be served from 11 a.m.-1

p.m. and 4-6 p.m. by park district staff to welcome patrons back. More information

about pool renovations and the AquaZip'N can be found at www.oregon-park.org.

Meridian CUSD representatives attend Quest for Success Conference

STILLMAN VALLEY

The Partnership for Excellence (TPE) hosted its annual Quest for Success on Sept. 9 and 10 at Ohio State University's Fawcett Center in Columbus, Ohio. The two-day event brought together leaders, innovators, and professionals from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia, and other regions to celebrate the pursuit of organizational excellence and performance improvement.

The Quest for Success kicked off with a pre-conference workshop designed to equip participants with practical strategies for organizational success. This

was followed by the annual awards banquet, which recognized outstanding organizations that demonstrate a commitment to excellence in operations, customer satisfaction, and leadership.

Day two featured a full-day conference with sessions led by industry experts, highlighting best practices and inspiring real-world applications of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance

Excellence.

Mrs. Heather Alderks, director of operations for Meridian CUSD #223, emphasized the value of The Partnership for Excellence program, stating, "The Baldrige Framework gives our Leadership Team the systems and processes to guide our work in the Meridian School District. We were honored to have a 10-person panel onsite for multiple days, conducting interviews and providing feedback. Their 35-page report helps us continually assess and improve our operations, continuing to align us with our goals for excellence and success."

The event was an outstanding success, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across industries. Participants left with valuable insights into enhancing their organizations and positively impacting their communities.

For more information about The Partnership for Excellence and future events, visit www.thepartnershipforexcellence.org.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured: Mr. John Smith, Meridian CUSD #223 board president; Mrs. Heather Alderks, director of safety and operations; and Dr. Phillip Caposey, superintendent.

Local Girl Scouts embrace possibility for upcoming entrepreneurial program

OGLE COUNTY — On Sept. 17, thousands of local Girl Scouts clicked "Open!" on their own small businesses. These entrepreneurs kicked off the start of the organization's 2024 Fall Product Program with online and in-person sales offering gourmet nuts, candies, magazines, and more to Girl Scout supporters.

The delicious 2024

lineup includes fan favorites such as Peanut Butter Bears and English Toffee and introduces new varieties like Vanilla Honey Roasted Pecans and limited-edition holiday tin with either Deluxe Pecan Clusters or Chocolate Covered Pretzels—perfect for gifting! Girl Scouts also offer Tervis® Tumblers, magazines, and personalized stationery and frames.

Last year's sell-out original Girl Scout Bark Boxes are back, along with a new mini-Bark Box, in a limited supply.

The theme of the 2024 Fall Product Program is "Embrace Possibility" and teaches Girl Scouts to skillfully navigate the virtual and in-person marketplace. These budding business owners have a great time setting up their

own websites and begin to cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets. Each entrepreneur customizes their own site by:

Showing their goal and what they want to earn. Writing a description or creating a video to explain to customers how funds earned will be used. Adding their preferred image. Providing ways customers can safely connect to

products using a website, emails, text, social media, QR code, or printable business cards. Creating their own personalized virtual avatar.

Customers can order items in-person from a Girl Scout or through Girl Scouts' individual websites. Each customer can order, pay, and receive direct shipments of items with the Girl Scout

receiving full credit for the purchase! These young entrepreneurs will offer Fall Products through Oct. 28.

Interested customers can reach out to their favorite Girl Scout to be connected to these Fall Products or learn how to donate their purchase to a worthy cause! Don't know a Girl Scout? Visit <https://www.girlscoutsni.org/buynuts-chocolatesandmore>.

Byron Bank joins ABA and banks across U.S. for anti-phishing campaign

BYRON — Byron Bank joined the American Bankers Association and banks across the nation to promote an industry-wide campaign educating consumers about the persistent threat of phishing scams. The FTC estimates that consumers lost \$10 billion to phishing and other fraud in 2023, an increase of 13.6% compared to 2022. To combat phishing, the award-winning #BanksNeverAskThat campaign uses attention-grabbing humor

and other engaging content to empower consumers to identify bogus bank communications asking for sensitive information like their passwords and social security numbers.

"At Byron Bank, our customers' security is always top priority. With scammers becoming more sophisticated, it's crucial that we equip our community with the tools to stay vigilant," Samantha Ciaccio, marketing officer at Byron Bank, said. "By

partnering with the ABA on this campaign, we're making it easier for our customers to recognize and avoid fraud."

"By impersonating a bank, a scammer can steal thousands of dollars with just one text message, phone call or email," Paul Benda, senior vice president, Operational Risk and Cybersecurity at ABA, said. "With the strong support of participating banks like Byron Bank, the #BanksNeverAskThat

campaign seeks to turn the tables by arming consumers with the information they need to outsmart the scammers and protect their money."

Byron Bank, along with banks from across the U.S., will join forces with ABA to kick off this year's updated campaign on Oct. 1 to mark the beginning of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Throughout the month Byron Bank will share eye-catching and engaging content and con-

sumer tips on social media to highlight common phishing schemes. Because cybersecurity education and fraud awareness can often be dull and forgettable to many consumers, the #BanksNeverAskThat campaign is designed to be bright and bold with a bit of comedy.

"Would you rather give up sugar or salt?," one of the

campaign's social media posts asks users. "Banks texting you about sweet vs savory would be just as weird as banks texting you a link to login, 'cause #BanksNeverAskThat."

For more information about phishing scams and how to stop fraudsters in their tracks, visit <http://www.BanksNeverAskThat.com>.

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VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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Letter: Inequality in income & wealth in the US

DEAR editor, Shortly before his 100th birthday, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave an interview in which he said the greatest threat to our democracy is the wide difference in wealth among US citizens. Yes, we are the richest nation on earth and have the greatest number of billionaires (Forbes data listed the number as 734 in 2024). However, among OECD nations we also have the second highest number of people living in poverty. One in five US children are considered to be "income poor" (OECD Library)

In a recent analysis the US ranked 62nd in income equality among all nations. That was lower than Canada, Australia, all of Europe, and especially the Scandinavian countries.

Among the OECD nations, often considered the most developed nations in the world, we ranked 37th in equality, with only a few nations lower than us.

The top one percent of US citizens receive 20 percent of all income; the bottom 50 percent get only 10 percent. The median salary of S&P 500 CEOs was \$16.3 million (Associated Press). Illinois is more unequal than the US as a whole. Average income of the top five percent in Illinois was \$503,970, and the lowest 20 percent was \$16,165.

Those who crafted the tax cuts of 2017 claimed that each household would enjoy a \$4,000 tax reduction. Most of the tax reductions

went to large corporations and the wealthy individuals that own stock in those companies. (The top 10 percent own 89 percent of stocks.) Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) stated that workers whose corporate salaries were below the 90th percentile saw no change in earnings, neither did those earning less than \$114,000.

The 2017 tax reform had a considerable number of less publicized loopholes such as eliminating tax on foreign income of multinational corporations, and doubling from 11 to 22 million the amount the wealthy could pass on to their heir's tax free. The tax cuts initiated in 2017, and previous cuts by the Bush administration, have already caused considerable increase in our national debt. The increase is being suggested as a reason to cut Social Security and medical benefits.

Those whose occupations increase the health and welfare of others, whose training is lengthy and costly, and whose skill level is very high, deserve higher salaries. On the other hand, some of the super wealthy have been able to buy influence in our democracy that serves primarily their own selfish interests. The facts listed above seem to prove that our tolerance for such behavior is greater than in many other nations. Those facts may also help you decide whom to vote for in November.



Delmar Lohr
Forreston

Letter: Closing of NIU Lorado Taft Campus

DEAR editor, Staff at Northern Illinois University Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon received sad news last week. The beautiful outdoor education center will be closing effective Dec. 31, 2024, due to high maintenance and repair costs, according to NIU administrative officials. Although the campus is used for education, officials state that operating a youth camp has "minimal alignment with NIU's current mission and goals."

In 1898, a group of artists and scholars established the Eagle's Nest Art Colony at this location on a portion of the private Heckman estate. The group was led by noted sculptor Lorado Taft. The secluded area provided a creative environment for the group members to focus on their work. The colony remained active until the death of its last member in 1942.

In 1951, NIU acquired a portion of the Heckman estate and Taft Campus

was born. Named after Lorado Taft, the 141 acres of wooded areas, open fields and ravines include three of the original art colony buildings, a dining hall and several other buildings. Since then, Taft Campus has been a training and teaching center for thousands of children and adults and provided a beautiful gathering place for many special events, such as meetings, fundraisers and retreats.

While some staff are not without options, it is likely that groups scheduled and planning for 2025 visits — including those who have been repeat visitors through the years — will be at a loss for other options as unique as Taft Campus.

This gem of the Rock River Valley, where creativity, teaching, learning and collaboration has taken place for more than 115 years, is being closed. What will happen to it now?



Cindy Enzler
Oregon

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.

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Oct. 14, 1957, The Everly Brothers scored their first No. 1 hit on the Billboard charts with "Wake Up, Little Susie." Though the lyrics described a perfectly innocent scenario, the song still managed to stir up enough controversy to get it banned in Boston for a time.

* On Oct. 15, 2004, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ruled that hearse manufacturers would no longer be required to install anchors for child-safety seats in their vehicles, though the rare

models that contain rear seats are not technically "funeral coaches" and are therefore subject to the same child-restraint rules as other carmakers.

* On Oct. 16, 1991, George Jo Hennard drove his truck through a Luby's Cafeteria window in Killeen, Texas, before opening fire on a lunch crowd of more than 100, killing 23 and injuring 20 more. He was shot several times by police before fatally turning the gun on himself. No clear reason for one of the deadliest

shootings in U.S. history was ever determined.

* On Oct. 18, 1977, New York Yankees outfielder Reggie Jackson hit three home runs in a row off of three consecutive pitchers from three different pitchers -- a feat only Babe Ruth had ever previously pulled off -- in the sixth game of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

* On Oct. 19, 1796, an essay by a writer calling himself "Phocion" appeared in the Gazette of the United States, in which presidential can-

didate Thomas Jefferson was accused of carrying on an affair with one of his enslaved workers. Phocion turned out to be former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.

* On Oct. 20, 1984, Monterey Bay Aquarium, one of the largest in the world, opened in California. Amongst its many firsts, the aquarium holds the distinction of being the only one in the world able to keep a great white shark captive for more than 16 days.

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Ron Kern: Fall is settling in

FALL is settling in. Soon combines will be rolling through fields harvesting grain. High school football fills the Friday evening air with excitement. On weekends you can drive through the countryside and catch the smell of smoke rising from a campfire. It's my favorite time of year.

Looking across the golden fields of Ogle County one can tell it will be a very productive harvest this year. However, looking deeper through that harvest and into the complexities of agriculture one can see trouble on the horizon. Low commodity prices will again test the resolve of farmers and weigh heavily on their profitability.

Reading through various articles the other day I found this one published by the American Farm Bureau. It deals with farm bankruptcies, something no one on the farm ever wants to think about let alone face. But with sinking commodity prices for yet another year and outlooks grim it is something we need to keep a steady watch over.

Chapter 12 bankruptcy provides family farmers with flexibility to carry on normal business operations while making reasonable payments towards their debt load, even when facing the risk and uncertainty of agricultural production. The measure was introduced into law as a temporary measure in 1986 but became permanent in 2005 due to its success streamlining the filing process and addressing the large debts of farming operations.

The good news for 2023 is that farm bankruptcies have once again reached a record low since Chapter 12 became permanent. According to the U.S. Courts, 139 farm bankruptcies were filed in 2023, down 18% from 2022. This continues a four-year decline since the decade high of 599 filings in 2019. Unfortunately, this downward trend in farm bankruptcies is unlikely to continue.

Farm finances are a dark spot right now. The total number of farms in the U.S. declined by over 140,000 between the 2017 and 2022 Census of Agriculture. Five thousand more farms were lost from 2022 to 2023. Additionally, in February, net farm income for 2024 was projected to be down nearly 40% from 2022, and many key commodity price expectations have fallen further since then. The government safety net that normally supports farmers when markets hit

bottom is currently undermined by inflation and an outdated 2018 farm bill. So, just because Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies have been falling in recent years does not mean farms are not facing devastating financial struggles now.

Most regions had decreases in bankruptcy filings last year after more than doubling in 2022. Regions that had double-digit percentage decreases in Chapter 12 filings were the Northwest, mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Southeast. The Midwest and Southeast had the most filings of any regions with 42 and 40 filings, respectively. Both the Northeast and West saw no change from 2022 to 2023, but the Northeast tied for the least number of filings compared to the West's 11 filings.

On a state level, the total number of bankruptcies widely varies. While 17 states/territories had no bankruptcies, some states had as many as 11 cases filed. Twelve states had no filings in 2023: Alaska, Alabama, Connecticut, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

In less fortunate circumstances, 14 states had increases in 2023 filings. Texas had the largest increase in filings with 10 cases — eight more than 2022. Three other states had a double-digit number of filings: California (11), Georgia (11) and Kansas (10). Of the 14 states with increased cases, nine increased by only one case (Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, New Jersey and Ohio). The other states that had increases include Missouri (six, up from one), North Carolina (six, up from four) and Tennessee (four, up from one).

Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies in 2023 fell to a record low since the program was made permanent, but this year, farmers face decreased revenues and higher costs. As a result, we are likely going to see increased filings in 2024 and beyond. After record-high grain prices and farm incomes in 2022, 2023 net farm income (farm income minus expenses) is forecast at only \$155 billion, down from \$185.5 billion in 2022. However, a drop in 2023 grain prices is expected to continue into 2024. USDA estimated that 2024 net farm income would be \$43 billion lower than 2023. As a result, the \$21-billion drop in farm

cash receipts for crop and livestock sales in 2024 that USDA expected in February is now likely to be even greater.

Another element of the farm financial struggle is production expenses that continue to increase to record highs for the fourth consecutive year. In the February net farm income forecast, production expenses were expected to increase \$17 billion. The Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer has recorded higher input costs as farmers' biggest concern for their farming operation for many years. Looking to the future, USDA forecasts that total production costs will continue to increase into 2025 for all major field crops. To accommodate these costs, it is crucial that farmers have access to capital. Agricultural debt nationwide increased in 2023 due to growing demand for production loans to cover surging supply costs. However, farm capital investment is approaching record lows, according to the Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer's Farm Investment Index.

That same report has shown growing concern for interest rates' impact on long term farm well-being.

According to data from the Kansas City Federal Reserve, farm debt at commercial banks reached over \$744 billion in 2023, up from \$709 billion in 2022. Much of this debt has been made more expensive after 11 interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve between March 2022 and January 2024. So, farmers have been hit by both the inflation that increased many of their costs and the interest rate hikes that have been aimed at curbing that inflation. The double-edged sword of inflation and the interest rates that the Federal Reserve Bank is using to combat it have raised operating costs for farmers, increasing the need for credit to provide farm liquidity.

Filing for bankruptcy is a last resort after all other options have been exhausted to pay back debts. Therefore, bankruptcy filing may not always be a solution for farms facing financial hardship. Many farms may choose to close before reaching the point of bankruptcy when faced with such uncertain futures for farm finances. Recent declines in the number of U.S. farms are just the latest in a trend of

losses in farms and farmland beginning in 1950. Smaller farms with under \$50,000 in agricultural product sales and government program payments face the highest rates of closure, likely due to the high costs of sustaining these businesses with limited farm revenue. These smaller farms are also, naturally, more reliant on off-farm income. Eighty-four percent of all U.S. farms earn the majority of their household income off-farm and use that to cover farm expenses. To be eligible for Chapter 12 filings, more than 50% of the filer's gross income must have come from farming. As a result, many struggling farms may not even have Chapter 12 bankruptcy as an option.

Farmers are relying on the 2018 farm bill, written and passed in an era of stable prices, to serve as support against the uncertainty of the current market. That farm bill operated through six years of market volatility, a global pandemic and exceptional price inflation that was not adequately addressed by many of the farm bill's programs. The 2018 farm bill, still in place in 2024 under a 12-month extension, is based on outdated reference prices that lower the safety net to the financial floor and offer very little protection against bankruptcy. Farms continue to face lower income from the dropping commodity prices that are leading to farm losses, but — for many farmers — with no support from outdated farm bill provisions, we may be facing a near future of heightened farm financial hardships.

It has been encouraging to see four straight years of fewer Chapter 12 filings. Keep the greater farm financial environment in mind, though, when looking to the coming years. Rising production costs, difficulty attaining capital and falling crop prices all threaten long-term farm well-being. Farm bankruptcies are only one indicator of farm financial health. Other farm closures, sales and consolidations can also show that farms are financially struggling, short of the last resort of a Chapter 12 bankruptcy. Farm finances will almost certainly weaken in 2024 and 2025, based on high credit costs, rising land costs and falling commodity prices.

"The hardest thing in life is knowing which bridge to cross and which to burn." -Anonymous

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



Ron Kern

LOCAL NEWS

Byron Women's Club to host Tea & Bingo Fundraiser Oct. 19

BYRON — Byron Women's Club presents Tea & Bingo on Saturday, Oct. 19 beginning at 2 p.m. This casual fundraiser is a fun way for you to support the club's mission of community service. Enjoy refreshments, prizes, 50/50 drawing, raffle baskets, and

BINGO! Proceeds benefit these local charities: Serenity Hospice & Home, Rock House Kids, Rock River Center, Shining Star, Village of Progress, Veterans Honor Flight, and Habitat for Humanity. This event is hosted at

Cornerstone Family Church 205 N. Peru St., Byron, from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. Tickets are only \$25 per person, email bonnie.hodina@gmail.com to preorder. Tickets are also available for purchase at the Byron Museum during regular hours Wednesday-Saturday 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. and at the door. The Byron Women's Club was organized in 1909. Members meet monthly September through May for lunch and a program. If you are interested in attending or would like more information about the Byron

Women's Club, please email kvavra90@gmail.com with any questions. Byron Women's Club donates to 13 local charities and supports two student empowerment scholarships each year for a young woman and young man pursuing further education.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Collectively, we are Living the Volunteer Spirit. Thank you for your support!

Oregon Woman's Club donates cash, supplies to Lifeline Food Pantry

OREGON — On Friday, Sept. 20, a delegation from the Oregon Woman's Club presented the Lifeline Food Pantry at Conover Square with \$650 and a collection of food supplies to mark the General Federation of Women's Club's National Day of Service, Sept. 28. The Oregon Woman's Club chose food insecurity as its focus for service.

in the U.S. are "food insecure," meaning they cannot always depend on where their next meal is coming from, and 53 million people have turned to food banks in the aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic and its resulting business closures, unemployment, and other economic disruptions.

Lifeline is only one of more than a dozen community service organizations and institutions in Ogle County that receive contributions of cash or supplies from the Oregon Woman's Club.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Members of the Oregon Woman's Club presented a check and donations of food to the Oregon Lifeline food pantry. Left to right - front row: Jan Larson, JoAnn Pryor, Sharon Lung, Nancy Bartels. Second row: Jan Steward, Sandi Chasm, Barb McNames, Lifeline; Johanna Hahne, Barb Samsel, Christa Young, Laura Messinger, Lifeline.

Founders commission opens DIAMONDS Scholar application cycle

ROCKFORD — As a continuation of its commitment to giving back to the Rockford region, Founders Commission (FC) announced today that it is now accepting applications for the 2024-25 DIAMONDS Scholar post-secondary scholarship program.

student who is pursuing college, university, junior college, or technical/trades post-secondary education. In alignment with the annual DIAMONDS storytelling gala as a vehicle for showcasing exemplary achievement, applicants must embody excellence in the classroom, demonstrate an ability to thrive under pressure, and show a commitment to volunteerism in the Rockford region. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.founderscommission.org/scholarships>.

"After a successful first year that drew 24 applicants, we're very

optimistic about the trajectory of this important program," said Nick Povalitis, founder and president of Founders Commission. "With the support of our partners, we've been able to curate a variety of programs that directly impact the community and area youth. With one DIAMONDS Scholar already pursuing post-secondary education, we're eager to help more graduates attain their post-secondary educational dreams."

This year's DIAMONDS Scholar scholarship application period is open until January 31, 2025, after which Found-

ers Commission will conduct a formal review period before a winner is determined and announced at the next DIAMONDS storytelling gala in Spring/Summer 2025.

The DIAMONDS Scholar program was created after the inaugural DIAMONDS gala, which was held June 15, 2023, at the Emery Air North Hangar in Rockford. Net proceeds from the first DIAMONDS event yielded a donation to a local veterans nonprofit and seed funding to launch DIAMONDS Scholar post-secondary scholarships. During the second

annual DIAMONDS on July 17, 2024, Founders Commission honored its first DIAMONDS Scholar – Faith Offermann of Winslow, IL.

"The second annual DIAMONDS gala was a success," said Cathy Headley, board chair of the Founders Commission. "We are so proud of the efforts of the community to support our 'DIAMONDS'. With programs like our Next Gems youth summit and DIAMONDS Scholar scholarships, we are looking to continue to shape our community for the future!"

About Founders

Commission: A certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Founders Commission celebrates and leverages the Rockford region's excellence and ingenuity in business, arts and entertainment, and sports for brand, economic and social good. Inspired by the region's lineage of success tracing back to 1834 when settlers first arrived along a rocky ford, Founders Commission was established in 2023 as a charitable, educational, civic and scientific nonprofit governed by community advocates and business leaders.

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

OREGON POLICE REPORT

Sept. 18
At 1:22 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Mark A. Everett, 39, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, for retail theft, that had occurred approximately one-half hour earlier at the Shell gas station, 201 S. 4th St. Everett was also issued a citation for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. Everett was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 5:35 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Mark A. Everett, 39, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, for criminal trespass to real property. Everett was also charged with retail theft from Oregon Super Value. Everett was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left with the correctional deputies.

POLO POLICE REPORT

POLO — On Sept. 18 at 8:53 p.m. Stephen P. Hodson Jr., 53, Mt. Morris, was arrested for operating an uninsured

At 8:46 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Carl D. Pitt, 82, Mt. Morris, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for criminal trespass. Pitt was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

Sept. 21
At 4 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Emily A. Feiden, 28, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Feiden was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

At 6:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Richard L. Gallagher, 40, Oregon, on an outstanding Lee County warrant. Gallagher was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

motor vehicle, driving under the influence of alcohol, and open alcohol container. Hodson was transported to the Ogle

Sept. 22
At 12:38 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 500 block of South 4th Street resulting in the arrest of April A. Breeden, 37, Oregon, for providing alcohol liquor to minors under the age of 21. Breeden was also issued a city citation for violating the city ordinance of allowing a dog to run at large. Breeden was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

Six verbal warnings and five parking citations were issued during the week of Sept. 16-22.

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

County Jail. All charges are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Sept. 18 at 1:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After a brief investigation, Jessica N. Britto, 34, of Davis Junction, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Britto was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was booked and released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Britto was additionally issued citations for no insurance and driving while suspended registration.

On Sept. 19 at approximately 1 p.m. deputies conducted traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation deputies placed Ivan Johnson, 60, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license revoked and a failure to appear Ogle County driving while license suspended warrant. Johnson was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle, and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Johnson was released on a notice to appear for the driving while license revoked and held in lieu of bond for the warrant.

On Sept. 19 at approximately 12:58 p.m. deputies were checking a subject walking near the intersection of Mulford Road and South Street in Monroe Center. After investigation, deputies placed Stanislaw Sikora, 62, of Monroe Center, under arrest for an active failure to appear Cook County warrant for domestic battery. Sikora was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Sept. 20 at approximately 1:15 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 104 on a blue 1995 Ford F150. After conducting an investigation,

Bonita Kirby, 34, of Rock Falls, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked and active warrants out of Winnebago and Lee counties. During an inventory of the vehicle subject to tow, suspected methamphetamine was located. Kirby was also charged with possession of controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Kirby was transported to the jail where she was issued additional citations for suspended registration and inoperable registration light. Kirby was released on the drug and traffic charges with a notice to appear on Oct. 11 at 9 a.m. Kirby remained in custody on the outstanding warrants.

On Sept. 20 at approximately 5 p.m. Ogle County Deputies, along with Rochelle Fire Department, responded to a two-vehicle collision in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies learned a red Chrysler driven by Jair M. Granados-Ramirez, 30, of Oregon, rear ended a red Kia. Granados-Ramirez was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. All parties involved were unharmed.

On Sept. 21 at approximately 5:22 p.m. deputies, along with Rochelle Fire Department, responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of East Flag Road and Brooklyn Road. After an investigation, deputies learned a blue Honda driven by Mary Cesar, 57, of Wheaton, made a left turn onto South Brooklyn Road. The Honda was then struck by a black motorcycle being operated by Daniel Minella, 42, of Hampshire, and passenger Megan A. Decker, 41, of Hampshire. Both occupants of the motorcycle were transported to the hospital with serious injuries. Cesar was cited

for failure to yield while turning left.

On Sept. 22 at 2:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on North German Church Road just south of East Illinois Route 72. As a result, deputies arrested Robert A. Ray, 55, of Rockford, for aggravated driving while license revoked, driving while license revoked, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Ray was additionally issued citations for no valid registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and illegal possession of alcoholic liquor/driver. Robert was transported to the Ogle County Jail, and released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Deputies were assisted on scene by the Byron Police Department.

On Sept. 23 at approximately 11:39 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After investigation, deputies placed Shatese Davis, 29, of Mt. Morris, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Davis was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Davis was released on a notice to appear at the scene and was given a future court date.

On Sept. 23 at approximately 7:46 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Edgar A. Lopez-Guanipa, 29, of Rockford, was placed under arrest and issued a citation for driving with no valid license. Lopez-Guanipa was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he received an additional citation for no registration plate light and was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

BYRON POLICE REPORT

Sept. 5
At 9:20 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a crash to property damage only at the intersection of South Union and East Illinois Route 72. The 1998 Econ trailer was pulled by driver Douglas L. Triplett, 57, of Byron. There were no citations issued and no injuries.

Sept. 6
At 6:28 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Curtis B. Roberts, 39, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred at the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

At 3:32 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Blackhawk Drive and Lafayette Street involving a 2011 Volkswagen, driven by Rosalie P. Hegberg, 18, of Byron, and a 2022 Dodge driven by Patrick O'Brien, 64, of Leaf River. Hegberg was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. There were no injuries.

At 7:19 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Stephanie A. Lopez, 37, of Oregon, citations for operating a vehicle with revoked registration and operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance. These violations occurred at the 200 block of Blackhawk.

At 10:58 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Aaron S. Walter, 18, of Stillman Valley, a citation for possession of cannabis. This violation occurred at the 7,000 block of River Road.

Sept. 8
At 6:46 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Ziel S. McCoy, 27, of Oregon, a citation for speeding, 53 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at the 8,000 block of Barker Road.

Sept. 11
At 3:44 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Melissa M. Ziller, 39, of Monroe Center a citation for speeding, 40 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at the 600 block of North Colfax.

Sept. 12
At 7:16 a.m. Byron Police Department issued April L. Tucker, 39, of Byron, a citation for speeding, 53 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at the 8,000 block of Barker Road.

Sept. 16
At 1:07 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Joseph S. Harriett, 24, of Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred at the 1,200 block of West Blackhawk.

Sept. 17
At 10:59 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Marcia M. Wichart, 76, of Rockford, a citation for speeding 43 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at 800 N. Colfax.

At 6:45 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 17-year-old female, of Winnebago, citations for fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer, improper operation of an off-highway motor vehicle, and operation of a vehicle without registration. This

violation occurred at the 8,000 block of Barker Road.

Sept. 18
At 1530, Byron Police Department responded to a hit and run at the 600 block of Allison Circle involving a 2021 Mazda, driven by Oliver K I Gautier, 21, of Byron, and a 2016 Honda driven by Vishal Patel, 21, of Byron, IL. There were no citations and no injuries.

Sept. 19
At 5:42 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at the 300 block of Blackhawk involving a 2024 Hyundai, driven by Samuel R. McMeen, 29, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and a 2022 Kia, driven by Alexandra O. Autry, 29, of Morris. McMeen was issued a citation for improper lane use. There were no injuries.

Sept. 20
At 7:56 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Eric G. Johnson 35, of Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle for suspended registration. This violation occurred at 100 N. Maple.

Sept. 22
At 12:32 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Ronald E. Lender 34, of Rockford, citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration and operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance. These violations occurred at Blackhawk and Union.

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

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

HOPE of Ogle County **562-8890 or 732-7796**
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**
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon **732-3157**
Rochelle **562-3801**
The Serenity Shed Grief Services **732-2499**

Senior Citizens Services

Hub City Senior Center **562-5050**
Mt Morris Senior & 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

Ogle County Veteran's Assistance **815-255-9181**
Veteran's Crisis Line **988 then press 1**
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**

LOCAL NEWS

The road to safety: Be aware of farm equipment as harvest season approaches

BY CARRIE MUEHLING
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
PARTNERS

IN areas where population growth blurs the lines between urban and rural, sharing the road safely becomes everyone's responsibility. Illinois farmers who live near Chicago, St. Louis and other metro areas know this all too well, but they implore their suburban neighbors to understand it, too.

Former McHenry County Farm Bureau President Dan Ziller operates a dairy, livestock and grain farm near Huntley, a town that has grown from 2,500 people in 1990 to more than 27,000 in 2020.

"It's hard to get people to be patient until we can get out of their way or until they can get around us in a safe manner," Ziller says. "When a huge piece of machinery is coming down the road, people don't want to give it any room to get by, but if an ambulance is right behind it, they'll get off the road."

Renee Deterding farms 350 miles south of Ziller, only 35 miles southeast of St. Louis, and deals with similar frustrations.

"Far too many drivers cannot wait to pass or remain behind the farmer until they

turn off," says Deterding, who partners with two brothers and their families to operate D&R Huber Farms. "People have passed me on the right side; people have passed me and caused oncoming traffic to slam on their brakes and dodge to the ditch."

Both farmers encourage impatient drivers to consider the size of the equipment and the importance of slowing down when approaching.

"People don't understand this could kill them if they challenge it in a way they shouldn't," Ziller says.

Educating drivers

Ziller works with local high schools' chapters and driver's education programs to get the attention of new drivers.

"We take machinery to the school and put vehicles behind it," Ziller says. "We let the kids get in the machinery and ask, 'Can you see that car sitting back there?' And they say, 'No, we don't!' We don't know you're back there, so when you come darting around us and we're not prepared for that, and somebody's coming from the other way, that's a problem."

Ziller has helped develop videos for driver's education classrooms, but adding to the existing curriculum has



(PHOTO BY NATHAN LAMBRECHT/©JOURNAL COMMUNICATIONS)

McHenry County farmer Dan Ziller works with FFA to educate students on the importance of safely sharing the road.

proven difficult. He says FFA chapters are helping and hopes the message resonates even more when students hear it from their peers.

Deterding would also like schools to teach more about safely sharing the road with farm equipment, as farmers have little choice in traversing the now suburban roadways.

"I wish motorists would understand the typical farm-

er doesn't care to be on the road as much as the motorists don't like us to be on the road," she says.

Ziller echoes this sentiment and emphasizes farmers use main roads only when absolutely necessary.

"We don't want to be there, but because of the development, we no longer have country roads to move machinery on because everyone else is on them, too," he says. "You don't just pack

up a farm like a house and move. It's a very serious undertaking, especially with cattle. We're here for the long haul, and we just need to all work together."

Deterding has another concern: who are now learning to drive the farm equipment.

"I want my family to be as safe on the road as anyone else's," she says. "My job is to prepare them for all the things that could happen,

just like a parent would when their child goes off in a car. Always check your surroundings and proceed with caution."

She just asks other drivers to do the same.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit ILFBpartners.com.

SHANGRI-LA: No evidence of shooting after Tuesday call to mobile home park

From page 1

"The callers had a general direction," VanVickle said. "We never found any evidence that a shooting had occurred. Really it was just us being in the area and checking the area. There could have been something that happened. But there were only two callers and neither of them was

affiliated with whatever they heard. We had very little to go on."

VanVickle said the calls that came in yielded a report of the shooting possibly involving a recently-evicted tenant of Shangri-La based on other incidents that have happened at the location in the past. No evidence was found of that.

"The area in which an

incident took place a couple of weeks ago was thoroughly checked and there was no evidence found there," VanVickle said. "A couple of weeks ago there was a dispute between a tenant and someone else where someone may have tried to run someone over with a vehicle, but nobody wanted to press charges in that incident and there wasn't an awful lot of

cooperation."

The investigation into the incident Tuesday night is closed pending any additional information, the sheriff said. The incident prompted a large response, with multiple deputies and a K9.

VanVickle said another possibility deputies considered is whether or not the sound of shots could have been some-

one target shooting on their own property in the area, which is legal in unincorporated areas of the county as long as the projectiles don't leave the owner's property.

"Somebody could have been on their own property across the creek or wherever it may have been firing a weapon," VanVickle said. "If that was the case and it was

done safely, it is not against the law. We don't know if that was the case, but it's something to consider. Our typical call for shots fired is someone target shooting on their own property or coyote hunting at night, which opens Oct. 1. People will hear shooting in the middle of the night and it's lawful citizens out hunting."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct. 5: Join Oregon Junior/Senior High School for an open house and the unveiling of new auditorium seats on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. If you sponsored a seat, please plan to take home the old seating with you.

Oct. 7: The Leaf River United Methodist Church is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday, Oct. 7. Staff from the Rock River Valley

Blood Center will draw blood between noon and 5 p.m. Everyone that donates will get a free t-shirt, while supplies last. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we - and your body - do all

of the work. Remember, blood is a gift - straight from the heart. *Your heart.* Please share it today! If you are at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you should be eligible to donate blood. Join us in sharing the Gift of Life. For more information or to schedule an appointment, you

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

Oct. 13: Trunk or Treat will have a new date and place this year in Mt. Morris. The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Mor-

ris is partnering with the Fall Family Festival and will host its annual event on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. on the village square. As always, the event will include candy, decorated trunks, and fun for kids and their families. Previously the church held its Trunk or Treat on Oct. 31 at the church parking lot. The Fall Family Festival is sponsored by the Let Freedom Ring

Committee and will feature a craft show, penny carnival, costume parade, pumpkin carving contest, and concessions.

The Evangelical Free Church is located at 102 S. Seminary Ave., Mt. Morris. Worship services are held each Sunday at 10 a.m. preceded by Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 a.m. Childcare is available for children younger than four years old.

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LOCAL NEWS

SHERIFF: 'Our biggest issue is the inability to detain people. Far and away'

From page 1

The SAFE-T Act also reformed police training, certification and use-of-force standards, expanded detainee rights, and gave the attorney general's office authority to investigate alleged civil rights violations by law enforcement. It also required body cameras at all police departments by 2025.

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle spoke with the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader Sept. 18 and described his office's experience over the past year navigating the changes in law enforcement, namely with the no-cash bail piece. VanVickle, a past president of the Illinois Sheriff's Association, was directly involved with the SAFE-T Act and testified against the original form of it in Springfield. He worked with legislators on trailer bills, three of which changed the legislation from its original form to what is seen today.

"A lot of work went into it on both sides of the aisle to try to make it work," VanVickle said. "While I'd say those things were done to make it work, I'd say the jury is still out on that. A lot of these court cases are still pending and there haven't been convictions. The true answers to how it's working aren't known yet."

For arrests made over the past year, charges have been in either must-detain or non-detainable categories. Those in the must-detain category go to jail and usually within 48 hours on business days they'll appear in front of a judge for a detention hearing and the judge will make the ruling on whether they'll remain in jail or not. On non-detainable offenses, there's 17 different questions that determine whether an individual can be detained or not.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Sept. 18, 2024 marked one year since the elimination of cash bail statewide and in Ogle County due to the state's SAFE-T criminal justice reform act.

VanVickle said the inability to detain those charged with crimes has been "far and away" the biggest issue his office and deputies have dealt with in the past year.

"It's the people that commit a crime multiple times while they're still pending trial and continue to be out and reoffend," VanVickle said. "That's been our biggest headache and I think percentage-wise, every law enforcement agency across the state is probably in the same boat. That's by far the most frustrating piece to us, as well as the victims. Those are the things we have concerns about. The quality of life and inability to make the criminal behavior stop until there's court proceedings where the judge can do that. Those are our biggest struggles now, the repeat offenders."

VanVickle said the detention hearing aspect was implemented differently by the judiciary and state supreme court than in-

tended by the legislation, which he called a hurdle for law enforcement. It was originally believed that reoffenders could be held, but the supreme court changed that so unless the offense was a detainable offense, that didn't apply.

"It's been a year of learning and trying to just see how the system works," VanVickle said. "Those have been the struggles for law enforcement. I think it's been tough on law enforcement in general. There's an issue when the person who commits a felony is processed and out of the jail immediately before the deputy even gets done doing the paperwork. That definitely plays into the recruitment and retention piece for law enforcement. It's being able to do their job and impact their community the way all of our deputies want to and being a positive attribute, and not being able to do that has definitely been an issue."

Numbers in the Ogle County Jail have been

down to 30-32 inmates on average daily over the past year after previously averaging around 45 inmates before that.

The new Ogle County Jail opened in early 2021. The 42,000 square-foot, 154-bed facility has seen less-than-anticipated use. VanVickle said contracts to house federal inmates to raise jail revenue returned over the summer and have helped with the county's financial situation as it looks to cover bond payments on the new jail.

"Having less inmates has given us some latitude to help the federal government and house those inmates and it played into how we could get that contract, because we can separate different inmates," VanVickle said. "That was a plus when we renewed that agreement with them. That's been one positive to having less regular inmates."

VanVickle said another issue deputies have encountered in the past year is individuals charged with

crimes not showing up to court regularly. Failure to appear warrants are not issued until after multiple no-show court dates, he said. VanVickle said that creates problems and budgetary constraints with deputies being paid overtime for court time.

The county has also seen the financial impacts of cash bail's end.

"While we still collect bonds from cases that were completed prior to March 18, 2023, nothing going forward has resulted in any fees paid for by the offender," VanVickle said. "Everything we do now is paid for by the taxpayers. We've not only seen the reduction in revenue, but we've also seen an increase in our transportation costs because all bonds are no-bond warrants. If they arrest someone on a no-bond Ogle County warrant, we have to go to that county, whether it's next door or at the southern tip of Illinois, and pick them up within five days. There's no ability for that person

who gets picked up on an Ogle County warrant in southern Illinois to pay their bond and be released. We have to pick everybody up. Those are definitely unrealized expenses."

VanVickle said the past year hasn't yielded any surprises for him after being involved with the SAFE-T Act before cashless bail took effect. His concerns about repeat offenders and quality of life remain.

"The change hasn't helped any of our taxpayers that are victims of crimes," VanVickle said.

"It hasn't done them any justice and to me that's the biggest concern. The quality of life aspect has definitely changed. When you have repeat offenders getting out immediately and threatening the victims without immediate repercussions, that's concerning. I think as we move forward and more and more people experience that, I think there will be more discussions to be had."

CHAMPLEY: Animal control administrator retires after 28 years

From page 1

"About 10 or less die of it every year in the U.S. That number is 10 or less because of the work animal control does. We vaccinate dogs and we don't have stray dogs running around getting rabies. People don't realize how important it is until their dog has to be quarantined or their child gets bitten."

One of the most satisfying parts of animal control work is helping to find homes for stray dogs through local animal shelters, Champley said.

"It's very rare that county animal control euthanizes a stray dog," Champley said. "I'm proud of that. Unfortunately a lot of the public thinks if animal control picks up a dog that it'll be put down. That just isn't the case, and we work very hard with the vet clinics in the area to make sure we find good homes for these dogs."

Another misconception about animal control Champley wants to put to

bed is that pet owners are made to buy tags just for the county to make money.

"The money supports the department," Champley said. "It's supported strictly by tag fees. We get no money out of the county budget at all. Our budget comes from tags. We don't make people vaccinate their dogs for the money. We're trying to make sure that we never have any rabies in people."

Champley grew up on a farm and animals have always been a part of his life. But being in animal control and the veterinary field yields just as much interaction with people as it does with animals.

"I always tell anyone interested in veterinary medicine, yes, it's important that you love animals, but it's more important that you like people," Champley said. "Because you're going to have to deal with a lot of people. You're not just dealing with animals. It's people too. I think it's important to enjoy people too."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

As animal control administrator, Dr. Thomas Champley was tasked with supervising two full-time and two part-time employees in the animal control department and working with them on cases such as animal vaccination and stray animals in the county.

State Sen. Chesney named Champion of Free Enterprise

FREEMONT — State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freemont) has been named a Champion of Free Enterprise by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce for strongly defending free enterprise and advocating for the furtherance of economic opportunities for all Illinoisans. Chesney

earned an "A" grade for his votes on the scorecard.

"Senator Andrew Chesney has long been an outspoken advocate for businesses not only in his district, but the entire state," Lou Sandoval, president and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, said. "As

a small business owner, Senator Chesney brings firsthand knowledge and experience of what it takes to run a business in this State and his legislative record reflects his commitment to making Illinois a more friendly place to do business. We are happy to award Senator Chesney

the Champion of Free Enterprise Award."

The Illinois Chamber's staff and Government Affairs Committee rated all members of the 103rd General Assembly based on legislators' votes on the key business legislation. The Champion of Free Enterprise Award

was given to members who demonstrated through their voting record a commitment to legislation that frees the entrepreneurial spirit and supports Illinois' job creators. The ranking bills in the Senate and House were selected based on their impact on the business community.

"Partisan Democrats have taken aim at Illinois job creators by passing bills that continually raise taxes and heap new mandates on businesses," Chesney said. "Rather than passing public policies that encourage businesses to leave the state we need support them and help them thrive and grow."

LOCAL NEWS



Polo Cub Scouts have show and sell at Angel Treasures

The Polo Cub Scouts had a show and sell at Angel Treasures on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. They did a good job. The scouts are Wesley Diehl, Jaxon Grenoble, Tinley Roop and LeRoy Meader. The leaders that were there are: Lindy Diehl (not pictured), Courtney Meader and Heather Roop. (Courtesy photos)

Election petition packets available for Village of Leaf River

LEAF RIVER—The Village of Leaf River will have the following openings in the Consol-

idated Election on April 1, 2025: Village president mayor – four-year term. Village board of trustees

– four-year term - three openings. Qualifications: The village president (mayor)

and trustees must have lived in the Village of Leaf River for one year before the election.

Petitions can be obtained at the Village Hall, 605 Main St., or by contacting the Village

Clerk, Tena L. Krueger, at 815-738-2340. The Ogle County Clerk's Office can provide all information.

Shoot for the Heart charity event scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4

DAVIS JUNCTION—A Shoot for the Heart charity sporting clay event to benefit Hard Hats with Hearts and the American Heart Asso-

ciation will take place Friday, Oct. 4 at Rock Ridge Sportsmen's Club at 14755 E. Edson Road in Davis Junction. The event includes 100

targets and shells each, a golf cart and lunch. Check in will begin at 7:30 a.m. and there will be an 8 a.m. safety talk and 8:30 start. Lunch is

from 11:30-12:30 p.m. For the afternoon session, there will be a check in at 11:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., a 12:30 p.m. safety talk and

1 p.m. start. Gun and prize tickets will be sold on site. Unlimited sponsorships are available. For more information, email Brian Wey-

dert at brian.weydert@wheatland.com or call 815-901-1496 or visit <https://shoot-for-the-heart.square.site> or www.shootrockridge.com

opd
OREGON
PARK DISTRICT

Nash Recreation Center Pool Re-Opening Thursday, October 3rd

FREE WATER AEROBICS & LAP SWIM

Lap Swim/Hot Tub: 5:45-7:30 am;
11:30 am-1 pm; 4:30-6:30 pm
Water Aerobics 8-9 am
Deep Water Aerobics 9:10-10:10 am
Twinges 10:15-11:15 am

Join us for donuts 7 am-gone
Lunch 11 am-1 pm & 4-6 pm
Giveaways

**CLOSED SATURDAY, OCT. 5th
for Autumn on Parade**

Opening Sundays

Beginning October 13th 12-5PM



ONE DAY ONLY TRUCKLOAD MEAT SALE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024
7am - 6pm

ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NOT AVAILABLE TO ORDER ONLINE



STOCK UP FOR THE SMOKER!

ONE DAY ONLY!

US Gov't Inspected
BONE-IN PORK BUTT ROAST
Twin Pack

1.49 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE

10.99 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BONELESS BEEF NEW YORK STRIP

7.99 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

US Gov't Inspected
WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOINS

1.77 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BONELESS BEEF ARM POT ROAST

4.88 lb



GET THAT SMOKER ROLLING!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BONELESS BEEF BRISKET

3.99 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Sullivan's Signature
BRATS OR SAUSAGES
Select Varieties, 9-10

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US Grade A
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
Family Pack

2.29 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

US Grade A
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS
Family Pack

89¢ lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Wild Caught
ALASKAN POLLOCK FILLETS
Frozen, 10 lb box

29.99 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

Wholey, Farm Raised
PEELED & DEVEINED COOKED SHRIMP
Frozen, 31-40 ct, 1 lb bag

7.99 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

US Grade A
CHICKEN THIGHS
Family Pack

1.29 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

US Grade A
CHICKEN WINGS
Family Pack

2.29 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Shullsburg
SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE
5 lb block

14.99 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

Wholey
COOKED SHRIMP RING WITH SAUCE
16 oz

8.99 ea



HUGE BAG!

Restaurant Grade
FROZEN FRENCH FRIES
5 lb bag

4.99 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

Meat Masters State Champion
BONELESS SMOKED HAM

4.49 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Meat Masters State Champion
FULLY COOKED SMOKED BONELESS PORK LOIN
Regular or Garlic

3.99 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Wild Caught, 5 oz
COD LOIN FILLETS
Frozen, 10 lb box

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US Grade A
FROZEN TURKEY BREAST

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ONE DAY ONLY!

Chuckwagon
FROZEN CORN DOGS
10 lb box

10.99 ea



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BEEF TENDERLOIN

15.99 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST

4.29 lb



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND RUMP ROAST

3.99 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

Wholey, Farm Raised
PEELED & DEVEINED RAW SHRIMP
Frozen, 16-20 ct, 1 lb bag

6.99 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

Sullivan's Signature
GROUND BEEF PATTIES
5 lb box

26.99 ea



STOCK UP FOR FOOTBALL SEASON!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Sullivan's Signature
QUARTER POUND BEEF HOT DOGS
10 lb box

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ROUND FRESH DAILY!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Fresh
80% LEAN GROUND BEEF
8-10 lb Pkg

3.49 lb



DON'T FORGET THE STEAKS!

ONE DAY ONLY!

Glant, Wild Caught
FROZEN LOBSTER TAILS
16 oz

24.99 ea



SLICED FOR FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice
WHOLE BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN

5.69 lb



ONE DAY ONLY!

US Gov't Inspected
BABY BACK PORK RIBS

2.49 lb



HOT DEAL!

ONE DAY ONLY!

John Morrell
PREMIUM STACK PACK BACON
3 lb

8.88 ea



ONE DAY ONLY!

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BREAKFAST SAUSAGE PATTIES
Frozen, 5 lb box

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Telecheck has a \$300 limit for check writing with purchases. If you have an order larger than \$300, you may need to pay any remaining balance by cash, credit, or debit card.

31,104 Total Votes!

LOOK FOR WINNERS
(NEW PRINT DATES)
in **Rochelle News-Leader**
Sunday, **October 13th**
& in **Ogle County Life**
Monday, **October 14th**

THANK YOU for voting!



OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon golf teams earn wins over West Carroll

The Oregon High School varsity boys golf team beat West Carroll 182-240. Nole Campos earned medalist honors with 39 and Brogan Wilkinson shot 46 to finish as the runner-up. The Hawks are now 9-6 overall and 4-5 in the Big Northern Conference.

The Oregon High School varsity girls golf team won 200-296 behind 44 from Aniyah Sarver, who was the medalist. The Hawks are now 9-2 overall and 6-1 in the Big Northern Conference.

The team celebrated Senior Night and the players honored included Brogan Wilkinson, Hailey-Jane Becker and Ethan Smice.

Oregon boys golf team falls to Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity boys golf team fell 162-188 against Rockford Lutheran on Thursday, Sept. 19. Jackson Messenger fired 39 and Nole Campos added 43 for the Hawks, who are now 9-7 overall and 4-5 in the Big Northern Conference.

Oregon boys soccer

team defeats Hinckley-Big Rock

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team topped Hinckley-Big Rock 3-1 on Thursday, Sept. 19. Steven Guardado scored two goals, while Danny Chisamore added a goal and two players including Eduardo Garcia and Aiden Hammer had assists. Deryk Withers totaled four saves for the Hawks (5-6-2, 2-3 BNC) in the win.

Oregon volleyball team wins over Winnebago

The Oregon High School varsity volleyball team scored a 25-15, 25-22 win over Winnebago on Thursday, Sept. 19. Madi Shaffer had nine digs, while Grace Tremble recorded six digs and four kills. Anna Stender collected five assists, five kills and four digs. Emma Eckerd compiled seven assists and six digs with two aces. The JV Hawks fell 24-26, 25-20, 13-15 and the F/S Hawks lost 12-25, 15-25.

Forreston volleyball team takes down Durand

The Forreston High School varsity volleyball team defeated Durand



The Oregon High School varsity golf team celebrated Senior Night and the players honored included Brogan Wilkinson, Hailey-Jane Becker and Ethan Smice.

25-13, 25-19 on Thursday, Sept. 19. Jaiden Schneiderman had seven kills, while Bree Schnei-

derman totaled seven kills and Ennen Ferris sent out 10 assists.

Oregon football team

beats Winnebago

The Oregon High School varsity football team picked up a 35-12

win against Winnebago on Friday, Sept. 20.

See **SPORTS** page 2

Should you buy now or wait?!

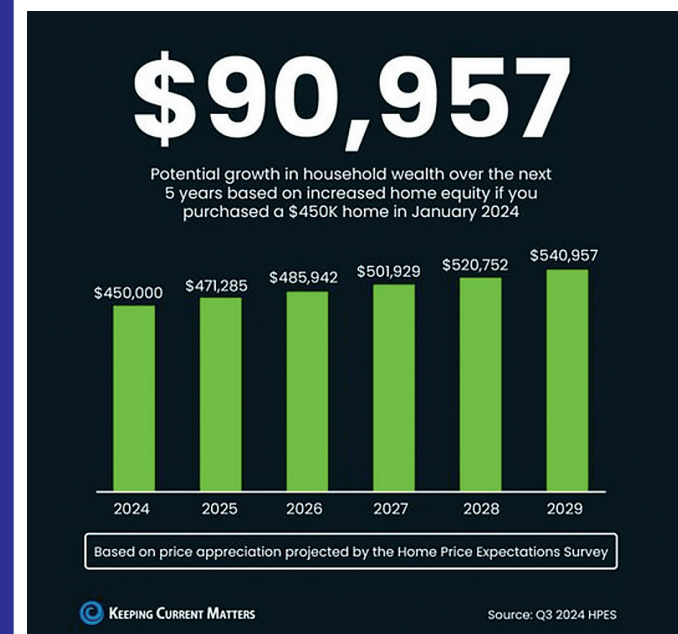


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Call one of your agents today to learn more and discuss what makes sense for you right now!

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NEW LISTING

402 E III Route 64 Mt Morris \$200,000 Call Lori
Commercial Highway zoning leaves you open to a plethora of potential uses! Large building, large parking area, solid building. This building has 5 overhead doors allowing for easy use as a shop building, retail, automotive, car collectors or any of your creative dreams and ambitions. The largest space measures 53 feet x 25 feet. The ceiling heights range from 9 feet to 12 feet high. Located on Route 64 in Mt Morris gives you plenty of traffic to attract clients!. 3 phase electric, city water and sewer, natural gas, forced air and radiant heat, smoke/dust remover, large air compressor-all highly desirable features. The roof was replaced in 2013, no underground tanks on site. This building could be the key to your new or existing business success.

NEW LISTING

122 N 3rd ST Oregon \$699,000 Call Rebecca
Turn-Key Bed & Breakfast in Historic Downtown Oregon, IL - A Rare Investment Opportunity! Discover a rare gem in historic downtown Oregon, IL with this fully operational, turn-key Bed & Breakfast. Featuring 9 tastefully designed guest rooms, each with its own private bathroom, this property offers guests a comfortable and memorable stay. The grand upper and lower porches provide breathtaking views of the charming city, while the cozy eating area and commercial kitchen are perfect for hosting breakfast and events. The property also includes a fully finished lower level with additional recreational space, providing endless possibilities for guest entertainment or expansion of services. For the innkeeper, the spacious quarters come complete with a full kitchen, living area, and bathroom, ensuring a comfortable on-site living experience. The property also boasts on-site parking, a green space, and a patio, making it a versatile space for events or outdoor enjoyment. This well-reviewed bed and breakfast comes with an established rental history and has been meticulously maintained with many updates, including foundation work, plumbing, and electrical systems. With plenty of room for growth, this property offers both seasoned investors and aspiring owner-operators a unique opportunity to step into a thriving business with endless potential. Whether you're an experienced investor or dreaming of becoming an owner-operator, this property is your chance to own a piece of Oregon's historic charm with a profitable and well-maintained business.

NEW LISTING

1711 W River Street Unit 1711 Dixon \$199,900 Call JD
Welcome to your Oasis! Stunning top-floor RIVERFRONT condo with picturesque views of the Rock River, complimented by high end finishes and vaulted ceilings. This meticulously updated 2-bed, 2-bath condo has been remodeled from head to toe, including but not limited to; new flooring, kitchen, bathrooms, fixtures, and paint. The master suite boasts spacious walk-in closets & shower, plus double vanity. The attached garage also provides additional convenience to this serene riverside retreat. Enjoy maintenance-free living, with the HOA handling all exterior upkeep. As a member of this condominium, the utilization of the sprawling river front and spacious yard is at your fingertips. No flood insurance required! Move-in ready and a must-see!

NEW LISTING

105 N Hannah Avenue Mt Morris \$87,500 Call Matt
Step into this low maintenance 2 bedroom Lustron metal home in a quiet neighborhood. This home offers a unique blend of durability, efficiency and ease of living. If you like simple things then this home is perfect for you. Plenty of light comes through vinyl windows in every room. The home also has plenty of built-ins throughout that offer extra storage. The floor plan offers mobility and transition with modern comfort. Step into the large back yard ready for a little relaxation and sunlight off the patio. Schedule a showing soon as this property will not last long.

NEW LISTING

500 E Washington Street Oregon \$162,000 Call Rebecca
Prime Car Wash Facility on Route 64 - Excellent Investment Opportunity! Located on the highly trafficked Route 64, this car wash offers unbeatable visibility and accessibility. The property features one automatic car wash bay, two manual wash bays, and three high-powered vacuum stations, making it a convenient stop for customers looking for a quick clean. This is a turnkey business with ample room for growth and expansion, whether you're looking to enhance existing services or develop the property further. With its prime location and high daily traffic counts, the potential for future commercial development is immense. Don't miss this opportunity to own a well-maintained, income-generating property with endless possibilities. Perfect for investors or entrepreneurs seeking a profitable business with long-term potential!

 Rebecca Hazard 815-731-8943	 Carla Benesh 815-985-6235	 Mark True 815-631-1699	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-1506	 Carrie Rowland 815-677-8636	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2140	 Josie Kuss 815-994-1079	 Jen 773-849-3522	
 Taylor Miller 815-731-8943	 Merri Cruz 815-988-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Janie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308	 Erin Spence 815-262-3535	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2035	 Jenn Goley 630-732-6858	 Becky Adams 815-509-5837	 Matt Bouback 815-505-5827	 Jessica Lowry 815-315-2617

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LOCAL NEWS



Health & Wellness Fair

Free & Open to the Public

Rock River Center, 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon
815-732-3252


Friday, October 11, 2024
9:00 am – 1:00pm

Screenings/Services:

Hearing and Retina Evaluation by Lions Club

Flu Shot Clinic by Ogle County Health Dept.

Blood Pressure Reading by volunteers
Sandy Greenfield and Linda Poole



Ralfie's BBQ Food Truck
on site 10:30-1pm,
offering a variety
of lunch menu
items

RRC Café
offering Coffee, Donuts,
and Apple Delights

Breakout Sessions:

10 am & 11 am "Take a Seat" and Get to
(located in RRC Activity Room) Know Chair Yoga
with Jennifer Pierce, EdD

This year's vendors include:

Allure of Pinecrest, Alzheimer's Association, Castor Home Nursing & Castor Medical Supplies, Catholic Charities Ombudsman, Forest City Dog Training, Grand Regency of Rockford, Heritage Square, In Home Personal Services, KSB Hospital, Liberty Village of Rochelle, Lifescape Community Services, Lions Of Illinois Foundation, Mt. Morris Loaves & Fish, Northwestern IL Center for Ind. Living, Northern IL CPR and First Aid, Ogle County Health Dept., Ogle County Housing Dept., OnCall Imaging, OSF OnCall, Oregon Living & Rehab/Franklin Grove Living & Rehab., Oregon Park District, Path To Healing, Inc., Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., Reagan Mass Transit District, Rochelle Community Hospital, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Rock River Center, Rosecrance Behavioral Health, Sanctuary Hospice, Serenity Hospice and Home, Sinnissippi Centers, The Center for Sight and Hearing, The Center Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center, Tri-County Opportunities Council, University of IL Extension, Value Lab LLC, Veteran's Assistance Commission of Ogle County

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 1

Avery Lewis returned an interception for a 27-yard touchdown, while Hunter Bartel rushed for an 8-yard touchdown and a 5-yard touchdown. Logan Weems rushed for a 28-yard touchdown and Briggs Sellers blocked a punt and returned it for a 2-yard touchdown. Bartel rushed for 108 yards on 14 carries and Weems rushed for 97 yards on 16 carries.

Polo football team shuts out AFC

The Polo High School varsity football team shut down Ashton-Franklin Center for a 50-0 win on Friday, Sept. 20. Gus Mumford completed 3-of-4 passes for 58 yards and two touchdowns including a 13-yarder to Billy Lowry and a 40-yarder to Noah Dewey. Mumford rushed for 114 yards and two touchdowns, while Dewey rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown. J.T. Stevenson added 114 rushing yards and a touchdown for the Marcos, who also saw Mercer Mumford carry the ball for 26 yards and a touchdown in the win over the Raiders.

Forreston football team falls against E-P

The Forreston High School varsity football team fell 36-16 against Erie-Prophetstown on Friday, Sept. 20. Evan Boettner ran for a 2-yard touchdown and Dane Setterstrom added a 1-yard touchdown run for the Cardinals. Boettner led Forreston with 66 rushing yards, while Alex Milnes ran for 57 yards and Setterstrom contributed 39 rushing yards.

Byron football team blows out North Boone

The Byron High School varsity football team blew

out North Boone 71-6 on Friday, Sept. 20. Kye Aken scored three touchdowns including a 9-yard rushing touchdown, a 75-yard kickoff return touchdown and a 27-yard interception return touchdown. Brayden Knoll rushed for a 45-yard touchdown and Andrew Talbert accounted for two touchdowns including a 25-yard rushing touchdown and a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Lawver. Kaden McGough, Bennet Hiveley, Liam Connell and Jaxson Krall each added one rushing touchdown in the win.

Oregon boys soccer team rolls over Sandwich

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team scored a 9-2 win over Sandwich on Saturday, Sept. 21. Steven Guardado led the Hawks (6-6-2, 2-3 BNC) with five goals and one assist, while Jackson Caposey added two goals and one assist. Aiden Hammer and Irvin Acosta both scored one goal and Danny Chisamore dished out three assists. Cruz Hernandez had two assists and Deryk Withers recorded four saves for the Oregon team.

Ogle County boys golf teams compete in Salley Wessels Invitational

Four Ogle County boys golf teams competed in the Salley Wessels Invitational at Sunset Golf Course on Saturday, Sept. 21. Byron took third with 338 behind third-place finisher Davis Baker (80) and ninth-place finisher Cooper Mershon (84). Forreston finished fifth behind fourth-place medalist Kaden Brown (81) and Oregon placed sixth behind 13th-place finisher Jackson Messenger (85). Polo landed in seventh.

See SPORTS page 3

The 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients:
Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Community Action Network, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of
365 DAILY WINNERS - TOTAL CASH PRIZES EQUAL \$18,250
PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CASH CALENDAR.**
- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
- **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail your cash calendar to you!

YES! Send me my 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

(Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$23
(\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068



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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 2

Oregon girls golf team plays at Rockford Guilford Invitational

The Oregon High School varsity girls golf team finished 11th overall and second among Class 1A schools during the Guilford Invitational at Ingersoll Golf Course on Saturday, Sept. 21. Aniyah Sarver was the low scorer for the Hawks, shooting a team-best 85.

Oregon boys soccer team drops match with North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team fell 4-2 against North Boone on Monday, Sept. 23. Steven Guardado scored two goals and Cruz Hernandez added one assist for the Hawks, who are now 6-7-2 overall and 2-4 in the BNC.

Forreston golf team defeats Amboy

The Forreston High School varsity golf team won 166-207 against Amboy on Monday, Sept. 23 to move to 13-1 on the season and 5-0 in the NUIC. Kaden Brown shot 37 to earn medalist honors, while Kendall Erdmann added 41 and both Daylen Rahn and Aspen McGlynn shot 44.

Forreston volleyball team takes down Pecatonica

The Forreston High School varsity volleyball team took down Pecatonica 25-18, 25-13 on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Ennen Ferris had nine assists and Jaiden Schneiderman recorded nine kills. Makenna Jordinson finished with four aces and six digs.

Oregon volleyball team holds off Byron

The Oregon High

School varsity volleyball team outlasted Byron for a 22-25, 29-27, 25-17 win on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Madi Shaffer totaled 15 digs and Grace Tremble added 14 digs and seven kills. Anna Stender compiled 21 assists, 10 digs along with six aces and six kills for the Hawks, who are now 6-7 overall and 1-1 in the BNC. Byron's JV team defeated Oregon 25-5, 25-18 and the Byron F/S team beat Oregon 25-15, 26-24.

Forreston golf team edges out Dakota

The Forreston High School varsity golf team beat Dakota 173-179 at Sunset Golf Course on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Kaden Brown shot a 41 to lead the Cardinals, who are now 14-1 overall and 6-0 in the NUIC. Kendall Erdmann and Darin Greenfield each shot 43.

NIU falls in overtime to Buffalo

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

DEKALB – After its greatest win in program history, 16-14 over Notre Dame two weeks ago, the Northern Illinois University football program came crashing down in a 23-20 overtime loss to Buffalo.

“All credit to Buffalo, they were the better team today,” NIU Coach Thomas Hammock said. “They outplayed us, we didn’t make enough plays to win it. I talked to our guys, the only way we cannot win the game is if we turn the ball over, and that’s what we did.”

In front of the largest crowd (18,000) in several years at Huskie Stadium, it was utter disappointment for a team that had climbed to No. 23 in the AP poll and was being talked about as a potential college playoff candidate.

It was a similar story to 2003 when the Huskies were No. 12 in the polls, only to

lose a pair of conference games and completely fall off the national radar. This one may have hurt more in that Buffalo wasn’t considered a quality opponent.

The statistics bear this out. Buffalo converted only two of 15 third-down attempts, was outgained 359-184 and had nine first downs to 24 for NIU. The Huskies led 14-3 at halftime on a pair of Antario Brown rushing touchdowns.

“Our defense gave up 184 yards,” Hammock said. “They played great defense both halves. I’m proud of our defense. We didn’t play well enough on offense or on special teams to win the game.”

Still, the Bulls bottled up Brown for most of the game, holding him to 73 yards on 24 carries. Much the way NIU’s defense stifled Buffalo in the first half, the Bulls did the same for NIU in the second stanza.

The only scores were field goals by ND hero

Kanon Woodill, the latter to send the contest into overtime. Unfortunately, Woodill missed two other field goals, including one blocked in OT.

The player causing most of the trouble for NIU was Bulls linebacker Shaun Dolac, who had 19 tackles, 4.5 for losses and an interception that set up a score. He leads the nation with 62, an amazing nine more tackles than the next defender.

Dolac’s ferociousness was reminiscent of former Huskie All-American Sutton Smith. After Dolac and company stymied NIU in OT, Bulls’ kicker Upton Bellenfant made his third straight field goal for the win.

It was the second straight overtime game between the two teams, with NIU winning three years ago at Buffalo.

The Huskies travel to North Carolina State this week to face former NIU coach Dave Doeren.

Sports can be a roller coaster

WELL, NIU’s honeymoon as America’s Team has come to an end after losing in overtime to Buffalo. After its big win over Notre Dame, the Huskies reveled in being the talk of the town.

The largest crowd in several years at 18,000 showed up at Huskie Stadium only to witness an embarrassing loss to an average Buffalo team. From the highest of highs to the lowest of lows – sports can be an emotional roller coaster. In the high-paced world of college football, the loss has taken the Huskies off the national radar, something so hard to attain as a mid-level college.

One football team that has stayed on top of the state’s radar is Byron. In all corners of Illinois, the Tigers are receiving acclaim. Relatively speaking, other than East St. Louis, Byron may be considered the most revered team this far.

I look forward to seeing them play this week and comparing them to last year’s juggernaut. I’m also curious to see if Oregon can keep them from a running clock. Anymore, that is considered a win when opponents face them.

Everyone except Lombard Montini, that is. However, with a 2-2 record and an ongoing brutal schedule, the Broncos are in danger of missing the playoffs. Right now, they appear to be the only 3A opponent that could challenge Byron.

Some feel traditional power Wilmington may give Byron a game, but I’m not seeing it. Additionally, at 409 enrollment, Wilmington may end up in 2A.

If Oregon (417 enrollment) makes the playoffs, a 2A berth is what they are hoping for. If that’s the case, they would likely be the largest school.

While standing next to Jon and Diane Murray of Mt. Morris and watching Oregon’s homecoming parade, we began to wonder when the art of float making went away.

Diane vividly remembered the excitement of her sophomore class at Beardstown winning the award for best float among all the classes.

But, that was back in the early 1970s when floats were elaborately decorated, with much thought going into them. A few days later while peering Facebook, I came upon some Mt. Morris floats from the mid 1980s that were still decorated.

It doesn’t seem like class floats are a thing anymore. Maybe there are schools that do them up in an elaborate fashion, but I’m not seeing it. That’s okay. Times change.

In eight-man football, it continues to be the hases and have-nots, as blowouts abound. Amboy, Milledgeville and Polo are making claims as the three best teams in the state.

The “Battle of the Blacktop” with Polo traveling the 12 miles to Milledgeville is on Oct. 4. Should be a great atmosphere with both squads like coming in undefeated.

Forreston’s 13-year run of playoff appearances appears to be coming to an end and there is no shame in that. The Cardinals (1-3) play good ball, but sometimes you don’t have the talent to keep up with all the elite teams in the NUIC.

Credit to Forreston for such an impressive run and all the success in the post season.

It isn’t just football where the NUIC shines. In volleyball, Durand, Galena, Eastland, LeWin and Stockton have all been highly ranked.

With the Oregon Hall of Fame ceremonies concluded, a couple thoughts:

It is a ton of work for the athletic department and the committee to put it all together, from soliciting nominations, making selections, arranging a halftime presentation and facilitating a banquet. A truly complex affair, with Forreston

and SV probably experiencing the same in their initial year.

After visiting with some of the HOF members that I used to cover, it once again reminded me of how fortunate I am to live in a small rural community. Though I am not kinfolk to them, there remains a shared bond from being the same sporting arena in another place and time.

Here is one difficulty I envision down the line. How do you separate a whole bunch of good athletes from one another?

Can anyone name a great performer from Oregon/Mt. Morris over past 50 years? I can’t, but know a whole bunch of really good ones.

If I had to pick a couple of potential names in my time of covering Oregon athletics, it would be Jeremy Benesh in wrestling and Jordan Thomas in track. Both were among the very elite statewide in their respective sports throughout their career.

But, then I start thinking about other kids and their achievements and more names pop into my head. No doubt, there is a delicate balance to putting together a HOF.

Regarding Stillman Valley’s HOF, I’m putting in a plug for the 1967 undefeated football team, that I just learned about from chatting with former player Mark Willis at the Oregon HOF function. If I heard correctly, no one scored on the Cardinals until the final game of the season and a team reunion is being held in October.

With all the state championship teams at SV, it’s easy to get lost in the shuffle. Additionally, the state champs had a 14-game slate to navigate; the 1967 team from the old Route 72 conference only played seven games.

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



Andy Colbert

BERTOLET LIBRARY NEWS

LEGO Club

Monday, October 7th at 5PM: We can’t wait to see everybody back at LEGO Club! Bricks are provided; you bring the imagination!

Pumpkin Carving Lecture & Demonstration

Saturday, October 26th at 10AM: Marc Solomon, Pumpkin Carver, will be here to demonstrate step by step how to carve unique designs, from selecting and preparing the perfect pumpkin, transferring the pattern, and finally carving the pattern on the pumpkin. This hour long program will have you inspired to transform your run of the mill jack-o-lantern this Halloween season! Check out pumpkincarver.net to see more of Marc’s creations.

Stories With Stacey

Thursdays at 10:00AM: Miss Stacey is back with her fall story time session on September 5th for your toddlers and preschoolers. No registration is needed.

FORRESTON LIBRARY NEWS

FVVYN Online Auction

September 23rd-October 3rd. Forrestville Valley Youth Network is holding their online auction at 32auctions.com/FVVYN2024 to raise funds for the district mentoring program. All of the approximately 60 items will be on display at the library during the auction, but bids must be submitted online.

Library computers and staff will be available to assist with creating an account and the online bidding process. Winning bidders will pick up their items in the Com-

A to Z Reading Challenge

It seems like we are sailing through the alphabet. If you are reading in order, be on the lookout for the display of titles that begin with “S.”

October Book of the Month

In The Sun Down Motel by Simone St. James, Viv Delaney takes a job at the Sun Down Motel to help pay her way to move to New York City. However, she feels there is something sinister at the motel. 35 years later, her niece Carly Kirk, visits the motel. She wants to discover what happened to her aunt and is drawn into the same mysteries as her aunt. Stop by the circulation desk and pick up a copy today.

October Craft

Enjoy Halloween all month long with this mummy candle. Stop by the circulation desk to pick yours up today.

Coloring Pages

Don’t forget we have new

coloring pages each week available for you to choose from. Enjoy a relaxing evening at home as the weather turns to fall.

Card Making

Card Making supplies are always available for you to create with. Call ahead for room availability.

Plastic Recycling

We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. *No animal feed bags are allowed* Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books

Beyond Ivy Walls by Rachel Fordham

The Forest of Lost Souls by Dean Koontz

Counting Miracles by Nicholas Sparks

Chapter Book

The Last Apple Tree by Claudia Mills

Picture Book

The Sun Is Late and So Is the Farmer by Phillip C Stead

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

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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LOCAL NEWS

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.

Local Ghostly Legends & Myths
Thursday, Oct. 3. 6 – 7:30 pm. Come enjoy a spooky evening with local historian and author Kathi Kresol. Kathi has been researching ghost stories, true crimes, and odd tales of the local area for almost two decades. She will share her newest stories of the hauntings and legends of the area. This

presentation will include tales of vengeful spirits and strange encounters with the other side.

Did you know
That the Byron Public Library offers free notary services? Several of our staff members are registered notaries, and can notarize documents during most library hours. Please call the library at 815-234-5107 for notary availability or to set up an appointment.

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

during Teen Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1 – 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am – 1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App
Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery
The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside ser-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Teen volunteers at the Byron Public Library filled blessing bags with donated hygiene and food items to be handed out to people in need. An encouraging note was included, so hopefully these bags will lift their recipient's spirit.

vice! 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!

ROCK RIVER 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.

OCTOBER YOGA
Yoga: Friday, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga: Friday, from 11:15 – 12:00

Noon. Cost: \$5 per class
VA Rep on October 4
9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Annual "Pride of Oregon" Luncheon Cruise
Wednesday, October 16, 2024; 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Registration deadline October 2.

OUTING OF THE MONTH – October 10
Edward's Apple Orchard West & Lunch. Register by Oct. 8

Michigan Rummy
Wednesdays, 12:30 – 3:15 p.m.
Morning Mug Club

Tues., October 8; 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Crocheting & Knitting Club
Thursday, October 3; 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Health & Wellness Fair – October 11
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

REMINDER Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15
Review your Annual Notice of Change. Medicare plans change every year, so it's important to ensure your plan continues to meet your needs. Assess your

coverage needs

Contact Rock River Center by phone at (815) 732-3252 or in person to pick up a Medicare update form and update your list of prescriptions. Meet with one of our SHIP Counselors

After we receive your completed forms, one of our SHIP Counselors will contact you to review your Medicare Part D plan options for 2025

HEATING ASSISTANCE – LIHEAP
Colder weather is just around the corner and we

all will be experiencing higher utility bills as we need to turn on the heat in our homes. There are Utility Assistance Programs available to help pay for heating utility bills. For the 2024-2025 LIHEAP program year, applications will be processed as follows. October 1, 2024: Applications will be accepted only for the following priority groups: Seniors (at least one household member is age 60 or older), Disabled (at least one household member receives disability

benefits). Families with at least one child under 6 years old. Households that are disconnected from their utilities, have a disconnection notice, or have less than 25% in their propane tank.

Starting November 1, 2024: All other income-eligible households can apply.

Income limits for 2025 Program Year: Family Size - 30-day gross income. 1 - \$2,510. 2 - \$3,407. 3 - \$4,303.

For more details, call Tri-County office at 800-323-5434.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

624 Luther Drive, Byron IL 61010 815-234-5277
Pastor: Vicar Michelle Wandersee
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 cornerstonemfamilychurch
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls
Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dodd
Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children's Worship Service and Nursery Available
Sr High Youth Ministry Sundays at 6:00pm, Jr High Youth Ministry Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Numerous Small Groups Available for All Ages throughout the week. Please call our Church Office or visit our website for more details.
Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm Mondays-Thursdays

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

A Member of the United Church of Christ
701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am- 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) 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

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6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - beaconhillbyron.org
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Pastor: Gary Cortese
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
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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.

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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

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

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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!

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

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Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: goelimchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.goelimchurch.org
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10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)
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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 McKenna. Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Childcare and Children's Church.

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MOUNT MORRIS

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church
Pastor Jesse Allen EOCCGministries@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
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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
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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
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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/VECCFSV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

Pastor Brad Pittman www.graceforyou.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

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Save the Date! Book Sale

Friday, October 4th and 5th, 9am-3pm. It's that time again!! The annual Oregon Public Library Book Sale. Donations will be accepted from 10 am - 2pm on Thursday, October 3rd (not textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest condensed books or magazines). Then the fun begins on Friday, with a wide assortment of books at unbelievable prices!

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 home with your Oregon Public Library Card. What interests you?

Preschool Story Time

(18 months - 6 years). Story Time is on Mondays at 10 am. Stories, crafts and friends to share books...all at your Library! Registration is required,

visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Hauntings in the Stacks

Wednesday, October 9th at 6:00pm. Local author Kathi Kresol has been collecting stories of haunted locations for two decades. This presentation will feature stories she has discovered of scary encounters and vengeful spirits and things that go bump in the night at your local library. Registration required, visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Two Sentence Horror Story Contest

"It was a dark and stormy night. Witches slid down the lightning bolts and terrorized the town." Write a two-sentence horror story and enter it to win a prize. You can submit your story online at www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. All entries must be submitted by 4pm on October 29th. Winners will be posted on Facebook and Oregon Public Library's website on October 30th. You can visit the website for more information. Open to Oregon Library Patrons Only.

Take and Make

Vintage Ghost Painting - October 1st through October 15th. Beginning October 1st, stop by and pick up your vintage artwork and supplies to create a vintage ghost painting. You can enter your painting into a contest for a prize. All artwork must be returned by the end of the day on October 15th. Artwork will then be displayed in the library for judging October 18th through the 24th. Winner will be announced on the 25th of October. Kits will be

available October 1st, first come while supplies last.

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, October 15th at 1:30pm -Book Witch. Fold an old paperback book into a witch's skirt, then make her bodice. This is a fun craft for Halloween decoration. This an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Spooktacular Game Night

Thursday, October 17th at 6:00 PM. Spooktacular is a tabletop game with an emphasis on roleplaying and ghost-catching. Players take the role of an eclectic mix of paranormal investigators tasked with capturing pesky poltergeists, all while playing up their character's eccentric personalities. Come for a night of spooky fun and adventure - bonus points if you are dressed like your favorite ghost hunter. Snacks will be provided. For ages Teen and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, October 21st at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards

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

Halloween Trivia Night at Cork N Tap

Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30pm. Grab some friends and head down to Cork N Tap for a Spooky Halloween Themed Trivia night. Teams of up to 6 can compete for prizes and bragging rights. Program intended for 18 and over. Register your team of up to 6 people at (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com. Prizes!

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, October 9 at 12:30 to discuss The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 15 to discuss Prison Healer by Lynette Noni. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, October 16 at 1 pm to discuss The Reformatory by Tananarive Due. Cocktails & Crimes will meet Sunday, October 20 at 2 pm Books on Tap Book Club meets Thursday, October 24 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss All the Broken Pieces by John Boyne.

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.

New Photo Printer at the library!

The library now has a photo printer capable of printing 4 x 6, 5x7, 8x10, and 8.5 x 11. Stop in on a Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and see what it can print for you!

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, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

Passport Services

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

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.

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.

JULIA HULL LIBRARY NEWS

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...we 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 finishers. 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.

Cricut Lab: Wood Sign with HTV

Did you know you can use heat transfer vinyl with more than just fabric? Learn how to apply HTV to a wood project in this class for experienced Cricut users. BYO Cricut machine (Explore or Maker), mat, cords and device with Cricut

app installed. Thursday, October 24, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Bicycle Camping: An Introduction

Because getting there is just as fun! Join local WNIJ contributor, writer and avid cyclist, Dan Libman, for an introduction to bicycle camping. He'll share advice and stories answering the what, why, where and how when it comes to inspiring and organizing your next (or, first!) trek on two wheels. Monday, October 28, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Teen Time: Haunted

Cemeteriums

Stop by the library anytime during school hours to delight in all things spooky with this perfect Halloween craft. Create your own terrifying terrarium or "cemeterium" using fun and frightening craft supplies. Thursday, October 31, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. While supplies last. Grades 9-12.

Trick or Treat at the Library

Stop by the library to show off your Halloween costume and treat yourself to a goodie from our librarian's cauldron! Thursday, October 31 4-7 p.m. All ages.

Antiques & Collectibles

Belvidere Collectible Coins
www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com
 We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion
10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm
 ~ Call For Directions ~ (815) 547-7111
 880 Belvidere Road • Belvidere, IL

THIS & THAT
Collectibles
 520 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL
 815.909.1069
 Open 7 days a week
 Antiques, MCM, Primitives & Vintage
 Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer
 Redesign with Prima Retailer

SYCAMORE ANTIQUES
 JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS
 321 WEST STATE STREET
 SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS
 OPEN
 WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
 10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY
 815-895-4720

Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!

Call:
Christel Ackland 815-561-2153
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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

Cook Book Club

Tuesday, October 1st we will be having our

monthly Cook Book Club. Go to the Mt. Morris Library and choose your recipe. Join us at 6:00 at The Center with your prepared dish. Enjoy trying each other's

dishes and discussing the process. We meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Village Breakfast with the Mayor

Want to learn more

about what's happening in Mt. Morris – join us at the Village Breakfast with the Mayor. October 2nd from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. This takes place the first Wednesday of every

month. **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!

Household hazardous waste collection drive is Oct. 26

SAVANNA — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie and State Rep. Brad Fritts 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. House Minority Leader Tony McCombie encourages residents to attend to safely dispose of hazardous household materials they may have around their homes. The

accepted items include: Oil Based Paint, Paint Thinner, Aerosol Paint, Cleaning Products, Insecticides, Herbicides, Pesticides, Mercury, Gasoline, Anti-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, Electronics, Appliances, Smoke Detectors, Lead Batteries and Controlled Substances. Reservations are required for the event: Visit RepMcCombie.Com to reserve your spot!

Highland enrollment climbs for 5th consecutive semester

FREEMONT — Highland Community College has added upon double-digit-percentage enrollment gains over the past two years, with growth in full-time students boosting Cougars' credit hours.

to fewer part-time enrollments. However, credit hours continued to multiply from more full-time students enrolling over last year.

"For the fifth straight semester, class enrollments are on the upswing as more high school students, recent graduates and especially younger working adults choose to become Cougars," Highland President Chris Kuberski said. "This fall's numbers are even more remarkable when one considers we are building

on last year's healthy leaps of nearly 16% and 10% in headcount and registered credit hours."

In fall 2023, Highland experienced some of the greatest enrollment gains among community colleges across the state, reporting 15.6% more students and 9.4% greater credit hours reported over fall 2022.

Some of this year's significant growth was among the 20-and-younger and 21-30 age categories, the former creeping up a percentage point and closer

to pre-pandemic levels and the latter rising 6%. The institution is becoming more diverse, with an 8% increase in minority ethnic groups enrolled this fall compared to last fall and a 30% increase in these populations compared to five years ago. Highland's ethnic minority population now makes up 23% of its current student body, compared to 16% in 2019.

Both trade and transfer-oriented programs across much of the college grew the number of

students in their courses. This fall's biggest movers include:

Equine Science: 300%. Theatre: 112%. Natural Sciences: 84%. Drafting/Computer Assisted Design (CAD): 67%. Automotive Mechanics: 52%. Welding: 43%. History: 33%. Agricultural Occupations and Agriculture: 26% and 22%.

Growth in these programs was attributed to a variety of factors, including promotional campaigns and recruitment activities, instructor capacity and pre-

requisite requirements, as well as high school students throughout Highland's district taking part in dual credit, dual enrollment and College Now programs.

As more high school students are accounted for with ongoing registrations this fall, Highland's leaders expect a steadily upward trend in headcount in addition to the current positive growth in credit hours. As of the tenth day, high school student enrollments at Highland had already jumped 5% over last fall.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Buddy
4 Rm. coolers
7 Bashes
12 Epoch
13 Speck
14 Mowing sites
15 Goal
16 Handel compositions
18 Author Harper
19 Purse part
20 Trudge
22 Mess up
23 Prejudice
27 Mardi Gras VIP
29 Borneo beasts
31 Pocket breads
34 Harley rider
35 Delphi figure
37 In shape
38 Title for Helen Mirren
39 Gorilla
41 Wild guess
45 Cornell and Yale, e.g.
47 E.T.'s craft
48 Citrus drink
52 Carnival city
53 Sal of "Exodus"
54 Just out
55 Rage
56 Croc's kin
57 Hosp. areas

DOWN

1 Daily trio
2 Disney mermaid
3 Star's bit part
4 Big fusses
5 Brain layer
6 Fab Four drummer
7 Dud
8 Hearing thing
9 Prefix with night
10 Rock producer Brian
11 Snake's warning
17 Tropical tuber
21 Preprandial prayer
23 Entices
24 Pen filler
25 Get older
26 Old map letters
28 Immigrant's subj.
30 Hitter's stat
31 Group of seals
32 Nest egg acronym
33 Highland hat
36 Roof overhang
37 Birdseed holder
40 Steinway product
42 Shroud city
43 Blazing
44 Greeted a bully
45 Borodin's "Prince —"
46 Gives a darn?
48 Texter's "Heavens!"
49 Estuary
50 Busy insect
51 Opposite of paleo-

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MAGIC MAZE

PARTS OF A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

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

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

- Blast pipe
- Boiler
- Cab
- Coal bunker
- Coupling
- Firebox
- Grate
- Journal box
- Piston
- Safety valve
- Sand dome
- Side rods
- Smokebox
- Superheater
- Tender

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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:

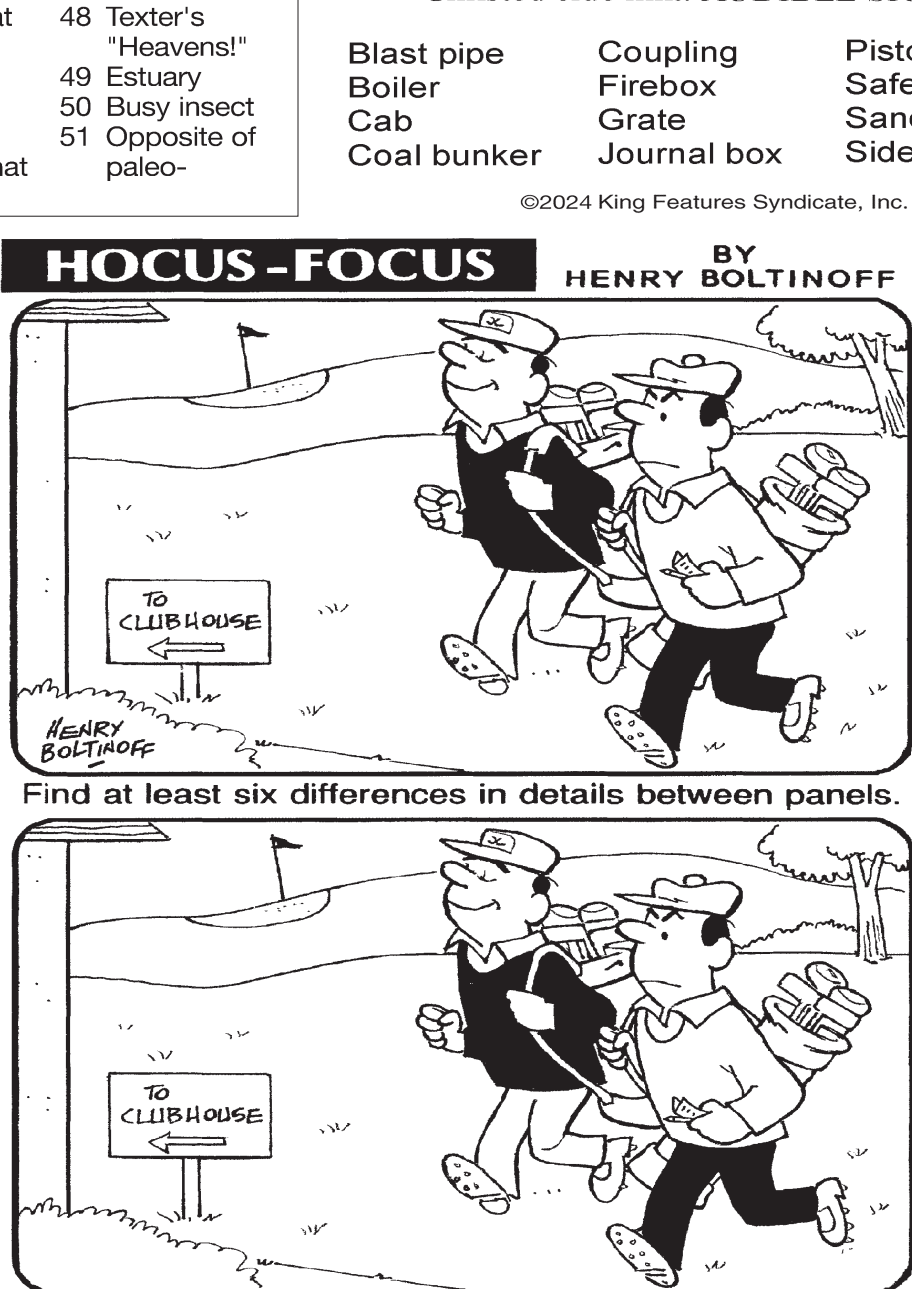
- Moderate
- Challenging
- HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Flagstick is taller. 4. Tree is different. 5. Shoulder pad is missing. 6. Sign is

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

PARTS OF A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

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

Answer

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:) NO. 2024 -PR-44 RUTH ANN DRAEGE, deceased.

od is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.
BEVERLY J. LINZEMANN Independent Executor No. 0913 (Sept. 16, 23, and 30)

in three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed. Kenneth Lingbeck Independent Executor No. 0918 (Sept. 23, 30 and Oct. 7, 2024)

allow a cemetery on the property described as follows and owned by the petitioner(s): Part of the West Half (W1/2) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 11 Pine Creek Township 23 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 10.0 acres Property Identification Number: 15-11-400-004 Common Location: 1831 S. Harmony Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php.

September, 2024 #001-24 TEXT No. 0929 (September 30, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE) Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Rockvale Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed August 29, 2024 of Tim Foss, 4153 N. IL Rte. 2, Oregon, IL for a Variation in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow a carport to be constructed 16 feet from a side lot line in lieu of 25 feet as required by the Ogle County Amending Ordinance on property described as follows and owned by the petitioner: Part of Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 15 Rockvale Township 24 North, Range 10 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 1.35 acres, more or less Property Identification Number: 09-15-300-012 Common Location: 4153 N. IL Rte. 2 All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this variation is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 12th day of September 2024 #07-24SSU No. 0928 (September 30, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

Annual Treasurer's Report for Monroe Township for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024

Revenue Summary:	
Property Tax	\$ 86,697.08
Replacement Tax	\$ 7,753.75
Interest	\$ 421.13
Misc. Income	\$ 2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 96,871.96
Expenditures:	
Compensation under \$10,000	
Alan Alderks, Larry Baxter, Scott Bearrows, William Hunt, Lincoln Lichty, Thomas Lichty, Joan Morphep, Verlen Morphep Sr. Lynn Warner	
Compensation over \$10,000	
Justin Thibodeau	
Drozdz Oainting & Drywall	\$ 5,360.00
Illinois Dept of Revenue	\$ 3,075.95
IRS	\$ 12,462.52
Moore Monuent & Granite	\$ 36,630.00
TOIRMA	\$ 4,554.00
Vendors under \$2,500 each	\$ 10,296.46
Total Expenditures	\$ 130,647.55
Summary Statement of Condition of Monroe Township	
Beginning Balance 4/1/2023	\$ 278,521.54
Revenue	\$ 96,871.96
Expenditures	\$ 130,647.55
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	\$ 244,745.95

No. 0926 (Sept. 30, 2024)

Annual Treasurer's Report for Monroe Township Road District for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024

Revenue Summary:	
Property Tax	\$ 166,258.40
Replacement Tax	\$ 14,839.86
Interest	\$ 897.66
Misc	\$ 666.00
Total Revenue	\$ 182,661.92
Expenditures:	
Compensation under \$10,000	
Bryce Edwards, Kerri Hall, Matthew Hickey, Brandon Jones. and Jeffrey Payne	
Bonnell Industries	\$ 2,844.11
Consev FS	\$ 7,741.27
Crossroads Repair	\$ 2,707.91
Elan Financial Services	\$ 4,642.11
Ferellgas LP	\$ 5,245.09
Johnson Tractor	\$ 21,718.40
JT Groundworks	\$ 4,675.00
Montavon Tree Service	\$ 10,250.00
Northern Contracting	\$ 7,916.18
Ogle County Hwy. Department	\$ 32,931.87
Rondo Enterprises	\$ 10,093.95
TOIRMA	\$ 6,830.00
Wagner Aggregate	\$ 4,830.00
Vendors under \$2,500	\$ 16,524.23
Total Expenditures	\$ 151,166.08
Summary Statement of Condition of Monroe Township Road District	
Beginning Balance 4/1/2023	\$ 557,212.66
Revenue	\$ 182,661.92
Expenditures	\$ 151,166.08
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	\$ 588,708.50

No. 0927 (Sept. 30, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

Annual Treasurer's Report for Monroe Township Road District for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024

Revenue Summary:	
Property Tax	\$ 166,258.40
Replacement Tax	\$ 14,839.86
Interest	\$ 897.66
Misc	\$ 666.00
Total Revenue	\$ 182,661.92
Expenditures:	
Compensation under \$10,000	
Bryce Edwards, Kerri Hall, Matthew Hickey, Brandon Jones. and Jeffrey Payne	
Bonnell Industries	\$ 2,844.11
Consev FS	\$ 7,741.27
Crossroads Repair	\$ 2,707.91
Elan Financial Services	\$ 4,642.11
Ferellgas LP	\$ 5,245.09
Johnson Tractor	\$ 21,718.40
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No. 0927 (Sept. 30, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL COMBINED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE BYRON MUSEUM DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JUL Y 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BYRON MUSEUM DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

NOTICE ORDINANCE 24-1

SECTION 1. That the following be and the same is hereby declared to be a budget containing an estimate of receipts and expenditures of the Byron Museum District, Ogle County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE) Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Ogle County that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. 5th St., Oregon, Illinois, to consider the request filed September 20, 2024 of Mark Miller, Ogle County Planning & Zoning Administrator, under the direction of the Assessment, Planning & Zoning Committee of the Ogle County Board for an Amendment to the text of the Ogle County Amending Zoning Ordinance, as follows:
1. Division 1: Title, Purpose and Intent
2. Division 2: Rules and Definitions
3. Division 3: General Provisions
4. Division 5: Schedule of Zoning District Regulations
5. Division 6: Supplementary District Regulations
6. Division 8: Sign Regulations
7. Division 9: Administration and Enforcement
All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this text amendment is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 20th day of

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS COUNTY OF OGLE) Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Rockvale Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed August 25, 2024 of David Fridley, P.O. Box 175, Byron, IL for a Variation in the R-2 Single-Family Residential District to allow a residential accessory building to be constructed with 16 foot side walls in lieu of 12 foot as required by the Ogle County Amending Ordinance on property described as follows and owned by the petitioner: Lots 21, 11, 12 & 19 of Block 21 Rock River Terrace, part of West Half (W1/2) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 11 Rockvale Township 24 North, Range 10 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL Property Identification Number: 09-11-304-021, -011, -012 & -018 Common Location: 116 E. South Park Dr.

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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Revenue Summary:	
Property Tax	\$ 166,258.40
Replacement Tax	\$ 14,839.86
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Ending Balance 3/31/2024	\$ 588,708.50

No. 0927 (Sept. 30, 2024)

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance. 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.

103 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.

301 ANTIQUES

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

GENERAL FUND

Estimated Receipts
General Cash on Hand at Beginning of Fiscal Year \$244,622.30
Deferred Tax Revenue from Prior Fiscal Year 67,415.00
Amount to be Raised by Levy for Fiscal Year 141,000.00
Anticipated Receipts from Rent 6,600.00
Anticipated Receipts from Interest 3,000.00
Other Income 5,000.00
Total Estimated General Receipts \$467,637.30

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Museum Equipment & Operations \$1,500.00
Museum Supply/Materials 2,000.00
Purchased Services 5,000.00
Insurance 10,000.00
Total Operating Expenditures \$18,500.00

Estimated Corporation Expenditures

Administrative Salaries \$75,000.00
Payroll Taxes 24,300.00
Dues & Fees 1,000.00
Education 2,000.00
Taxes 600.00
Board & Staff Development 1,000.00
Accounting 7,000.00
Legal 4,500.00
Printing/Advertising 2,700.00
Postage 1,000.00
Utilities 15,000.00
Office Equipment 1,000.00
Exhibits 1,000.00
Acquisitions 1,000.00
Total Corporation Expenditures \$137,100.00

Estimated Capital Expenses

Capital Expenses - General \$46,643.00
Total Capital Expenditures \$46,643.00

Total General Estimated Receipts

\$467,637.30
Total General Estimated Expenditures 202,243.00
Estimated Cash at End of Fiscal Year in General Fund \$265,394.30

Total Estimated Receipts from All Funds

\$467,637.30
Total Estimated Expenditures from All Funds 202,243.00
Estimated Cash at End of Fiscal Year in All Funds \$265,394.30

SECTION 2. That the amounts set forth opposite the objects and purposes listed under the estimated expenditures in Section 1 herein, the aggregate thereof, are deemed necessary to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of said District, and are hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of said District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, the purpose for which appropriations are made and the amounts appropriated for the various objects being as set forth and specified under the various estimated expenditures in Section 1 herein, and hereby incorporated by reference thereto as part of Section 2 which shall be and is the Appropriation Ordinance of said District for the aforesaid fiscal year.

SECTION 3. To the extent permitted by law, all unexpended balances of any item or items by this Ordinance appropriated may be expended in making up any deficiencies in any item or items aforesaid.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall be published one time in The Ogle County Life, a newspaper having a general circulation in said District, and shall be posted in a public area of the museum building within three (3) days after its enactment and shall remain posted for fourteen (14) days. Certified copies of this Ordinance shall be made available to the public for inspection. This Ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after being so published.

REVIEWED, APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Byron Museum District, Ogle County, Illinois, on the 24th day of September, 2024.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
BYRON MUSEUM DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Randy Stukenberg, President
ATTEST: Heather Higgins, Secretary, Board of Commissioners, Byron Museum District No. 0925 (September 30, 2024)

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

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.

309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Free Kittens to give away to good homes. Very friendly & good mousers. Call Mike at 815-993-2234

FREE Kittens of all colors and ages looking for good & loving homes. Call 815.538.2630

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

Place an Ad or Subscribe: Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171 Ogle County Life 815-732-2156 **All in the Classifieds!**

103 AUCTIONS

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
312 W. CENTER STREET, MT. MORRIS, IL 61054
Thursday, October 3rd 8AM to Sunday, October 6th 5PM
This is an Online Auction.
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 10/2/2024. Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.
Personal Property: Many household items; glassware, including depression glass; lots of knick-knacks & collectibles; various books; household furniture-vintage & modern; hand tools & garage items; Christmas/Holiday decorations; some vintage dolls; dishware/kitchen items, including pyrex; and much, much more! A huge collection of items on this sale!
Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing no later than 8am on 10/2/2024. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.
Item Pick-up: Pick up for both sales will be held on Tuesday, October 8th from 4:30-7:30pm at the sale site listed above.
Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.
Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for more information!
Travis Cunningham,
Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600
A & T Auction Services, LLC
atauctionservices@gmail.com
815-297-4595

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District
COACHING OPPORTUNITY
7th Grade Assistant Basketball Coach
Please apply online at www.byron226.org
Go to the "About Us" tab
Click on the Employment Opportunities section
To submit an application

SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS NEEDED
Byron CUSD #226
Please apply online at www.byron226.org
Under the 'About Us' Tab/
Employment Opportunities
Training is Possible,
Contact Barb Rundle at 815-234-5491 ext 4400 for more information

305 GARAGE SALES

Large Garage GARAGE / BARN Sale/Men's Barn Sale
Down Sizing/Moving
1127 W 2nd St. Byron, IL
Thursday Oct. 3rd, Friday Oct. 4th, & Saturday Oct. 5th
9AM-5PM Each Day
Household Items
Dresser, Computer Desk, Lamp, Framed Art Work, Freezer, Electric Roaster and More.
Wood Working Tools
Band Saw, Router Table, Dust Collector, Power Miter Saws, Drill Press, Scroll Saw, Stanley/Bostitch Air Compressor, Framing Nailer, Medium Nailer, Brad Tacker, Finish Stapler, and More.
Shop Tools
Lincoln Easy Mig 180 Amp Wire Welder, Cart and Tank, Metal Cutting Saw, Torch Set Tanks, Gauges, Cart, Engine Stand, 2-Ton Engine Hoist, Electric Impact Wrench, Hand Tools, 20-Ton Shop Press, Milwaukee Scope, Vise, Anvil, Floor Jacks and More
Too Many Items to List
All in Very Good Condition

Barn Sale
8am to 5pm
Oct. 4th, 5th, & 6th
2061 N German Church Rd.
Oregon, Illinois 61061
Antique hand tools, vintage equipment, unique barn finds, many items of interest. Here are a few of the items for sale, John Deere "Hit and Miss" gas engine, several horse drawn pieces, a couple two bottom plow, potato digger, International Harvester binder, a one bottom plow and a JD Cultivator. Cast Iron Wheels of all sizes. Along with much, much more.

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

LIVING ESTATE SALE

634 E. Pearl St. Lanark, IL
October 4th 8am-5pm
October 5th 8am-4pm
(NO ENTRY BEFORE START TIME OF SALE)
Cash or certified check only
Furniture: bedroom sets, recliner loveseat, chairs, coffee and end tables, curio cabinets, lamps, tables, dining room set, bar stools
Household: small kitchen appliances, Whirlpool Cabrio washer/dryer, 7.5 cu foot chest freezer, carpet shampooer, eden pure heaters, lots of cookware/bakeware, glassware, Tupperware/plasticware etc., Sony 65 inch TV
Lawn and garden: Lawn sweeper, patio/porch furniture, gardening tools, planters, hedge trimmers, seeders, leaf blower and more
Garage/tools: standing drill press, circular saw, belt sander, saw saw, car ramps, battery charger, lots of misc. hand and electric tools
Vintage/antiques: travel trunk, stainless silverware, glassware, license plates, ammo boxes, corning ware bakeware, advertising items, framed prints, Wooden cupboard
Misc: Like new jeans, clothing, Brother sewing machine lots of home décor, pictures, frames, Christmas décor
TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!
Food truck available by VFW/American Legion Mess Hall

Garage Sale
600 S. 2nd St., Oregon, IL
Thursday, Oct. 3rd from 3PM-6PM
Friday & Saturday Oct. 4th & 5th from 8AM-4PM
Antiques, old toys/games, gold/silver jewelry, household items, a lot more to be added!

309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

MISSING TIGER CAT REWARD
Mouse missing 09/17 from S. 3rd St., Oregon, IL. She is a small (6lbs) short-haired tiger cat w/ white markings on her face. She is spayed, micro-chipped & had a pink collar. Needs medication & has NEVER been an outside cat **815-973-4926**

511 STORAGE UNITS

GESIN RENTALS
Self Storage Units Available!
Multiple Sizes/Locations
10x10 to 12x32 Units Currently Available
Office located at:
207 N. McKendrie Ave
Mt. Morris, IL
815-734-4716
gesincompanies@hotmail.com
Rent Online at:
www.gesinselfstorage.com

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.

511 STORAGE UNITS

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

Show & Sell

Place an Ad:
Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171
Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

Browse & Buy

Subscribe:
Rochelle News-Leader 815-562-4171
Ogle County Life 815-732-2156

All in the Classifieds!

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

A&T Auction Services, LLC
Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forreston, IL

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.
Auctions - Real Estate
Appraisals
Online Auctions
Now Available
Pecatonica, IL
815-239-1436
Hacksauction.com

Remmer Schuetz
Auction Service
Sales of All Kinds
5936 S. Watertown Rd.
Ashton, IL
847-878-1491

PUBLIC AUCTION

Not sure why business is slow?

OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...

is not just a saying in business.

AUTUMN ON PARADE

53rd Annual Autumn on Parade festival is Oct. 5-6

Free family-friendly event in Oregon offers activities and options for all ages

OREGON—A whimsical weekend is upon us! Encapsulating the essence of a much loved and highly anticipated community festival is nearly impossible on paper; it must be experienced. But try this:

Imagine, if you will, an event whose seeds have taken root in the hearts of countless volunteers who donate time, expertise, and often their own dollars, to create an experience that brings together families and friends year after year.

Then add the 10s of thousands of annually attending participants, who carve time from their busy lives to dedicate this weekend to a regathering.

Autumn on Parade provides the setting for reconnection to simple fun, good food, and heartfelt reminiscences.

Each year has a theme, and 2024's festival is full of curiosities and delights — Join us for a Whimsical Weekend during our 53rd annual festival in Oregon.

Enjoy live music on Saturday at our 21 and older Entertainment HotSpot, claim your seat early for Sunday's popular Harvest Time Parade, and remember to purchase your 60/40 raffle tickets!

From our Fun Zone, Market, and Food Court, to the Car and Tractor shows, this free family-friendly event offers activities and options for all ages.

The spirit of the people involved make this a "Can't Miss" event. Autumn on Parade is made possible by local sponsorships, raffle ticket purchases, and its small, all-volunteer committee who works tirelessly all year round to create this one-of-a-kind experience. Our event comes to life when festival attendees fill our downtown, and our community, with the spirit of kinship and kindness...

This is Autumn on Parade! Big "thank you's" to E.D. Etnyre, our 2024 presenting sponsor; CIMCO Recycling, our HotSpot sponsor; and Martin & Company, our Diamond sponsor!

Visit autumnonparade.com for details, festival, merch, and a schedule of events. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @AutumnOnParade to stay in-the-know. Free your Whimsical side — spend the weekend at Autumn on Parade Oct. 5 and 6!

See you in downtown Oregon!

History

Imagine for a moment the task of encapsulating the essence of more than 50 years of a much loved and highly anticipated community festival. An event whose seeds have taken root in the hearts of countless volunteers who have donated time, expertise, and often their own dollars to create an experience that brings families and friends together year after year after year. Then add the tens of thousands of annually attending participants, who share the typical busyness of life, yet dedicate this weekend to a regathering. A reconnection to simple fun, good food, and heartfelt reminiscences.

To begin the process, we open and delve into the box after box after box of archives, revealing logbooks, dusty trinkets, and memorabilia, crinkled newspaper clippings, creased and fading images

of times gone by. Much of the information is familiar to some, and depending on your age and relationship to Oregon and this festival of ours, you may have had a hand in it somewhere along the way ...

Byron Hutchins moved to Oregon in 1969. He served as an advisor with the University of Illinois Extension Service helping to create several committees for the betterment of small communities. One of these committees was for a festival. He was joined by other local leaders- Ray Appler, James Barnes, Ron Fafnis, Anne Jones, and Cecelia Zimmerman. A contest was held to name the event, and Kathryn Gelandner won a \$25 Savings Bond gifted by the Oregon Woman's Club with her entry of "Autumn on Parade".

Seven booths lined up on Third Street on a rainy day in 1970 which has grown into an average of 180 booths surrounding courthouse square. Determination, some dreaming, and creative input-perhaps sprinkled with a few lofty ideas- has led to many additions and changes along the way. We've seen pig scrambles, canoe rallies, a fishing derby, Civil War Encampments, Quilt Shows, Big Wheel Races, the Duck Dash, many years of the Antique Tractor Shows and Auto Classics, as well as our ever fabulous parade. We shine a light on our local histories like Chana School and the Depot Restoration and use our phenomenal parks and their services to support the needs of an event this size. Local civic and not-for-profit organizations form the backbone of the Food Court and then put their hard-earned profits right back into our community. City and Emergency services work closely to keep us safe, creating a seamless transition from managing a population of 3800 to an instant 75,000 passing through the community throughout the festival weekend.

We can share historical data, and oh so many photos from our hold it in your hand's albums to our tuck it in your shirt pocket flash drives. But the essence of Autumn on Parade? That's the spirit of the people. The people who work tirelessly all year round to create this one-of-a-kind experience and who are then joined by the people who attend, filling this event with life and our community with the spirit of kinship and kindness.

This is Autumn on Parade!

Market

Autumn on Parade Market began 54 years ago with 7 exhibitors on the historic Courthouse lawn, and has grown to over 180 booths! We are proud our market hosts only handmade, homegrown, and homemade items. Join us for blacksmith demonstrations, caricatures, permanent jewelry, and artist demonstrations. Longtime favorites will be here too- woodworkers, potters, quilters, sign makers, painters, flowers, candles, and so many more. Find yummy snacks along the way, like roasted nuts, popcorn, cookies, licorice, and candies. New and returning exhibitors await you each year.

Shop our festival merch at autumnonparade.com & show it off at the mar-

ket- we've even got totes available to carry your new goodies!

Fun Zone

Bring the kids to visit Autumn on Parade's Fun Zone, located at North 5th Street in the Coliseum parking lot. We will be open both Saturday and Sunday, providing a variety of activities for kids of all ages. We are welcoming back some favorites and have some exciting new additions.

We are proud to include Fun Zone QUIET HOURS. If your child would benefit from an environment with minimal sounds and crowds, visit us on Sunday. Autumn on Parade appreciates our community's understanding of this special time and we look forward to seeing everyone during our open-play times the rest of the weekend.

Parade

The 53rd Annual AOP Harvest Time Parade, themed "Whimsical Weekend" will be held on Sunday, October 6th, starting at 1pm! The parade will feature entertainment by Jesse White Tumblers and Crystal Lake Drum Strikers, as well as local marching bands, scouts, unique acts, local businesses and so much more. We look forward to seeing spectators of all ages fill the streets!

Unit of Honor: Habitat for Humanity | Guest of Honor: Stan Eden

Thank you to E.D. Etnyre, Autumn on Parade's 2024 Presenting Sponsor!

Reserve your seat as early as Sunday morning by setting out chairs/blankets along our parade route. To maintain a safe viewing distance, please stay behind the curb during the entirety of the Harvest Time Parade.

Food Court

The smell of funnel cakes and kettle corn wafts through the air as you approach the Autumn on Parade food court. No festival is complete without a food court!!

Elotes, cider donuts, bbq... Your mouth starts to water as you see all the delicious options, from classic comfort food to more unique festival fare.

We've got something for everyone, so you're sure to find a snack or two to satisfy your cravings. Sample a variety of dishes from many different vendors (some new, many returning!), and indulge in some delicious treats at the AOP food court! What snacks will you be on the hunt for this year?

Car & Tractor Show

Foundation for Focus House holds their annual Car Show with Autumn on Parade every year. Our Car Show brings out many rare and vintage cars from all around the area. Founda-

tion for Focus House is a 501c3 nonprofit that raises money for the youth that are receiving services at Focus House in Rochelle. Focus House offers residential and outpatient care to youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Focus House serves all of Ogle and surrounding counties. To register for the Car Show, visit www.oglecounty.org and click on Departments-Focus House. Thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters. The programming at Focus House could not provide these services for our youth without YOU!

See page 11



2024 Autumn on Parade Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 5	
8 a.m.—5 p.m.	Market (Courthouse lawn)
8 a.m.—5 p.m.	Information Booth (Courthouse Lawn)
8 a.m.—4 p.m.	Car & Tractor Shows (Park East)
8 a.m.—3 p.m.	Library Book Sale (300 Jefferson Street)
9 a.m.	Flag Raising Ceremony (Courthouse Square)
9 a.m.—5 p.m.	Food Court (Jefferson Street)
9 a.m.—5:30 p.m.	Stronghold's Olde English Faire (Admission: 1922 IL Rte. 2 North)
10 a.m.—12 p.m.	102.3 Coyote and SuperHits Live Broadcast (Fifth & Jefferson Streets)
10 a.m.—3 p.m.	Chana School Tours (Park East)
10 a.m.—5 p.m.	Fun Zone (Coliseum Parking Lot)
1—8 p.m.	Entertainment HotSpot (Park East to Downtown Oregon)
4 p.m.	Tractor Parade (Park East to Downtown Oregon)

Sunday, October 6	
8—10:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast (Oregon VFW)
8 a.m.—5 p.m.	Information Booth (Courthouse Square)
8:45 a.m.	Flag Raising Ceremony (Courthouse Square)
9 a.m.—5 p.m.	Market (Courthouse Lawn)
9 a.m.—5 p.m.	Food Court (Jefferson Street)
9 a.m.—5:30 p.m.	Stronghold's Olde English Faire (Admission Charge: 1922 IL Rte. 2 North)
10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Fun Zone (Coliseum Parking Lot)
1—3 p.m.	Fun Zone Sensory/Quiet Time
1—3 p.m.	Harvest Time Parade (Downtown Oregon)

Entertainment HotSpot Live Music

Saturday, October 5

1:20-3:00 p.m. Enjoy rockabilly tunes by **Dirty Fishnet Stockings**.

3-5 p.m. Sing along to rock favorites from the all-female band **Sheez-It**.

5:30-7:30 p.m. **The Jimmys**, 2024 headliners, will show off their high-energy blues band.

Location: 300 block of Jefferson Street, in front of the Oregon Library

The Entertainment HotSpot is made possible by a generous donation from **CIMCO**, with **Tipsy Hog** providing beverage service.

21+ with photo ID required, \$5 entry fee

Arrive early for giveaways!

Follow Autumn on Parade on Facebook and Instagram!

Sunday, October 6th

1 p.m. Harvest Time Parade

100+ musical, float, and novelty units, including the Jesse White tumblers!

2024 Unit of Honor: Habitat for Humanity

2024 Guest of Honor: Stan Eden

Autumn on Parade is a walking Festival. Handicap parking is available.

Free Shuttle Service available to Car & Tractor Shows (Oregon Park East) & Stronghold on Saturday Only

Downtown pickup at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington (IL 64 & 2)

Information/Announcements Information Booth on Fourth Street www.autumnonparade.com

2024 Food Court

- 2nd Act Sweets**—Soup Varieties served in bread bowl (or choose a traditional Polish)
 - Big Man BBQ**—Pulled Pork, Polish & Italian Sausages
 - Boy Scouts**—Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Potatoes
 - Chow Haul Smokehouse**—Brisket, Pulled Pork, Ribs, Turkey, Chicken, Sausages
 - Farming Heritage**—Kettle Corn
 - Hazel's on the Go**—Hot & Iced Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls, Spiced Apple Banana Bread, Fruit Smoothies, Hot Cider & Cocoa (corner of 6th & Jefferson St.)
 - Headon & Sons**—Rib-Eye & Chicken Sandwiches, Potato & Macaroni Salad
 - Hector's Cocina**—Tacos (ground beef, steak, chicken), Quesadillas, Tostados, Burritos, Chips 'n Salsa, Beverage Variety
 - Los 3 Molcajetes**—Burritos, Elotes, Tamales, Tortas, Quesabirria
 - Lulu's Roasted Corn**—Mexican Roasted Corn, Churros, Mango Salad, Fresh Squeezed Lemonade
 - Main Squeezes**—Freshly Squeezed Flavored Lemonades and Boost Energy Drinks
 - M & M Chops**—Angus Steak Burger, Bacon Cheddar Burger, Butterfly Pork Shops, Rib Eye
 - Knights of Columbus**—Funnel Cakes, Pop, & Water
 - Oregon Lions Club**—Brats, Pork Chop Sandwiches, Pop, Water
 - RS Concessions**—Italian Ice, Pretzels, Nachos
 - The Waffle Wagon**—Bang-Bang/Classic/Maple Bacon/ Nashville Hot Chicken & Waffles, Dessert Waffles, Cheesecake on a Stick
 - Bing's Drive In**—*Car Show at Park East/Saturday Only* Breakfast Items, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Cole Slaw, Assorted Hot & Cold Beverages
 - Grindhead Coffee**—*Car Show at Park East Saturday; Fun Zone on Sunday*—Specialty Coffees, Lattes, Mochas, Frappes, Cappuccinos, Espresso, Chai Tea, Energizers, Lemonade, Smoothies, Refreshers, and Cheesecake
 - Cotton Candy Smiles**—*Fun Zone*—Fluffy Cotton Candy Treats
 - Kona Ice**—*Fun Zone*—Flavored Shaved Ice, Bottled Water
- (Menu items subject to change)

AOP Festival Map

- Courthouse Square
- Food Court
- Fun Zone
- Entertainment HotSpot
- Oregon Park District (Nash)
- Shuttle Service
- Oregon Park East—(Chana School, Car & Tractor Shows)

Visit autumnonparade.com for more information!

53rd Annual Autumn on Parade

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From page 10

**Old English
Faire**

Join the family-friendly Olde English Faire at Stronghold Saturday and Sunday October 5 & 6 as we reinvent and create the Faire with vendors, entertainers, madrigal performers, music, dancers, tours of the castle, food trucks, falcons, and hayrack rides (weather permitting) in a magical family atmosphere.

Stronghold Castle (or Stronghold Center) is located in Oregon, Illinois, atop the limestone bluffs along the Rock River. Designed by Maurice Webster, it was built between 1928 and 1930 by Walter A. Strong, then owner and publisher of the Chicago Daily News. Walter built the castle as a summer home for his wife, Josephine, and their five children.

See page 12

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- Outdoor Food Vendors
- Sip-N-Shop Gift Fair
- Tree Lighting
- Winter Carnival
- Visit with Santa
- Live Performances
- Giveaways
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From page 11

In 1928, Strong bought 360 acres of wooded property north of Oregon, Illinois, which included a limestone bluff overlooking the Rock River. Strong hired Josephine's brother, architect Maurice Webster, to design a house on the bluff. The original concept was to build a simple barn and silo structure, but it quickly grew into something resembling a castle, with 16 bedrooms, 9 baths, 8 fireplaces, gargoyles, and secret passageways.

Today, the castle provides a magical backdrop for live Renaissance Performers, Medieval Artisans, Craft Vendors, Food Court, and a Beer Garden. Since 1962, the property has been operating as a Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center. The Olde English Faire is a major annual fundraising event—proceeds support our Summer Camps.

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