

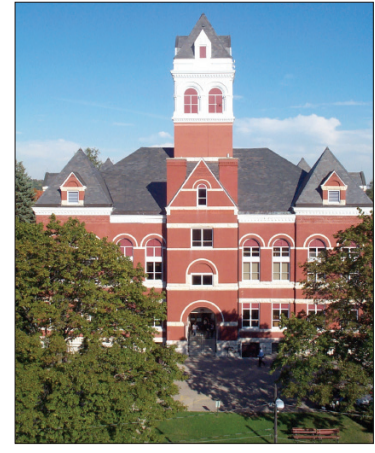
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VOLUME 36, ISSUE 31

**MONDAY**  
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### KNOW IT TODAY



#### FJSHS honors coach Schurr

Forreton Junior/Senior High School honored retiring football coach Lane Schurr. **Section B**

#### WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
55 38	57 32
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
64 31	71 41
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
73 46	74 47

#### OBITUARIES

- Mary Margaret 'Lawson' Schultheis
  - Chad Michael Worman
  - William 'Bill' R. Samuel
- See page 4

#### INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Polo Fresh Food
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Humana
- Election Guide
- Best Of Ogle County

## Farmers, including Ogle County's Reeverts, continue to dream big

### Local farmer turns back the clock with 1980s model combine purchase

BY RHIANNON BRANCH  
FARMWEEK

**H**IGH interest rates, elevated input costs and falling commodity prices create barriers for farmers to adopt innovation, but some Illinois producers said you can still dream big with a small budget.

McLean County farmer Reid Thompson suggested the phrase "tight margins" is an understatement this year.

"We started looking at 2025 numbers and there is some margin in corn and zero to negative margin for soybeans depending on rent costs," he said. "And that just covers operating costs and overhead, not debt service."

Thompson said while the budget is almost non-existent, he still looks for ways to innovate.

"Our thought process going into next year is that we're not going to rule anything out, but any technology we add has to

also accompany an efficiency savings," he said. "Maybe we don't reduce the cost-per-acre number in inputs, but we can be more efficient with our nitrogen and our timing."

Thompson said there is always room for improvement, but with smaller margins, farmers must look at where they can spend a little bit of money and get a large return.

"Instead of a spend \$1 and get \$2 back, where can I spend \$1 and get \$10 back?" he asked. "That's the mindset you have to go into this year with. You can't stop (innovating) because once you stop, the gap to catch back up is going to cost you even more."

Corn and soybean farmer Scott Harris has also continued to innovate despite tighter margins.

The Johnson County farmer told FarmWeek rain early in the growing season hindered yields this year, so Harris is thinking of ways to minimize that



(PHOTO BY RYAN REEVERTS)

**Innovation doesn't always mean shiny and new. Ryan Reeverts climbs aboard his first equipment purchase – a 1980s model combine – to begin harvesting his own fields, which he considers an innovative decision for his operation.**

impact in the future. "We ask ourselves is there something we can do to benefit the crop in a way

that would produce more yield?" he said. "We need all the yield we can get when we're dealing with prices as low as they are."

See REEVERTS page 10

## Mosaic artworks made by HUB Program students to benefit Williams Art Fund

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Mosaic art pieces made by the students in the Rochelle Elementary School District HUB Program are being auctioned off this month to benefit the Danny and Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts, a donor-advised fund at the Rochelle Area Community Foundation.

The students worked over the summer to create the four art works to donate to the Williams Fund for the Arts annual art show fundraiser, which had to be canceled, due to Danny Williams' battle with multiple myeloma. The Daniel and Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts was established in 2018 to help future artists bring statues, sculptures, murals and other permanent or semi-permanent art projects to life in the community.



(PHOTO BY LIFEWORKS)

**Mosaic art pieces made by the students in the Rochelle Elementary School District HUB Program are being auctioned off this month to benefit the Danny and Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts,**

HUB Program Director Yazmin Nambo said the program and the students still wanted to help raise money, so they decided to

hold an online auction to sell the mosaics to benefit the fund.

See ART page 11



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson will retire at the end of 2024 after 20 years in his position.**

## Anderson to retire after 20 years as Rochelle's economic development director

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson will retire at the end of 2024 after 20 years in his position.

Anderson's 20 years has included working with prospective and current businesses, working with legislators, working on

improving infrastructure to attract development, and overseeing the city's railroad and airport.

The City of Rochelle has seen over \$125 million in infrastructure funding over the past two decades including bridges, railroad, water and sewer in efforts to bring economic growth.

See ANDERSON pg 2

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ANDERSON: Rochelle economic development director retiring after 20 years

From page 1

Anderson credited that number to Rochelle's city managers and city council members, the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDCO) and state organizations.

Over 2,200 jobs in Rochelle have been created since 2005 and there has been \$1.3 billion in capital investment made by businesses in land, buildings and equipment. The city's equalized assessed value (EAV) in 2004 was \$100 million. It is now \$325 million. Anderson said 70 percent of that tax base growth is from industrial development.

"I'm really proud of the effort that all of these people and leaders have been willing to make," Anderson said. "And it's risky, because you have to build the infrastructure first. The philosophy here in Rochelle is, 'If you build it, they will come.' And that's what's happened. The greatest accomplishment for economic development is that we have really helped to fund the taxing bodies like the schools, park district, library district, the township and city services. The development has boosted the tax base and created jobs."

Anderson plans to spend more time with family

in retirement and will be starting his own business as a consultant to share his years of experience with other communities and entities.

Anderson's experience prior to working for the city included employment as an analyst for an oil company, time as a salesperson for a family insurance business, being plant manager at Crest Foods in Ashton, and then six years of working for U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald.

"When I was recruited here, I felt it was a calling," Anderson said. "The experiences in my life up until that point had prepared me for it. It was a perfect training ground, being an analyst, a manufacturer, a liaison in government and a salesman. I was trained to be an economic development director without knowing it. And I brought all of those relationships with me here."

The most memorable experiences for Anderson over his 20 years include the expansion of the City of Rochelle Railroad, the building of the \$6.5 million Steward Road overpass, the building of the Rochelle Business & Technology Park, and helping to bring large-investment projects to town such as Nippon Sharyo, the CHS Ethanol plant, and Wheatland Tube.

Nippon Sharyo, which

Anderson worked on for five years before the company decided to come to town, was a \$180 million project and yielded \$22 million in infrastructure improvements for the city paid for by other entities. After Nippon Sharyo left the location, Wheatland Tube filled it in the years that followed and made a \$130 million investment in the property and buildings. The CHS Ethanol plant, also in that area, was a \$180 million project.

"The work is really dynamic," Anderson said of economic development. "When you work with the private sector and you're dealing with government too, you have to find a way to get them to want to work together. It takes really good leadership from the government to facilitate projects. 99 percent of economic development work is done behind the scenes. The number-one principle in economic development is confidentiality. Businesses don't want to share what their plans. There's a lot of gratification in getting economic development work done, but there's not much you can talk about until the day comes to cut a ribbon or break ground."

When Anderson assumed oversight of the city's railroad 14 years ago, it was making \$285,000 a

year in revenue. In 2014 it hit the \$1 million mark and remains above that mark today. He oversaw the city's airport for the past 10 years and saw it receive almost \$11 million in funding.

An economic development director overseeing an airport and railroad isn't common in other communities. Not a lot about Rochelle is common, Anderson said.

"I've been blessed to be a part of it all," Anderson said. I came into a city that was all about economic development. My predecessor, Ken Wise, laid the foundation for what needed to be done here and I was just able to be a part of building on it. Rochelle has been blessed for many years with good leadership. There have been people who had the wisdom to start their own utility, become their own internet provider and start their own railroad."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh praised Anderson for the wealth of knowledge and relationships he brings to the city that have helped it to be successful.

"It's been a blast to work with Jason," Fiegenschuh said. "He's the most talented and dedicated economic development director I've ever worked with. One of the great things of having



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Jason Anderson's 20 years has included working with prospective and current businesses, working with legislators, working on improving infrastructure to attract development and more.**

consistency in economic development is that those projects don't happen overnight. Some projects take five years. Having consistency in that position makes you able to land those projects. I will miss Jason's expertise and I'll miss him more as an individual and a friend."

Anderson believes Rochelle's economic development future is bright. The city has over 1,500 acres of land in its current plan slated for industrial development. Despite economic issues in 2008, the city saw "the biggest boom in industrial growth" from 2008-2012, Anderson said, which he believes was due to being ahead of the curve on infrastructure. The case is the same today with the city completing projects like water wells, work on its water treatment

plant, and a new electrical substation and another on the way.

The longtime city economic development got to see the end results of his work years after endeavoring to bring projects to town.

"My greatest accomplishment and thing that gives me the most satisfaction is getting to know all of the people here," Anderson said. "I've seen a lot of them grow up. Some have asked me for a reference and a year later I'm touring a local industry and I see them working. They grew up here, got a job here and they're happy and supporting their families. Economic development directors get to be directly involved in creating something that really blesses so many people. You take a lot of satisfaction out of that."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Upcoming Byron Women's Club fundraisers scheduled

**BYRON** — “Wrapped With Love” during the Dec. 7 Indoor Market at the Byron Museum 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Let volunteers wrap your gifts while you shop the local vendor booths. Join us on Saturday, Oct. 19 beginning at 2 p.m. for Tea & Bingo. 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 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. Tickets are only \$25 per person, email [bonnie.hodina@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Stillman Valley National Honor Society chapter recently received the Service Award of Excellence awarded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.**

## SVHS National Honor Society receives the Service Award of Excellence

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — The Stillman Valley National Honor Society chapter recently received the Service Award of Excellence awarded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The award celebrates their dedication, hard work, and impact in making a difference. The Service Award of Excellence is granted to chapters making a significant imprint on their community through service projects and activities which demonstrate a selfless spirit. This award is a testament to the chap-

ter’s initiative and leadership, and it highlights the positive influence on the school and community. “Our NHS chapter is honored to win the Service Award of Excellence! This award celebrates our significant contributions to the community and our spirit of service.”



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Jeremy Duffy, IASB deputy executive director; Mike Stevens, IASB director of governmental relations; Paul Carpenter, RPS board member; Tim DeVries, MCUSD board member; Congressman Darin LaHood; Jill Huber, MCUSD board member; and Mark Harms, IASB president of the board of directors.**

## Meridian CUSD #223 board members attend COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Meridian CUSD #223 proudly announces that board members Mrs. Jill Huber and Mr. Tim DeVries recently attended the Federal Advocacy Conference hosted by the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA). This annual conference in Washington, D.C. provided an invaluable opportunity for board members to discuss key federal education policies and their impact on school districts.

and policies that directly impact the students and communities of Meridian CUSD #223. The meeting allowed the board members to express concerns and share insights from their district, ensuring that local educational needs are considered in federal decision-making. “I sincerely thank our Board of Education for their dedication to advocacy by actively engaging with our elected officials to champion the needs of our students and community,” Dr. PJ Caposey, superintendent said.

“We are proud of the work Mrs. Huber and Mr. DeVries are doing to advocate for our district at both the federal and state levels,” John Smith, president of the Meridian CUSD #223 Board of Education, said. “Their participation en-

ures our students, educators, and community voices are heard at the state and national levels. Collaboration with our representatives is key to addressing the challenges and opportunities in public education.”

COSSBA’s Federal Advocacy Conference is a vital platform for local school leaders to collaborate with policymakers and advocate for effective education policies. Meridian CUSD #223 remains committed to working with federal representatives to enhance educational outcomes for all students.

Please contact the district office for more information about Meridian CUSD #223’s participation in the Federal Advocacy Conference or to learn about ongoing advocacy efforts.



### SVHS September Students of the Month named

**Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for September were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: SVHS Principal Leslie Showers, Aidan Dundas (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Catalina Smalley (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Mia Beck (10<sup>th</sup> grade), Reese Violet (ninth grade), and Stillman Bank Vice President and Senior Operations Officer Ben Miller. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)**

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR VILLAGE OF DAVIS JUNCTION

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Village of Davis Junction for 2024 will be held on October 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Village Clerk Sandie Maahs, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020; (815) 645-8000.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$105,878.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$142,935.30. This represents a 35% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0.00. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$105,878.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$142,935.30. This represents a 35% increase over the previous year.



### Dannhorn named OJSHS October Senior of Distinction

**Ella Dannhorn was recently named the Oregon Junior/Senior High School October Senior of Distinction. Pictured from left to right is Dannhorn and Stillman Bank Teller Supervisor/Retail Banker Jodi Peters. Ella received a gift card for her achievement. (Courtesy photo)**

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Mary Margaret 'Lawson' Schultheis

ROCHELLE — Mary Margaret "Lawson" Schultheis, 74, went home to her heavenly Father on October 6, 2024. Mary was born in Rockford, IL on May 31, 1950. Mary graduated from Oregon High School in 1969. She married Dan Schultheis on September 8, 1972.

She worked cutting asparagus for Del Monte, at Eaton Corporation, and G.J. Aigners (Avery International) all in Rochelle, and Woods in Oregon, IL. She then became a CAN and worked in numerous nursing homes, especially Neighbor's in Byron and Pinecrest in Mt. Morris where she made many friends with the residents and staff.

Mary was a loving wife, mother and grandmother to her family. She was a wonderful homemaker, and loved reading and movies. She had quite the collection of VHS tapes and DVDs. Mary especially loved going places, be it out to eat, shopping movie theater, music shows, the zoo with her children and grandchildren, Great America, county fairs,

vacations, you name it she was always ready to go.

Mary is survived by her husband, Dan of Chana; Daughters, Tanya Schultheis of Rochelle, Danielle Bramel of Rochelle and Misty Schultheis of Chana; Grandsons, Kurtis Schultheis of Rochelle, Jimmy and Ben Bramel of Rochelle; Sisters, Georgia "Anthony" Williams of Summerville, SC, Cheryl Onley of Pocahontas, AR and Karen Summers of Malden, MO; Brothers, Claude Onley of Batesville, AR, Todd Onley and Jim Thurmond of Paragould, AR; And cousins, Virginia Gouker of Chana, and Verne Williams of Mendota.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Frieda Lawson; Her aunt, Mary Dalberg; Uncle, Clyde Dalberg; Two very special uncles, George and Edward Lawson and two very special aunts, Eula and Virginia Lawson, the four of whom raised her; Brothers, Warren Welker, and Lee Thurman; Sister, Alice Grooms; Granddaughter, Kaitlyn Bramel; And cousin, Clyde "Ole"



Dalberg Jr. May she beat peace in the arms of our heavenly Father.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be donated to Rockford Rescue Mission.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Rochelle, IL 61068. A funeral service will be held immediately after at 11:00 A.M. with a graveside service to follow out to Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle, IL. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com](http://www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com)



(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON OF FARMWEEK)

### Corn harvest progresses in Mason County on an unseasonably warm September day.

### Harvest progressing ahead of average pace

BY RHIANNON BRANCH FARMWEEK

ILLINOIS crops matured above the average pace for most of the season, so it is no surprise to see some combines rolling a bit sooner than usual. But a drawn-out planting season could delay the start of harvest until October for some farmers.

USDA reported 7% of corn was harvested statewide compared to 5% at the same time last year, and the five-year average of 3% as of Sept. 16. Most of the crop (63%) reached maturity on the same date, 23 percentage points ahead of average.

Soybean harvest was 6% complete as of Sept. 15, well ahead of the average and last year's pace of 1%. Meanwhile, 62% of the crop was dropping leaves, 31 percentage points ahead of average.

Crop Watcher Ryan Frieders of DeKalb County began harvesting soybeans on Sept. 11 and said it was the earliest start date on his farm since 2012.

"The soybeans were planted the last week of

April and they were earlier to average maturing varieties for our area," he said, noting that soybean moisture has been very low. "With no dew at night, harvest could have continued all night long as the bean straw never became tough."

Frieders said yields are below last year and slightly lower than their five-year farm average so far.

At the southern end of the state, Crop Watcher Ken Taake said harvest timing was about usual on his farm in Pulaski County.

"With the spread-out planting season, I thought it would be a long harvest season," he said. "But with the dry weather in August and so far in September, crops are maturing rapidly."

As of Sept. 17, he had more than one-third of his corn and 20% of soybeans harvested and noted slightly above average yields so far, but said the dry weather has put stress on the late-planted soybeans.

And even though harvest has started, an LG Seeds agronomist said

field scouting duties aren't over.

Robby Meeker, who covers east-central Illinois, said farmers should be scouting for disease, pests and intactness to protect corn yields.

When looking for leaf diseases, he said growers should pay close attention to the third, fourth and fifth leaf below the ear. "The majority of time, symptoms start below the ear," Meeker said.

Farmers should also keep an eye out for anthracnose, which can rot stalks and cause stalk death above the ear in the weeks after pollination.

Meeker said at this point in the season treatment options are likely limited, but knowing what's going on within your fields is important to prioritize which fields need to be harvested first and to plan for better results next season.

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

### Chad Michael Worman

BYRON — Chad Michael Worman, 53, died suddenly in his home in Byron, IL. He was born on January 14, 1971 in Dixon, IL. He is preceded in death by his mother, Patricia (Fruin) Carey. He is survived by his step-father Douglas Carey of Byron, IL; brother Brian (Jacqueline) Worman of Carol Stream, IL; special friend Stephanie Gottenchalk of Machesney Park, IL; and lifelong friend Patrick

Weisner of Byron, IL.

Cremation rites will be taken care of by Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Byron, IL. No services will be conducted as this time per Chad's wishes. A celebration of life will be held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Tavern at a future date. In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to the National Cancer Society or a health charity of your choice. To leave an online condolence or plant



a tree in Chad's memory, please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com).

### William 'Bill' R. Samuel

POLO — William "Bill" R. Samuel, 83, of Polo, passed away Sunday, September 29, 2024, at his home.

Bill was born, October 17, 1940, in Dixon, Illinois, the son of Bryant W. and Lois (McIlvanie) Samuel. On June 30, 1990 in Rockford, Illinois, he was united in marriage to Ms. Flora Jean Carter.

Bill attended Polo Schools from 1946 to 1959. He entered into the Army in 1960 and after the service went to work at Central

Stamping then to Daubert Coating until he retired in 2002. He became a licensed and ordained Minister in 2005 and attended Polo Open Bible Church.

Survivors include dear friends Mike and Trish Bolen who were his caregivers and unofficially adopted Bill as their own; their son Christian "Buddy" Bolen; many cousins and their families. He was preceded in death by his wife Flora Jean and an infant Brother.

A graveside service



will be 11:00 a.m. at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo on Thursday, October 17, 2024 with Rev. Luke Schier officiating.

### Northern Rehab hosting coat drive through Nov. 1

ROCHELLE — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is collecting donations for the Sycamore United Methodist Church (SUMC) Coat Ministry. Needed items include new and gently-used coats, boots, mittens, scarves, and other

winter accessories.

All Northern Rehab locations are serving as collection sites with clinics at their DeKalb, Genoa, and Rochelle locations. Please drop off donated items between Oct. 21-Nov. 1. Thank you in advance for your

support and contribution! For additional information about Northern Rehab, please call 815.756.8524 or visit [www.northernrehabpt.com](http://www.northernrehabpt.com). Additionally, be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

### Patriotic Few MC to host Johan Ride Oct. 19

MONROE CENTER — Patriotic Few MC of Northern Illinois is hosting their second annual Johan Ride on Oct. 19. This ride is in memory of Johan De Klerk who was injured in a motorcycle accident and eventually passed away in the summer of 2023. Proceeds for this annual ride will benefit the Downed Biker

Association along with the Roth family who recently lost Joe Roth of Byron to a motorcycle accident.

The ride starts and ends at MC Tap in Monroe Center and features one stop. If you are interested in donating any items or making a monetary donation, please contact a Patriotic Few

member. All proceeds will be split between the Downed Biker Association (on behalf of the De Klerk family) and the Roth Family.

Registration is from 10-11:30 a.m. Kickstands up at noon. \$20 rider/\$10 passenger. All vehicles welcome! MC Tap, 303 Pacific St., Monroe Center, IL 61052.

### Monroe Township Fire responds to I-39 accident

MONROE CENTER — The Monroe Township Fire Protection District responded Oct. 3 to a report of an accident on Interstate 39 at mile marker 112

southbound. Arrival found one vehicle off the roadway with moderate front-end damage. The other vehicle had minor damage. Witnesses on scene stated

a white car rear ended a pickup pulling a goose-neck trailer as they were changing lanes. Both drivers were evaluated by EMS on scene, refused transport and had non-life threatening injuries. Monroe Township Fire was aided by Kirkland with an ambulance and New Milford with an engine. Monroe Township Fire District reminds drivers to use caution as you change lanes on all roadways and drive defensively to assure you have enough space to operate your vehicle.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Young named September 2024 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

**POLO**—Alayna Young was recently named the September Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. She is the daughter of David and Andria Young.

Yingling extracurricular activities include track & field and student council. After high school, she plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Upon winning the award, Young filled out a list of questions about her school experience.

**What does it take to be a successful high school student?**

Get involved! You need a balance between school-work and school events. It is easy to get burnt out with homework alone. Participate in things you enjoy.

**What is your life's philosophy?**

Live life to the fullest and don't let other people bring you down.

**What class do you find really engaging and why?**

The class I find most engaging is my CEO class through Whiteside Area Career Center. This class is taught by our facilitator, Mrs. Emily Zimmerman. It is unlike any other class I have had. CEO is a student-led program that teaches students how to use critical thinking skills and leadership, and knowledge of entrepreneurship. One of our main focuses at this time is our class business which will take place early next year. Then in April, every student will showcase their individual businesses at the annual trade show at the Northland Mall in Sterling, IL.

**What are your career and post-graduation plans?**

After high school, I



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Alayna Young was recently named the September Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts.**

plan to go to Sauk Valley Community College and then transfer to Northern Illinois University to pursue a career in nursing. My long-term goal is to become a nurse practitioner specializing in endocrinology.

**What are your two favorite extracurricular, volunteer or community activities you participate in?**

My two favorite extracurricular activities are Track and Field and Student Council. Track has taught me how to be a valuable teammate. Our track team is combined with Forreston, so I have many opportunities to meet new people. My favorite part is meeting someone new at every meet. Student Council has allowed me to show my leadership skills through various events. I've gained creativity, responsibility, and confidence by being a

part of the Student Council.

**Please share a moment, group event or activity at school that was meaningful or memorable.**

My favorite event in high school was my sophomore year track season. I met so many new people that year which include some of my closest friends to this day. A specific moment that year was when all of my friends and I got to compete in big meets such as conference and sectionals. Experiencing big meets together brought us all closer together and it was the highlight of my year.

**What is your hope for the future?**

My hope for the future is to be happy and healthy while also having a family. I also want to be a successful nurse practitioner and help people the way my nurse practitioner helped me.

## RVC Communications and Marketing team attends conference Sept. 25-27

**ROCKFORD** — The Rock Valley College (RVC) Communications and Marketing team showcased their exceptional talent and expertise at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 3 Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference, held from September 25-27, 2024, brought together marketing and public relations professionals from community and technical colleges across the United States and Canada.

RVC, known as the "Home of Champions," lived up to its motto as its Communications and Marketing team organized, presented, and emerged victorious at the conference. The event saw the participation of RVC employees Brent Jepsen, Gabi Mar-Gagula, and Jennifer Thompson, who made significant contributions to the team's success. Jennifer Thompson, a

dedicated member of NCMPR for nearly a decade, played a pivotal role in the conference planning efforts. Having served on the conference planning team for three years, Thompson took charge this year and led a team of thirteen volunteers from five states. Gabi Mar-Gagula, another valuable member of the team, contributed her expertise in designing conference materials, programs, and managing social media efforts.

The RVC team's presentations were met with great enthusiasm and received high ratings from attendees. Gabi Mar-Gagula and Brent Jepsen's session, "Brand Ambassadors: From Garage Band to Main Stage," captivated the audience, while Jennifer Thompson's session, "Neurodiversity Jam Session: Amplifying Inclusion at Work," resonated with the participants. In addition to their

successful presentations, the RVC Marketing and Communication team also brought home two prestigious Medallion Awards. The NCMPR Medallion Awards recognize excellence in design and communication at community and technical colleges. Out of 501 entries, RVC's Marketing and Communication team secured the following awards:

- Silver Medallion for Flyer Design for the Illinois Golden Eagles Fast Facts Die Cut Out
- Silver Medallion for the Arvee Reveal Makeover Campaign


The RVC Marketing and Communications team's outstanding achievements not only highlight their talent but also showcase the college's commitment to excellence. Congratulations to the team for their well-deserved recognition and for representing RVC on both regional and national platforms.

## Oregon Lions thank community for support


**OREGON** — The Oregon Lions Club would like to acknowledge all who helped make the Lions Drawdown a success. Thank you to Oregon VFW Post #8739 for hosting the event. Thank you to the business and merchants of Oregon and Mt. Morris for generously donating over \$4,400 worth of door prizes. Thank you to the community for purchasing tickets and attending the drawdown. Oregon Lions members strive to serve our

community and invite you to join us. If interested in becoming a member, please

contact any Lions member or email: oregonlions.secretary@gmail.com



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(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Fall is in the air and the weather is simply wonderful so far. On Sept. 15 the Davis Junction Museum had its annual picnic.**

## Davis Junction Museum hosts annual picnic

**DAVIS JUNCTION** — Fall is in the air and the weather is simply wonderful so far. On Sept. 15 the Davis Junction Museum had its annual picnic. We were so happy to have our new memorial brick engraved area completed by the sign in front of the building. Richard Franz did a great job and we are so grateful for all his work. If you get a chance come by and see the new completed area. The picnic was well

attended, a full house. We had tasty food, fellowship and fun.

This Oct. 20 we will be having a dedication for our renovated postal wagon. The doors open at noon and the dedication will be at 1 p.m. There will be coffee and cake after the dedication. We hope to see you. There will be some guests that have helped us put this all together. At least we hope they can come.

If you are interested in

volunteering or visiting us on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon please call or come by. We are there usually the first, second and fourth Wednesday. The third Wednesday is meeting night at 6 p.m. We are usually there by 2:30 p.m. that day. We could sure use some help archiving. We are also still selling bricks for engraving. If you have any questions please contact Kim Smeja at 815-994-0803.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**From left to right: Principal Travis Heinz, Jeremiah Newill, Levi Bocker, Zak Glick, Sen. Andrew Chesney, Josiah Newill, Adam Wubbena, Hunter Miller, Head Coach Kelley Parks, and Superintendent Sheri Smith.**

## Chesney visits Forreston FFA Trap Team

**FORRESTON** — On Tuesday, Oct. 8, Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) stopped by Forreston High School to meet with the Forreston FFA Trap team.

Chesney talked to the team about their seasons in trap shooting, and the students shared with him

the successes they have accomplished with the team. Chesney thanked the students for supporting the Second Amendment and showing responsible gun ownership. Chesney then presented the team with a \$500 scholarship through the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, of

which he is a part. The caucus's purpose is to advocate for Illinois outdoor recreational assets.

The bipartisan Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus seeks to protect and advance policies that promote hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife management.

## EXTENDED EARLY VOTING HOURS

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 to Thursday, October 31, 2024

LAURA J. COOK

OGLE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

We ask that those interested in Early Voting be patient, as we do not know how long you may have to wait in line to cast your Vote. We are excited for this election and are anticipating a big voter turnout.

We also ask that everyone be respectful of others, as in past elections. We understand we live in interesting times. Now more than ever, we hope that everyone will work together to make this a positive experience.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS	
MONDAY – FRIDAY – 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.	
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 105 S. 5 <sup>TH</sup> ST., OREGON	
EXTENDED EARLY VOTING HOURS	
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 26, 2024	8:30 a.m. - Noon
Monday, October 28, 2024	6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, October 30, 2024	4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 31, 2024	4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:30 a.m. to Noon

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# VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On Oct. 28, 1961, rocker Chuck Berry began his second court trial for allegedly transporting a minor, in this case Janice Escalante, across state lines for immoral purposes in violation of the Mann Act, after he took her on the road with his traveling show. He was convicted and served three years in prison, where he studied accounting and continued to write songs.

\* On Oct. 29, 1619, Sir Walter Raleigh, an English adventurer, writer and former favorite courtier of Queen Elizabeth I, was beheaded in London 15 years after a sentence of death was brought against him for conspiracy against King James I.

\* On Oct. 30, 1811, Jane Austen's now classic novel "Sense and Sensibility" made its debut on the literary stage, albeit anonymously "by a Lady." Only a small circle of people, including the Prince Regent, knew her true identity. It was a success upon publication and has been adapted many times for the stage, cinema and television.

\* On Oct. 31, 1997, 33-year-old Violet Palmer became the first woman to officiate an NBA game (the Dallas Mavericks vs.

the Vancouver Grizzlies), calling it a "dream come true" after "a lot of hard work." The announcement of her achievement, however, drew little reaction from the crowd.

\* On Nov. 1, 2023, the Collins Dictionary announced AI as the most notable word of that year because it "has accelerated at such a fast pace and become the dominant conversation of 2023."

\* On Nov. 2, 2011, the Chinese spacecrafts Shenzhou 8 and Tian-gong-1 space lab joined in orbit, marking a first for the country and an event critical to its plans for a future space station.

\* On Nov. 3, 1979, during a rally in Greensboro, N.C., by communists and industrial trade union members against the Ku Klux Klan known as the "Death to the Klan March," in a predominantly black housing project called Morningside Heights, cars containing Klansmen and American Nazi Party members opened fire on rally members, killing five marchers and injuring others. Although 40 Klansmen and Nazis took part, only six went to trial, and all the defendants were acquitted by the white juries.

# 2024 is a year of big crops

“On fields o’er which the reaper’s hand has pass’d  
Lit by the harvest moon and autumn sun,  
My thoughts like stubble floating in the wind  
And of such fineness as October airs,  
There after harvest could I glean my life  
A richer harvest reaping without toil,  
And weaving gorgeous fancies at my will  
In subtler webs than finest summer haze.” - Henry David Thoreau

USDA’s Crop Production Report and August World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, published in August, confirms that we have very large crops in American fields, with corn, soybeans and other spring wheat projected to have record and above-trend yields in 2024. The August reports are the first of the year to estimate yields for corn and soybeans based on farmer surveys and satellite imagery.

Corn yield is projected to be a record 183.1 bushels per acre nationally, up 5.8 bushels from last year’s record yield and 2.1 bushels above trend-line estimates. Despite this increase in yields above industry estimates, a further decrease in planted acreage to 90.7 million acres pushed overall production projections downward. New crop corn production is now estimated at 15.15 billion bushels, which if realized would be the third-largest U.S. corn crop on record.

Based on this reduction in production projections and lower beginning

stocks from increased old-crop exports and domestic use, the projection for total 2024 ending stocks have been reduced to 2.07 billion bushels. Markets responded to this neutral report positively. The December 2024 corn futures contract has been hovering around the \$4 mark since it first went below \$4 on July 31. This marks a return to low prices – with corn below \$4 not seen in nearly four years.

At the state level, nine states are projected to have record yields – nearly a quarter of states for which USDA projects corn production figures. All record-yield states are in the Midwest or Northwest, with Washington projected to have the highest yield in the country at a record 250 bushels per acre. Missouri has the largest year-over-year percentage increase at 18.3%, reaching 181 bushels per acre. States throughout the Southeast are facing lower yields than last year, with the largest year-over-year decline in drought-stricken South Carolina, down to only 95 bushels per acre. While low prices hurt all farmers, they will feel especially acute in states that are facing steep declines in yields, resulting in decreased revenue per acre on both price and production.

Soybean production is projected to be a record 4.59 billion bushels, a 10.2% increase over 2023. The month-over-month projection increase is due to both an

increase in yield, up to a record 53.2 bushels per acre and an additional million planted acres.

Over 80% of the 154 million additional projected bushels produced were added to ending stocks on the balance sheet, pushing projected ending stocks to 560 million bushels. Ending stocks are now projected to be 62% higher than estimates for the end of the 2023 crop year. With 2024 projected production coming in well above industry expectations, markets responded decisively to this bearish report. The November soybean futures contract closed at \$9.86, the first time the most-active Chicago Board of Trade contract has fallen below \$10 since September 2020.

At the state level, five states are projected to have record yields including Illinois (66 bushels per acre), Indiana (62 bushels per acre), Ohio (59 bushels per acre), Mississippi (58 bushels per acre), Arkansas (57 bushels per acre) and Missouri (51 bushels per acre). Texas is projected to have the highest year-over-year percentage increase at 52%, reaching 38 bushels per acre. New Jersey is projected to have the largest year-over-year percentage decline at 20.9%, falling to 34 bushels per acre.

Winter wheat production is up 1.5% from July projections, reaching 1.36 billion bushels, all due to yields rising to 53.2 bushels per acre.

Despite planted winter wheat acres being down 8.8% from 2023, harvested acres are up 3.7% and total production is up 9.1% year-over-year.

2024 is a year of big crops, with production estimates for corn, soybeans, cotton and wheat all higher than 2023. Larger crops are weighing on already low commodity prices, with prices for corn and soybeans returning to 2020 levels.

Of course, while commodity prices have sunk back to levels unseen in four years, production costs continue to climb. In fact, USDA estimates put the per-acre cost-of-production increase between 24-29% for corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton between 2020 and 2024. Elevated input prices and falling commodity prices put the squeeze on farmers, many of whom will be losing money on their 2024 crops.

In tight years, it pays for farmers to think ahead. Futures can provide insights into marketing opportunities. Currently, futures are showing roughly a 30-cent gain from December 2024 to July 2025 corn contracts, and a over 55 cent carry for soybeans between November 2024 to July 2025. This means that corn and soybeans delivered in July rather than off the combine are worth 5% to 7.5% more per bushel. So, the market is paying farmers to store their crops – if they have access to storage or favorable elevator storage rates.

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

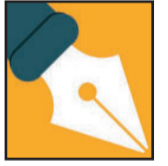


Ron Kern

## New political letter policy

THE Ogle County Life is implementing a new political letter policy. We will now be accepting election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a 200-word letter and 10 cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to

letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections. Will we still publish letters complaining about the county board or school board? Yes. But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for



or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words. Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters:

The primary election is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 issue of the Ogle County Life must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at [jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com](mailto:jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com).

## 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.

## Consider this: The VP debate

WHAT did you think of the Vice-Presidential Debate between Senator JD Vance and Gov. Tim Walz? Personally, I thought it went well for both candidates. Although many will give you a reason why this candidate or that won the debate, I was glad to see what these debates are all about. Knowledge concerning the party’s platforms as they pertain to the questions asked. When this happens, the debate is useful and there is no true winner.

I thought that Tim Walz started out slowly and was a bit nervous. Something I would certainly be if I had been in his shoes. He, as I understand, had not debated before. During much of the debate Walz reiterated the platform we have heard about from him and Vice President Harris on the campaign trail. There is no doubt about what the Democratic platform has in store for our future. So, in the scheme of things, I thought he did very well and had more details about his party’s proposals. What were your thoughts about how Walz did? Did you learn what you wanted to?

As far as Sen. Vance is concerned, I thought he did very well, too. Some of the information I heard on their campaign trail wasn’t repeated so I was happy about that. Yet,

I did wonder what happened to the campaigning Vance. In the debate he was professional, quick to respond, and very cordial. I haven’t seen any of this in his speeches around the country. What were your thoughts about this side of him? Did you learn any more in the debate about the missing Republican platform?

And the platform is missing. We only have Project 2025 and what it details. We do know that the Republicans want to deport many millions of illegal immigrants. Yet with a movement this big, how would they reinforce the economy to make it through an effort this detrimental to it? Even if they could determine who is in our country illegally and who is here legally. In their speeches, former President Trump and Vance seem to have already written off the Haitians in Springfield, Ohio as illegal; which they are not.

The Republicans also want to place across-the-board tariffs on many imports including food-stuffs. Do we really think that other countries will absorb the costs of these tariffs and not raise their prices? These other countries will pay the tariffs, the U.S. government will see the income from

them, and the consumers, us, will pay for the tariffs through price increases. We pay for them and the money ends up in the U.S. Government treasury. When I pay the government, I call it taxes.

Towards the end of the debate, I became very interested in a few comments by Vance. As reported by MSNBC, one was: “When Vance was asked if he would seek to challenge the results of the 2024 election if he and Trump lost, he deflected. “I believe that we actually do have a threat to democracy in this country,” he said. “It is the threat of censorship.” Vance later added, “Kamala Harris is engaged in censorship at an industrial scale.” You can find this at: [www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/jd-vance-claim-democrats-censoring-conservatives-rcna173859](http://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/jd-vance-claim-democrats-censoring-conservatives-rcna173859).

Just how does the Executive branch engage in censorship? How would they stop the internet from placing online what you and others have to say? How would they stop each paper in the country from publishing your opinions? How would they tell Congress to write a law of censorship of free speech? If you watch any C-SPAN or other news about

congressional hearings, you’ve seen where it is almost impossible for any particular social media or news outlet to be asked to take fiction off their sites let alone be told to. In the same article mentioned above, there was another statement by Vance to try and prove that the censorship was happening: “One example appeared in the debate itself, when Vance alleged to Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, ‘You yourself have said there’s no First Amendment right to misinformation.’ What he — and the conservative influencers who made this old quote go viral over the summer — didn’t tell viewers was that Walz was speaking about misinformation in the context of voter intimidation and disenfranchisement, neither of which are protected speech.”



Reed Harris

There are so many more examples of various untruths, (to be polite), that what we need to do as voters is to check various political fact checking sites to get the truth. It shouldn’t have to be this way. We should not have to do this. But this is the way of politics today. More on one side than the other. So, Vance was professional, quick to respond, and very cordial. But did he always tell the truth or nearly the whole truth? Only you can decide.

# VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

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## With Madigan trial beginning, lawmakers still won't strengthen ethics

**P**OLITICAL corruption undermines and erodes public trust in government. There should be no place in our political landscape for those who would use their elected position for personal gain. On this, there should be full bipartisan agreement. This week, the highest profile political corruption trial of our time will take center stage in a federal courtroom in Chicago. Former Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan will face 22 counts of racketeering conspiracy, attempted extortion, and wire fraud for allegedly using his official position to corruptly lead a decade-long criminal enterprise to enhance his own power while simultaneously channeling income to some of his top allies.

Madigan is the longest-serving Speaker of the House in American history, having served all but two years in the Speaker's chair from 1982-2021. He ruled with an iron fist, and it was widely known that if a legislator or lobbyist wanted a bill passed, they had to have the blessing of the Speaker.

You may recall that back in 2020 when I served in the Illinois House, I was one of three petitioners who called for a House investigation into alleged corruption activities of Madigan. This request was made in response to information that had emerged regarding an alleged arrangement between the Speaker, one of his closest confidants, and ComEd, where funds were allegedly funneled to Madigan allies in exchange for a

favorable vote on energy legislation. ComEd admitted to their role in the agreement in exchange for a deferred prosecution agreement with the federal government.

The special investigation committee only heard from one witness who provided damning testimony before the Democrat House Committee Chair abruptly shut down the investigation.

I was elected to the General Assembly (GA) in 2018, and my legislative agendas have always included measures that would elevate the ethical standards for those who serve. Just a few of the bills I sponsored or co-sponsored while serving in the Illinois

House from 2019-2022 include instituting term limits for legislative leaders, bills that ease the path for the state's Legislative Inspector General to investigate alleged wrongdoings by legislators, legislation that prohibits sitting lawmakers from also working as lobbyists, and bills that prevent Democrats from blocking bills when there is bipartisan sponsorship.

Every one of these bills was blocked by Democrats. Not one of them reached the House floor for a vote.

My commitment to raising the ethical bar for lawmakers extended into this current 103rd GA as well, with my sponsorship of SB 3260, which pro-

hibits the use of political funds in any court defense related to a legislator's public service, and SB 3158, which strips current or former lawmakers of their GA license plates if they are convicted of a felony related to their public service.

I filed SB 3260 after learning that many elected officials were paying for their political corruption court defenses with their campaign funds, which allowed them to shield their personal assets.

With regard to SB 3158, after serving a determined number of years in the GA, legislators can purchase under the statewide fee structure for license plates, plates that identify them as an Illinois lawmaker. Retired legislators who serve a determined period of time are

able to purchase retired legislator plates. I feel strongly that legislators, current or retired, who are convicted of crimes associated with their service in the GA, should not be able to display legislative plates.

Both of these bills were filed eight months ago and both languish in the Senate Assignments committee, having never been granted hearings.

Again, there should be no place in politics for those who use their position for personal gain. I will continue to push for higher ethical standards and invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in restoring public trust in government.

*Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is the Illinois state senator for the 45th District.*



**Andrew Chesney**



**Chuck Roberts**



**Carolyn Austin**

## The left's alternatives to democracy

**T**HE left (the Democrat party) has lost their minds concerning the former president as a presidential candidate running for a second term. Since they think the former president may win, they are relying on something other than the voters to come through for their candidate. Here are some of the undemocratic means used to keep the former president from winning the presidency.

Early on, the left tried to remove the former president from state ballots. Courts dismissed this effort. Then, several lawsuits, both federal and state, attempted to remove the former president from the ballot via bankruptcy or frivolous charges. So far, some of these have been dismissed but are distracting; however, they have not been success-

ful in derailing the former president's candidacy. Inflammatory rhetoric has been a tool of the left. The current president said, and I quote, "Time to put Donald Trump in the bullseye." On social media X (formerly Twitter), the Biden campaign posted a graphic titled "TRUMP PARROTS HITLER." Rick Wilson, founder of the Lincoln Project, said, and I quote, "They're still going to have to go out and put a bullet in Donald Trump." This rhetoric has encouraged deranged people to take action, visa-vie assassination attempts #1 and #2.

The Secret Service has dropped the ball on their responsibilities to protect the former president. The Secret Service is a federal law enforcement agency tasked with conducting investigations into currency and finan-

cial payment crimes and protecting U.S. political leaders, their families, and visiting heads of state or government. I believe the Secret Service should focus on protecting our leaders and leave financial crime responsibilities to the Department of the Treasury. From the Washington Times, and I quote, "FBI officials ordered an agent to scrub his Facebook page and delete anti-Trump vitriol before they would promote him to head the bureau's Miami field office, which covers Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate." Apparently, it is well known that the FBI has become politicized in the past few years.

Finally, the most significant tool adverse to the former president is voter

fraud, which pundits often claim is about 2% of the voter tally. This amount of fraud can determine the results in close races. In 1996, Congress passed a law which prohibits aliens (noncitizens) from voting in federal elections. It does not prohibit noncitizens from voting in state elections. Some states register noncitizens to vote but do not differentiate between state registration and federal registration. Consequently, noncitizens can submit a ballot in

a federal election, which is illegal. In his letter to Congress on July 8, 2024, President Biden opposed proof of citizenship requirements for voting. Newsweek reported on over 6,000 known illegal aliens registered to vote

in the state of Virginia. If they actually vote, this is voter fraud. Justfacts.com reported on a study that showed that 10% to 27% of noncitizens are registered to vote. If these noncitizens actually vote, there could be 1-3 million illegal votes resulting from the 11 million illegal migrants who, according to the BBC, have entered the US during the Biden/Harris administration. Considering that in 2020, Pennsylvania was won by only 87,000 votes and Georgia by only 12,000 votes, illegal votes by noncitizens could easily change the outcome of the election.

It should be noted that illegal aliens would most likely vote Democrat, which in my opinion, is the reason the borders are open. If the illegal aliens crossing the border were expected to vote Repub-

lican, the borders would have been shut down several years ago. Illegal alien voter fraud is not the only form of voter fraud. Check out the report from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (An Agency of the Federal Government) on their report on the vulnerabilities of electronic voting machines.

Voter fraud is probably the most significant tactic used by the left to attempt to defeat the former president. Loose voter registration requirements brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and a lack of resolve by some politicians to provide a methodology to verify the citizenship of voters aids in the development of voter fraud activity. It should be noted that U.S. citizen voters do not determine the results of elections, ballots do.

## Program's aim: Make LGBTQ+ seniors safe in Illinois when seeking help

**A** new state-funded program will help older Illinoisans feel more comfortable and more confident they can openly and safely be who they are, at a time when violence and abuse are growing.

**OUTSafe:** The LGBTQ+ Older Adult Violence Prevention Training Program is a partnership between the state and agencies serving seniors across Illinois to extend a warmer welcome to LGBTQ+ seniors by helping service providers better understand and meet their needs as they age.

They point to examples like one central Illinois

man, who struggled as he moved into a long-term care facility.

"When he moved into that community, he had to go back in the closet for fear of retaliation or discrimination," said my colleague, Scott Linde, one of the OUTSafe training program's developers. "And he lived there for six years as a straight man. And thank goodness his daughter bought a duplex and she let him move in on the other side. So he escaped that."

He's far from alone.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports hate crimes based on sexual orientation in Illinois increased by almost seven

times from 2020 to 2022, and hate crimes based on gender identity increased by more than four times during that period. Nearly 5 percent of Illinois' population is LGBTQ+, but exact numbers on the senior population is unclear because many fear they will be treated differently as they leave their homes for assisted care. Emotional abuse, financial exploitation, and physical abuse are among the most common concerns.

OUTSafe aims to take the issue head on. The program was developed by our organization, Age-

Linc, the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland serving central Illinois, and a number of partners who serve LGBTQ+ seniors. A state grant through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority was championed by state Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield.

OUTSafe offers free competency and sensitivity training to law enforcement, health care, social service, and other providers who engage with LGBTQ+ seniors. They learn about the most appropriate way to address terms and language unique

to the community, and how to provide assurances these older adults will be safe, supported and respected when they are seeking help.

The training is intended to be an introductory course on violence prevention and cultural competency, and we are reaching out statewide now to agencies that might be interested in helping us train hundreds of workers in the coming months.

Our goal is simple, because we know embracing and supporting LGBTQ+ seniors is easier today than in the past. But we must be clear: It might be easier, yet it is not easy. They have very

understandable fear and anxiety about what comes next when they are out.

We hope the training helps raise public awareness of the unique needs of LGBTQ+ seniors, so they no longer have to feel victimized or invisible like the central Illinois man who was part of our local PrideLinc group before he felt pressured to be someone he is not. We cannot sit silently any longer.

We encourage anyone interested in our training to learn more at: <https://agelinc.org/lgbt-support/>.

*Carolyn Austin is CEO of AgeLinc (Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland) in Springfield.*

## Protect access to prescription drugs for marginalized seniors

**A**MERICA'S poorest seniors could soon find it much harder to get the medicines they need. That's because Medicare's Low-Income Subsidy program -- which provides millions of seniors with prescription drug coverage that comes with no monthly premium -- is eroding. And recent changes made in the Inflation Reduction Act are partly to blame. The number of "benchmark" LIS plans -- which offer coverage without a monthly premium -- plummeted 34% last year

alone. As a result of some plans being discontinued or increasing their monthly premium, over 1.3 million seniors were reassigned to a different plan by CMS. Many other seniors had no choice but to opt for more expensive alternative plans that require monthly premiums, jeopardizing their access to life-saving medicines -- or reducing what they can spend on other necessities like groceries and rent. The Low-Income Subsidy program is a lifeline for roughly 13 million Americans. Low-income seniors are disproportionately

burdened by chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease, so whether they can afford prescriptions can be a matter of life and death. Only seniors whose annual earnings are less than 150% of the federal poverty line -- about \$22,500 for a single person or \$30,500 for a couple -- qualify for the program. By the numbers, communities of color are especially reliant on these subsidies. Combined, Black and Hispanic beneficiaries make up just 20% of Medicare drug plan enrollees. But within the

subsidy program, Black and Hispanic beneficiaries total 37% of enrollees. At the same time, minority seniors tend to experience more negative health outcomes when compared to their White counterparts. The data show that Black and Hispanic Medicare subscribers have higher hospitalization rates and an increased likelihood of suffering from chronic conditions like hypertension. That's what makes the sharp reduction in Medicare's low-income subsidy plans so alarming. The decline is, in part, the

result of changes made to the Part D program in the Inflation Reduction Act. Low-income subsidy enrollees are increasingly having to turn to higher-premium plans. The number who now have to pay premiums has increased by more than one million just since last year. The financial burden on seniors varies by state. As two examples, Medicare drug-plan premiums within the low-income subsidy group can exceed \$155 in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Just as concerning is the fact that premiums

across all Medicare prescription drug plans are rising. Average monthly premiums are projected to increase by at least 21% by the end of this year. It's a concerning situation. Without swift action from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Congress, America's poorest seniors risk losing access to the medicines they need to live healthy lives. *Dr. Yanira Cruz is the President and CEO of the National Hispanic Council on Aging. This piece originally ran in Medical Economics.*

# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Celebrating 40 years of ministry: (Left to right) Former Pastor Randy Newton with wife Paula, current Pastor Billy Hardy with wife Beth, and Former Pastor Randy Snider with wife Mary, who all spoke at the special anniversary event. A heartfelt display of memories, highlighting photos from the past and present that celebrate the journey and milestones. A special luncheon, complete with a celebratory cake, was enjoyed following the service on Sunday, Sept. 29.**

## Leaf River Baptist Church commemorates 40th anniversary

**LEAF RIVER** — On Sunday, Sept. 29, Leaf River Baptist Church gathered in unity and gratitude to celebrate 40 years of worship, community, and spiritual growth.

The milestone event welcomed former pastors, church members, and friends for a weekend filled with worship, music, and fellowship, highlighting the church's enduring legacy in Leaf River. The celebration service on Sunday was the highlight of the weekend, featuring inspirational messages from former pastors, each reflecting on their time leading the church and sharing how their faith journeys have been shaped by their time at Leaf River Baptist Church.

These guest speakers offered words of encour-

agement, hope, and joy, reinforcing the church's mission and dedication to the community over the past four decades. Adding to the spirit of the occasion, a special choir delivered moving performances that included favorite hymns and contemporary songs of worship.

The congregation was lifted in praise as the music reflected the church's commitment to offering a meaningful worship experience through the years. Following the service, the congregation gathered for a celebratory luncheon, which took place at the church.

Members of the church, along with honored guests and community supporters, enjoyed an afternoon of reflection, laughter, and gratitude as they shared

stories and memories of the church's impact on their lives. The luncheon provided a warm opportunity for fellowship, further strengthening the bonds between current and past generations of church members.

Billy Hardy, the church's current pastor, expressed heartfelt appreciation for everyone who has contributed to the life of the church over the last 40 years.

"This celebration is a testament to God's faithfulness and the dedication of this church family. We honor our past as we look forward to the future, confident that God has much more in store for us," Hardy said. As Leaf River Baptist Church moves forward, the congregation remains dedicated to continuing its mission to serve the community and share the



love of Christ. Plans are already in place for expanded outreach efforts and initiatives to deepen

the church's impact in Leaf River and surrounding communities. For more information about Leaf River Baptist

Church and upcoming events, visit [leafriverchurch.org](http://leafriverchurch.org) or contact Hardy at 815-738-2205 or [billy@leafriverbaptist.org](mailto:billy@leafriverbaptist.org).

# 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

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON**—On Sept. 30 at approximately 10:49 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 2 and Townhall Road. After investigation, deputies placed Tristen M. Austin, 22, of Mt. Morris, under arrest for an outstanding Stephenson County warrant. Austin was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 1 at approximately 11:43 p.m. deputies responded to a 911 hang up at 122 N. Main St. Apt. A in Leaf River. Upon arrival, deputies learned a domestic had occurred and began to speak with all parties involved. While investigating the incident, Jennifer Albright, 44, of Leaf River, struck a deputy and was placed under arrest for aggravated battery to a police officer (class-two felony). Albright was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Oct. 1 at 10:17 a.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office responded to a motorcycle accident in the 7,100 block of North River Road. Investigation revealed that a 16-year-old male had lost control of his motorcycle while traveling southbound and had gone into the southbound ditch. The 16-year-old sustained injuries and was taken by the Byron Fire Department Ambulance to a Rockford hospital. Charges are pending.

On Oct. 2 at approximately 12:34 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a blue Honda on Interstate 39 northbound, near mile marker 105. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose W. Hernandez-Sanchez, 36, of Rockford, for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. Hernandez-Sanchez was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no rear registration light. Hernandez-Sanchez was released with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Oct. 2 at approxi-

mately 4:24 p.m. deputies responded to the 19,000 block of East South Malta Road in reference to a check welfare of a vehicle that was parked on the roadway with a male that was very lethargic. Upon arrival, Rochelle and Creston EMS had been contacted and responded to the scene. Rochelle EMS then transported the male to Rochelle Community Hospital for a mental evaluation. After investigation, deputies placed Justin Chaney, 50, of DeKalb under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Chaney was additionally issued citations for unlawful parking and operating an uninsured vehicle. Chaney was released on a notice to appear at the hospital and was given a future court date.

On Oct. 2 at approximately 2:09 p.m. deputies and the Dixon Rural Fire Department responded to the 7,000 block of South Ridge Road for the report of a single-vehicle crash. After an investigation, it was learned Michael Essex, 29, of Franklin Grove, was traveling southbound when he drove off of the roadway, through the east ditch before crashing into a creek embankment. Essex was transported to KSB Hospital for his injuries. Essex was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol, illegal transportation of alcohol, improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, and failure to wear a seatbelt. Essex was released on a notice to appear.

On Oct. 3 at approximately 9:27 p.m. deputies responded to a domestic in the 2,000 block of Rogene Drive in rural Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Gabrielle Sandell, 18, of Oregon under arrest for two counts of domestic battery. Sandell was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Oct. 3 at approximately 9:08 p.m. deputies

responded to the 3,000 block of South Freeport Road in reference to a physical domestic. After an investigation, Shelly R. Mummert, 73, of Polo, was arrested for domestic battery. Mummert was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held awaiting an appearance before a judge.

On Oct. 3 at about 10 a.m. after a lengthy investigation, the Ogle County Sheriff's Special Operations Unit, with the assistance of the Illinois Conservation Police, conducted a search warrant at 308 N. Mix St. in Oregon. As a result of the search, The Ogle County Sheriff's Special Operations Unit placed Brandon Scott Miller, 30, of Oregon, under arrest for unlawful production of cannabis sativa plants, a class-four felony. Miller was transported to the Ogle County Jail and, due to the SAFE-T Act, was subsequently released on a notice to appear. The investigation is ongoing, and further charges are pending.

On Oct. 4 at approximately 7:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of West Flagg Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Tabatha L. McLaughlin, 49, Dixon, for driving while license revoked and an outstanding Lee County warrant for failure to appear. McLaughlin was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she posted bond and was released with a return court date for driving while revoked.

On Oct. 4 at approximately 10:02 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a grey Toyota sedan in the 4,000 block of West Pines Road. After an investigation deputies arrested Dominic O. Holman, 19, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Additionally, Holman was cited for improper lane usage. Holman was released with a notice to appear at a future court date.

On Oct. 5 at 3:54 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic

stop in the 15,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. As a result, Nathan K. Wright, 42, of Monroe Center was arrested for driving while license revoked and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail and later released on a notice to appear.

On Oct. 5 at 7:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Steward Road and Ritchie Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Guadalupe Reyes, 53, of Aurora for driving while under the influence of alcohol. Reyes was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. Reyes was additionally issued citations for expired registration and operate motor vehicle without insurance.

On Oct. 5 at approximately 11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a red Toyota van at the intersection of Illinois Route 26 and Coffman

Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Lance D. Ferguson, 28, of Freeport, for driving while license suspended. Additionally, Ferguson was cited for expired registration. Ferguson was released with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Oct. 5 at approximately 6:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a silver Chevrolet sedan in the 300 block of South 3rd Street, in Oregon. After an investigation deputies arrested Blaze L.A. Simmons, 33, of Ashton, for driving while license suspended. Additionally, Simmons was cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Simmons was released with a notice to appear at a future court date.

On Oct. 6 at approximately 1:12 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 2 and Townhall Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Michael A.

Criscione, 25, of Byron for driving under the influence of alcohol. Criscione was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice appear. Criscione was additionally issued citations for unsafe equipment, no registration, operating a vehicle without insurance, and no headlights.

On Oct. 7 at approximately 9:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Freeport Road and Milledgeville Road. After investigation, deputies placed Yimy Mairena Iscano, 28, of Freeport under arrest for no valid driver's license. Mairena Iscano was additionally issued citations for speeding and an inoperable registration light. Mairena Iscano was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## CFNIL accepting applications for In Youth We Trust grants

**ROCKFORD** — The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is now accepting applications for the In Youth We Trust (IYWT) youth grant program until 5 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2024. Applications must be submitted by youth-led groups or organizations serving youth in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, or Winnebago Counties, using the forms found at <https://cfnil.org/grants/youth>. Applications will be reviewed by the In Youth We Trust Council, a group of local high school students who convene monthly at the Community Foundation of Northern Il-

linois to learn about grant-making, volunteerism, and community leadership.

Applicants can request a maximum of \$3,000. Recent recipients include Auburn Key Club, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Rochelle Interact Club, and Winnovation FIRST Robotics.

The IYWT Council looks for projects that:

- Promote collaboration and teamwork,
- Provide creative solutions to community issues,
- Help youth recognize the important role they plan within their communities,
- Have a clear, practical

plan for implementation and a realistic budget, and - Have measurable and meaningful results.

Applicants must be part of a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public institution (such as a school), and/or an organized group carrying out a charitable purpose for the public good. Additionally, youth should be involved in every aspect of the grant process, including project planning, grant writing, and project implementation.

For complete program details and to access the application, visit <https://cfnil.org/grants/youth>.

## Chesney announces \$81,150 Literacy Grant for Highland Community College

**FREEPORT** — State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) has announced that Highland Community College (HCC) is receiving an \$81,150 Adult Literacy Grant through the Secretary of State's Adult Literacy Program. Funding for the program comes from state and federal sources. "I am always glad to

see state and federal grant dollars coming back to the 45th District," Chesney said. "This allocation will go far in providing valuable adult literacy programming for the HCC service area."

According to Chesney, the adult literacy program utilizes volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one instruction for adults who

want to improve their reading, math, writing and language skills.

"Literacy unlocks opportunities for adults to more fully engage in their communities and enrich their lives," Chesney said. "When adults can read, write, do math, and use a computer, they are more likely to achieve personal goals."

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### Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

### Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

- HOPE of Ogle County** **562-8890 or 732-7796**
- Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs**

### Low Income Housing

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

### Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

- P.O. Box 628**
- Oregon, IL 61061** **815-222-8869**

### Mental Health

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

### Senior Citizens Services

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

### Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

### Therapeutic

- Pegasus Special Riders** **973-3177**

### Veterans' Services

- 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

## REEVERTS: Ogle County farmer purchases 1980s model combine

**From page 1**

The Harris family added technology to their planters this year and are considering the purchase of a spray drone.

"Anything that makes the planting or chemical applications faster we're always interested in," Harris said. "As long as we can find out for ourselves that it's worth the money that we're going to spend on it."

Harris said while farmers often must rein in big dreams during tight margins, innovation is still possible if you manage your budget correctly.

"If you're not trying to improve your innovation, bring something new to your operation, look into the future and be a bit more prepared, then you are falling behind," Harris said.

A spray drone is one investment that has paid off in recent years for Marion County farmer Andy Headley, who raises corn, soybeans and cattle with his dad and brother.

"We saved a lot of money by applying our own fungicide rather than hiring a plane, and it's easier to do it and more timely," he said.

He said while they generally stick to what is "tried and true" when income is down, they don't rule out new ideas.

"You just have to watch and make sure you're going to get a decent return on your investment if you're going to spend money during these times."

That is a point that fifth-generation Ogle County farmer Ryan Reeverts considered a few weeks ago when he purchased his first piece of equipment; a 1981 International axial flow combine with 4,100 hours.

While that's not the typical mental image of the term "innovation," Reeverts said it was the next logical step for growth in his second year of cash renting ground on his own.

"It's gotten to a point where I needed to justify that custom harvest payment versus trying to purchase my own machine to cover my own acres," he said.

While he wanted to look for something newer with the capability to add GPS and in-cab yield monitors, he said he went in with a mindset that he can always upgrade when money allows.

"With these tighter margins it just gets to a position where we've got to hold off on those opportunities and look for new ways to adapt and overcome," Reeverts said.

One way he has done that is by securing an Environmental Quality Incentives Program contract with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"That's going to provide us with the ability to innovate the way we rotationally graze our cattle on our pasture," he said. "And that's going to improve our harvest efficiency when it comes to running those cows on smaller tracts of land."

Knowing that the ag economy is cyclical, Reeverts said he continues to think ahead.

"I think it's important to always look for opportunities to innovate and change the mindset toward what we're trying to accomplish on our operations," he said.

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

## Workshop highlights tourism marketing strategies for rural communities

**SHABBONA** — The benefits of small-town living seem apparent for those who live in a small town. However, it can be challenging for rural communities to market those benefits to a larger audience and increase tourism traffic. To address these challenges, University of Illinois Extension has partnered with Resource Bank to offer a workshop highlighting tools and ideas available for regional organizations, business owners, government officials, and local citizens to help their rural communities boost their tourism.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m., at Quilhot Schoolhouse Community Room in Resource Bank, 102 S. Indian Road, Shabbona. The presenting partners will offer a networking session immediately following the workshop. The event is free of charge and open to all interested parties who register in advance by visiting [go.illinois.edu/MarketingTourism-Shabbona](http://go.illinois.edu/MarketingTourism-Shabbona) or by calling Ogle County Extension at 815-732-2191 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Pam Schallhorn, a Specialist with Illinois Extension who works in community and economic development, will lead the workshop. She will address ways to create effective tourism marketing campaigns that reach different generations and provide insights into identifying target markets and the importance of digital marketing.

Rural tourism activities have been shown to foster local entrepreneurship, reverse the out-migration of young adults, provide local workforce opportunities, and expand economic opportunities in rural communities. Furthermore, a recent study (White, 2023) indicates that "recreation-dependent counties grew more than twice as fast as the nation overall, and the Midwest's recreation counties mirrored this trend."

Among the materials Schallhorn will cover will be a recent study by University of Illinois and Illinois Extension: I-Rural: Reimagining Illinois Rural Tourism. The workshop will review a rural tourism toolkit that allows communities and organizations to better understand and promote their communities and an updated grant resource guide.

For questions about the program or if reasonable accommodations are needed to attend the program, please contact Pam Schallhorn at [pscha2@illinois.edu](mailto:pscha2@illinois.edu). Early requests for accommodations are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet the requestor's needs.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Oct. 16:** Basics of Medicare Byron: An educational and informational presentation on the Medicare insurance program will be presented for the community at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the United Church of Byron located at 701 W. Second St., Byron. The emphasis will be on the eligibility and enrollment periods, benefits, and options concerning all parts of Medicare. All are welcome. Presenter will be Greg Wills for the program. This program is sponsored by the Legacy and Endowment Committee of The United Church of Byron as a community service. The United Church of Byron is a fun and diverse church with a heart for mission! Check us out at [www.unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://www.unitedchurchofbyron.org) Disclaimer: This program is educational and informational only. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all of your options.
- Oct. 16:** Men's Coffee Group will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at Sunrise, 116 N. 4th St. Oregon, from 9-10 a.m. This group is for all bereaved men in the community. Please call 815-732-4111 to register.
- Oct. 17:** Bereavement Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 5-6 p.m. at The Serenity Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon. Please call Dana or Cathy at 815-732-4111 to find out the month's book and sign up for the group. The group size is limited.
- Oct. 18:** Diamond Art will be held on Friday, Oct. 11 & 18 from 9-11 a.m. at The Serenity Shed, 131 N. 3rd St. Oregon. Please bring your own supplies. Please call 815-732-4111 to register.
- Oct. 19:** The United Women of Faith of the Ashton Methodist Church are hosting a Kuchen Coffee and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 8:30-11 a.m. Ashton is known for its delicious homemade kuchen in the favorites of cherry, peach, and prune. Kuchens will be available for sale in the bake sale area in addition to many other baked delights. The church is located at the corner of North Richardson Avenue and North 4th Street in Ashton. There is ample parking and the church is handicapped accessible. See you on Oct. 19 for kitchen, coffee and fellowship.
- Oct. 26:** All Saints Lutheran Church in Byron will host "Hallway Halloween" on Saturday, Oct. 26. Hallway Halloween Trick or Treat hours are from 4-6 p.m. and from 5-7 p.m. A chili and hot dog supper will be offered. Enjoy the decorated stations as you collect delicious treats. Stay warm and enjoy a fun new way of trick or treating in an indoor environment. Treats and chili and hot dog supper provided by members of All Saints Lutheran Church. All Saints Lutheran Church is located at 624 Luther Drive, Byron. The event is free and open to the community. "Hallway Halloween" is a fun way to experience Trick or Treating. All ages are welcome and invited to enjoy our annual event. Please contact the church at 815-234-5277 with questions you may have.
- Oct. 27:** Join us in the east parking lot of United Church of Byron (701 W. 2nd St.) on Sunday, Oct. 27 for a fun Trunk or Treat event for the whole family starting at 4 p.m. and concluding at 6 p.m. We will also have hot dogs, chips and drinks that day. This will be held rain or shine! If raining, trunk or treat will take place inside the church. Non-candy treats will be handed out to kids who have food allergies or medical conditions. Please let us know if this is you! We are blue pumpkin friendly. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 815-234-8777.

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# LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY LIFEWORKS)

The students worked over the summer to create the four art works to donate to the Williams Fund for the Arts annual art show fundraiser, which had to be canceled, due to Danny Williams' battle with multiple myeloma. The Daniel and Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts was established in 2018 to help future artists bring statues, sculptures, murals and other permanent or semi-permanent art projects to life in the community.

## ART: HUB Project works to be auctioned off to benefit Williams fund

From page 1

"For me, giving back to the community is a big thing and our HUB Program is a big part of our community," Nambo said. "I think our kids are always trying to find ways to give back to our community or help out. They're always excited to do projects that they know are going to be for a good cause. It's a form of giving back to our community and making sure we're instilling those values in our students. The HUB Program depends a lot on our community with people and organizations coming in and providing services for our kids at no charge."

The auction is ongoing and will run through Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. Four mosaic pieces are available, identified by the numbers 1-4. Bidding can be done through Facebook comments on the auction post, through private messaging on Facebook, and emailing bids to director@rochellefoundation.org. Bidders must send their name, the piece number, and the amount they want to bid. The mosaic pieces can be viewed in person at the RACF office at 350 May Mart Drive during regular business hours. RACF will make weekly announcements sharing the highest bid amounts for each piece. During the last week of the auction, RACF will post daily bid updates to keep everyone informed of the current highest bids. Winners will

be notified Nov. 1. If you wish to donate directly to the fund without bidding, visit rochellefoundation.org and click "Donate," then select the fund you wish to support. HUB Program Art Teacher Lillian Andrew said her students learned about mosaics and their history before each student made a paper mosaic. The group then brainstormed themes for four different collaborative mosaics. Andrew drew up designs and students arranged the pieces and put them together. The mosaics were made by students from first grade up to eighth grade. "The kids love them and I love them," Andrew said. "I'm really proud of them and I love seeing the kids'

ideas come through. For one of them, they wanted planets as well as a desert theme and you can see that in the piece. They're ecstatic about them. They loved using a different material and exploring and using those tools." The HUB Program is specifically targeted to support the district's K-8 at-risk youth using a before and after-school model plus summer school. It provides educational activities for children and experiences such as members of the community coming in to do demonstrations for the students. Andrew said the extra time the program provides allows her to teach students about art in more detail than regular class time allows.

"One of the neat things about the HUB Program is that we're able to do things that aren't typically possible in the classroom," Nambo said. "Lillian might not be able to teach the art of mosaic to that extent in art class. During the day she sees kids once a week for 40 minutes. In summer HUB, she's able to have them 4-5 days straight and get into more detail and explore more careers with them." Nambo said the HUB Program is big on making sure it involves the community and takes any chance it can to pay back those that have helped out with it in the past. RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said she's enjoyed seeing the collaboration that has yielded the auction

of the mosaic pieces. "It teaches our youth in the HUB Program that everyone, no matter their age, can make a difference," Anaya said. "The mosaic pieces these kids made are stunning, and we love that we are able to auction them off using our Facebook page so we can reach all of our friends on social media. We are hoping for an amazing turnout, and 100 percent of the proceeds go into the Danny and Stephanie Williams Fund For The Arts, ensuring continued support for local arts here in the Rochelle community. This is just another way our donors and partners find creative ways to raise money in support of local causes they have a passion for."

## Smith admitted to professional education program at UW-Whitewater

**WHITEWATER, Wis**—Hailey Smith from Stillman Valley, who is studying elementary-middle education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has been admitted to the professional education program as part of their journey toward entering the workforce as an edu-

cator. Smith, a student in UW-Whitewater's College of Education and Professional Studies, has now begun taking upper-level courses for licensure required for the elementary education program on the way to student teaching, the final activity before

teacher candidates earn their degree and teaching license. "This milestone serves as a good checkpoint or indicator to confirm students are confident about becoming educators," Steven Fischer, director of advising in the College of Education and Profession-

al Studies, said. "These students are within the academic means to meet not only UWW graduation requirements, but Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction licensure requirements." Qualifications, which include credits completed, grade point average and

a completion of certain foundational coursework, differ based on major and licensure level. Approximately 350 students per academic year are admitted to the professional education program. This fall, a total of 175 students were admitted for in-person and online enrollment.

UW-Whitewater licenses the most teachers in the state of Wisconsin. Educating teachers was the university's original mission during its founding in 1868. To learn more about the College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-Whitewater, visit [www.uww.edu/coeps](http://www.uww.edu/coeps).



Polo Cub Scout Pack 337 sells at Chili Cookoff

On Saturday, Sept. 28 The Polo Cub Scout Pack 337 was uptown Polo at the Chili Cookoff selling popcorn and hot dogs, chips and a drink. They had a successful day and did well dealing the wind gusts from time to time. Thank you to the Scouts, the leaders, parents and grandparents that helped. You all did a great job. A big thank you to Sullivan's Foods in Mt. Morris for their donation. (Courtesy photos)



## MY BUSINESS, MY BANK

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# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

## The different types of breast cancer

**T**HE term “breast cancer” does not describe a single type of cancer, but rather several forms of a disease that can develop in areas of the breast. The American Cancer Society says breast cancer type is determined by the specific cells in the breast that become cancerous. There are many different types of breast cancer, and the medical community’s understanding of the disease is based on decades of research and millions of patients treated.

In 2001, Dr. Charles Perou first classified breast cancer into subtypes based on genomic patterns. The Breast Cancer Research Foundation says breast cancer is broadly divided into two types: non-invasive breast cancers and invasive breast cancers. Non-invasive breast cancers are called Stage 0 breast cancers or carcinomas in situ. These are thought to be the precursors to breast cancer, says the BCRF. While non-invasive breast cancers are not initially life-threatening, if left untreated, they can develop into invasive breast cancers, which can be fatal. Here is a look at some



of the different types of breast cancer.

• **Invasive ductal carcinoma:** This is the most common type of breast cancer, advises the Na-

tional Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®. Invasive ductal carcinoma accounts for 70 to 80 percent of all breast cancer diagnoses in women and

men. This cancer forms in the milk ducts and spreads beyond.

• **Invasive lobular carcinoma:** This is the second most common type of breast cancer, accounting for 10 to 15 percent of diagnoses, says the BCRF. Invasive lobular carcinoma originates in the milk-producing glands of the breast known as lobules. Tumors that form due to invasive lobular carcinoma more commonly grow in lines in the breast rather than in lumps, so they present differently on a mammogram.

• **Inflammatory breast cancer:** Inflammatory breast cancer is a rare, fast-growing type of breast cancer. The in-

flammatory name comes from the appearance of the skin of the breast. It looks red and inflamed, which is caused by breast cancer cells blocking lymph channels in the breast and skin, says Breast Cancer Now, a research and support charity.

• **Triple-negative breast cancer:** The NBCF says a diagnosis of triple-negative breast cancer means the three most common types of receptors known to cause most breast cancer growths are not present in the cancer tumor. These receptors are estrogen, progesterone and the HER2/neu gene. Since the tumor cells lack necessary receptors, certain treatments like hormone

therapy and drugs that target these receptors are ineffective. Chemotherapy is still an option.

• **Metastatic breast cancer:** This type of breast cancer is also known as Stage IV breast cancer. Metastatic breast cancer originates in an area of the breast, but spreads (metastasizes) to another part of the body, most commonly the bones, lungs, brain, or liver, indicates BreastCancer.org.

Individuals hoping to learn more about breast cancer should be aware that there are various types of the disease. Which type an individual has is an important variable doctors consider as they plan a course of treatment.



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# Northern Illinois Football History: From struggling roots to state championship dominance

**BY MIKE WICKAM**  
SPECIAL TO THE OGLE COUNTY LIFE

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series highlighting the 1984 Leaf River Demons. The first part ran in the Monday, Oct. 7 edition of the Ogle County Life.*

After the halftime Parent's Night festivities, the Demons scored on a long touchdown run to tie it up but on the very next play Mooseheart returned the kickoff for a touchdown. It was now 14-6 at the start of the fourth quarter. With a short catch and long touchdown run by senior receiver Jeff McKinley, the Demons tied it up 14-14 and the fourth quarter was starting to look like a track meet.

After forcing Mooseheart to punt on the ensuing possession, the Demons burned up over five minutes of clock on a long drive all the way down to the Mooseheart 1-yard line and had three chances to punch it in. Run stuffed. Pass broken up.

And, finally.....finally.....another run stuffed on fourth down. Ugh! One yard. One yard! Jinx engaged? Poor Demons on the short end again? Not tonight, providence would prevail in a big way.

For some reason, the Mooseheart coaching staff called a pass from their own endzone on their first play. Out of nowhere, defensive tackle Scott Gentz (all 175 pounds of him) crushed their quarterback and caused a fumble in the endzone with linebacker Mickey Badertscher falling on the fumble for a touchdown. Leaf River had a 20-14 lead with just four minutes to go.

The Demons were actually leading a game. How would they handle this since they hadn't led in a game in over three years? Still a lot of work to do and ghosts to tackle.

After the kickoff, Mooseheart quickly got the ball down to the Leaf River 40-yard line, ultimately stalling out and they elected to punt to pin the Demons back and hopefully get a stop and

the ball back with some time left on the clock. The Demons came out with a vengeance. They got two first downs on the first two plays and got the ball all the way out to midfield.

With 90 seconds to go, all they had to do was continue to eat up yards and keep the ball out of Mooseheart's hands. Mooseheart stopped the clock twice with their final timeouts, and then came a Demon third down and two yards to go. Make the first down and it was over. It was right there in front of them for the taking. Two yards to the promised land.

Leaf River's most reliable running back had carried 20 times already that night for over 100 yards and was one of the senior co-captains. Quarterback Mic Badertscher called his number (the coach let Mic call all his own plays, mainly because the team had no written playbook). He took the hand-off, got hit at the line of scrimmage, spun out of it, stretched out for the first down and..... got hit right on the football.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Members of the Leaf River football team celebrate after snapping their 27-game losing streak against Mooseheart.**

Fumble. Recovered by Mooseheart with 32 seconds to go. The air went out of the team, out of the field, out of the fans, out of the town, out of the universe.

This can't be happening.

Mooseheart lined up to start taking shots at getting closer to the endzone for

a few last-ditch plays. Defensive backs were giving 10-yard cushions, linebackers were already in a drop zone and the defensive lineman knew it would be a pass. Mooseheart's play was a slant pass across the middle to a slot receiver. The pass was a bit high but the receiver came down with it, took

two steps and then was flat-backed by the same running back (now linebacker) who fumbled the ball one play earlier.

The ball pops out. Fumble. The Demons recover and run out the clock.

Yes, yes, a thousand times yes!

See FOOTBALL pg 2

## September 2024

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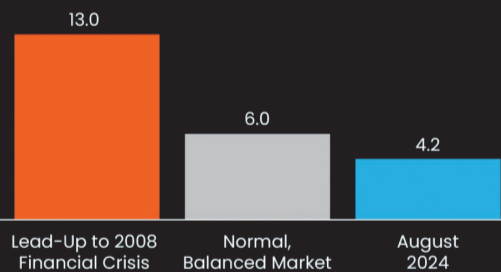
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### Housing Demand Still Outpaces Supply

Months' Supply of Inventory Compared to the Lead-Up to 2008 and a Balanced Market

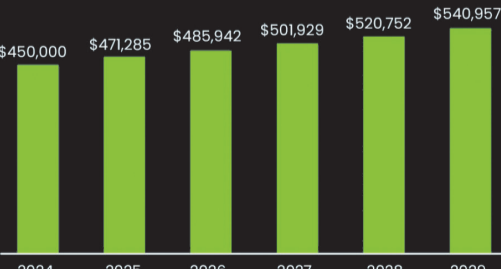


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Source: NAR

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Source: Q3 2024 HPES

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# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL: 27-game losing streak ended with victory over Mooseheart

**From page 1**

Bedlam ensued for the more than 50 or so fans who attended. The players tried to lift up their coach and carry him off the field. They got close.

For the Leaf River Demons, it was the Super Bowl, the World Series and an Olympic Gold Medal all wrapped into one. There were tears, prayers, jumping, and hugging. They had finally won. And it happened in the last football game ever to be played in Leaf River.

quarter, but they didn't care. To them, they were already world champions.

That 1984 Leaf River team put five players on the All-Conference Team; more than any Leaf River team in recent memory. Mike Carr – kicker (unanimous first team), Mic Badertscher – punter, Jeff Sundberg – offensive line, Mike Wickam – running back & linebacker, and Todd Gentz – defensive line. They also believed if their coaches hadn't been late to the all-conference meeting (they got lost), they would have landed their two receivers Todd Gentz and Jeff McKinley on that team as well. The coaches felt bad about that.

Mike Wickam – Monmouth College and Bethel University (MN), and Brett Fry – Manchester College (IN).

### Bridging the years

For these three 1984 players and their sons, their football experiences are similar in some instances and very different in others.

Todd Gentz highlighted the difference in opportunities available now: "The opportunity to play at such a young age was something we never had. My son is on his ninth year playing football. That is a big difference. We never played until we got to high school. I have also taken the perspective that I was going to push him harder to achieve his sports goals than I was pushed by my father."

Gentz fondly remembered the close-knit nature of his sports community. "I grew up with these guys and we were like family, so it had its special moments I will always remember. Regardless of our record, I loved every single second of practice and the games. It was the other players and just the sport, I guess, I was passionate about. I didn't really think about all the drama at our school around football, I just wanted to play, and to win a game. And we did."



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
A freeze frame of video footage from the Leaf River football team's victory over Mooseheart, which snapped a 27-game losing streak.

Another bridge from the past is that Brad Miller, current assistant coach at Byron High School where Sam Gentz is a senior, had his first coaching job in 1981 at Leaf River, coaching the 1984 seniors when they were freshmen.

For Eric Badertscher, just a sophomore on the 1984 team, that season was his only high school football experience. "Not having a lot of players definitely hurt us, but I think we played as well as we could have. From forfeiting, which was tough, to ultimately winning, which was the highlight of the year, after that, I felt my dream of playing football was over." But he came back to it

quickly and for a long time after serving in the US Air Force and Operation Desert Storm. After the service he played at Rockford College and then the Belvidere Rush for 14 more years, playing one of those years alongside his oldest son Erik when he was over 40 years old. Badertscher played on semi-pro teams while stationed in England and Belgium in multiple leagues among high-level talent from the US and Europe.

"For me the 1984 season was a catalyst for the 25 years of football I would eventually play," he said.

Mike Carr drew comparisons between past and present sports cultures. "My son and I had experiences that were very similar. We both put forth a lot of hard work but with opposite results. I was glad to have played with my best friends. So was he. The culture of sports has definitely changed from my childhood to his. Sports are more of a business and go on 12 months a year. There are a lot more opportunities for kids to be involved in camps and leagues."

Carr also shared his perspective on the changes. "I remember always feeling far outnumbered by the opponent, which we were, but was glad to be a part of something with my best friends, knowing that the odds were stacked against us. We were winners, regardless of the score. I was glad that I was part of something. That's pretty special."

Years pass, memories fade and life gets filled up with family, work and other pursuits. What happened that cold October night 40 years ago in Leaf River will remain with the players and the town. The legend lives on.

By the way, I was the running back who fumbled at the end of the game. 1984 Leaf River Demons. 1 win, 27 losses. World Champions.

This story was written by Mike Wickam, senior co-captain, 1984 Leaf River Demons. Mike is a partner and president of Proprietors Capital Holdings, a private equity firm in St. Paul, Minnesota.

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# Remember Your Veteran

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# SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, Forreton Junior/Senior High School celebrated the last junior high home football game of coach Lane Schurr. At the conclusion of the eighth grade game, the district took a moment to recognize and honor coach Schurr for his dedication to the Forrestville Valley School district and all of the students and athletes that he has impacted throughout his career.

## Schurr coaches final football game for FJSHS

**FORRESTON** — On Tuesday, Oct. 1, Forreton Junior/Senior High School celebrated the last junior high home football game of Coach Lane Schurr. At the conclusion of the eighth grade game, the district took a moment to recognize and honor Coach Lane Schurr for his dedication to the Forrestville Valley School district and all of the students and athletes that he has

impacted throughout his career. Many of his former players were in attendance to recognize Coach Schurr as he is set to retire at the conclusion of this school year. Coach Schurr has been on the sidelines for 31 football seasons in Forreton as well as two additional seasons in Galva. Of his 31 seasons in Forreton, 29 of those seasons were spent as the head coach of the junior

high football program. As the head coach, Coach Schurr had a compiled overall record of 118 wins, 74 losses, and one tie. During this time, he led eight different eighth grade teams to conference championships and was part of the coaching staff for three high school state championship teams.

While these are truly impressive accomplishments, many of Coach

Schurr's greatest accomplishments have come at the personal level with students and athletes. His commitment in leading by example has instilled the traits of hard work, responsibility, and being morally strong in an extraordinary number of students and athletes. There are countless young men and women in the world today who are better off because they were taught

or coached by Coach Schurr.

At the event on Tuesday, five guest speakers shared including Jason Bates (Galva graduate), Don Carlson (Former head football coach at Forreton), Garrett Roberts (Current asst. JH football coach), Keynon Janicke (current head football coach at Forreton), and Kyle Zick (athletic director at Forreton). Coach

Schurr was presented with a plaque on behalf of Forrestville Valley School District #221 by Superintendent Sheri Smith, Principal Travis Heinz, and the Board of Education.

Thank you to those who organized, hosted, and came out to support Coach Schurr on Oct. 1, as well as Coach Schurr for his work with our students and athletes.



### Byron High School cross country race at First to the Finish in Peoria

The Byron High School varsity cross country team went south for the First to the Finish Invitational in Peoria on Saturday, Sept. 14. The Tigers took 26th out of 52 teams in Class 1A and Tim Starwalt finished seventh out of 607 Class 1A runners with a time of 15:24.60. The Lady Tigers took 18th out of 40 teams in Class 1A and Ashley Potter finished 42nd out of 424 runners in Class 1A with a time of 19:32.40. Emma Franchi placed 94th in 20:47.10. (Courtesy photos)

### OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Oregon volleyball team falls against Lena-Winslow

The Oregon High School varsity volleyball team fell 12-25, 23-25 against Lena-Winslow on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Anna Stender recorded 19 digs, eight assists, three kills and two aces, while Grace Tremble added 10 digs and five kills. Skylar Bishop had three blocks and three kills.

#### Oregon boys soccer team wins over Rockford Christian

The Oregon High School varsity boys soccer team won 5-2 over Rockford Christian on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Steven Guardado scored two goals, while Danny Chismore added one goal and one assist. Eduardo Garcia totaled one goal and one assist for the Hawks (9-7-2, 4-4 BNC), who also saw David Eckardt score a goal and Cruz Hernandez add one assist.

#### Forreton volleyball team outlasts Orangeville

The Forreton High School varsity volleyball team outlasted Orangeville for a 19-25, 25-20, 25-21 win on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Jaiden Schneiderman finished with 28 kills and three aces, while Bree Schneiderman added 15 kills and seven digs. Ennen Ferris collected 38 assists, 13 digs, three aces and one block. Makenna Jordinson

had 14 digs and four aces, while Ayla Kiper contributed 14 digs as well.

#### Oregon football team scores win over Stillman Valley

The Oregon High School varsity football team defeated Stillman Valley 21-13 on Friday, Oct. 4. Hunter Bartel rushed for 86 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries, while Logan Weems rushed for 80 yards on 18 carries and Cooper Johnson ran for a 45-yard touchdown. Jaxon Barrett rushed for 98 yards and Brock Needs scored two touchdowns for the Cardinals.

#### Polo football team takes down Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity football team won 30-12 over Milledgeville on Friday, Oct. 4. Gus Mumford completed 6-of-9 passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns including a 67-yarder to Billy Lowry and a 10-yarder to Noah Dewey. Mumford also rushed for 150 yards and two scores for the Marcos in the win.

#### Forreton football team falls against Stockton

The Forreton High School varsity football team suffered a 44-20 loss against Stockton on Friday, Oct. 4. Eli Ferris ran for 40 yards and two touchdowns, while Evan Boettner ran for a team-high 127 yards and one

touchdown.

#### Byron football team shuts out Genoa-Kingston

The Byron High School varsity football team shut out Genoa-Kingston 52-0 on Friday, Oct. 4. Brayden Knoll rushed for 102 yards and three touchdowns, while Kaden McGough rushed for 46 yards and two touchdowns. Dawson Criddle returned an interception for a 51-yard touchdown and Ben Denton kicked a 26-yard field goal on special teams. Jayce Keesee rushed for a fourth-quarter touchdown to ice the win.

#### Ogle County boys golfers earn Big Northern Conference honors

Several Ogle County golfers were named to the Big Northern Conference All-Conference roster for the 2024 season. Among the First-Team boys were Byron's Davis Baker and Cason Newton. Second-Team winners included Oregon's Jackson Messenger and Nole Campos as well as Byron's Cooper Mershon and Landon Smith. Honorable Mentions included Stillman Valley's Andrew Gibbs.

#### Ogle County girls golfers earn Big Northern Conference honors

Several Ogle County golfers were named to the Big Northern Conference All-Conference roster for the 2024 season. Among

the First-Team honorees were Stillman Valley's Amelia Dunseth, Byron's Alayna Brandt and Oregon's Sarah Eckardt and Aniyah Sarver. Second-Team winners were Byron's Sophia Cross and

Gina Baker as well as Oregon's Hailey-Jane Becker.

#### Oregon volleyball team beats Genoa-Kingston

The Oregon High School varsity volleyball team defeated Genoa-Kingston 25-16, 25-13 on Tuesday,

Oct. 8. Madi Shaffer had 12 digs, three assists and four aces, while Emma Eckerd totaled six assists, four digs and three kills. Skylar Bishop collected three blocks, three kills and one ace.

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# SPORTS



## Oregon girls golf team takes fourth at BNC tournament

The Oregon High School varsity girls golf team finished fourth out of nine teams in the Big Northern Conference tournament at Timber Pointe on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Aniyah Sarver took seventh with a 92 and Sarah Eckardt placed ninth with a 96 to earn top-10 medalist honors. Oregon competed in the IHSA 1A Regional at Wolf Hollow on Tuesday, Oct. 1. (Courtesy photos)



## Stillman Valley High School varsity volleyball team finishes fifth at Byron Invitational

The Stillman Valley High School varsity volleyball team finished fifth out of 16 schools in the Byron Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 14. Stillman Valley went 3-2 over five matches, earning victories against Scales Mound, Genoa-Kingston and Milledgeville. (Courtesy photo)

# Oregon defeats Stillman Valley 21-13 to keep playoff hopes alive

BY ANDY COLBERT  
CORRESPONDENT

**OREGON** – Early in the second quarter, Oregon’s football season was in serious jeopardy. Playing without its best

player Josh Crandall (knee injury) and giving up two long scoring drives to Stillman Valley, the Hawks needed some kind of a spark to overcome a 13-6 deficit.

They got it in the form

of a 67-yard touchdown run by Hunter Bartel on the next play from scrimmage. Logan Weems ran in the extra point and Oregon took a 14-13. Bartel’s score was one of many big plays the Hawks had the

rest of the way in a 21-13 BNC win.

“We had a hard time stopping them, but we were more opportunistic. Hunter’s play was an example of that. He’s a game breaker,” said Oregon coach Broc Kundert, who looked like he was jumping into a mosh pit as he joined the post-game huddle. “Not having Josh or Jack (Washburn) might take the cake when it comes down to the best win we’ve had since I’ve been here.”

Coming in at 2-3, Oregon desperately needed to win this game, but initially had no answer for SV’s no-huddle offense. It wasn’t until Seth Rote made a stop on Jaxon Barrett for no gain, forcing a fumble that Ethan Reed recovered that the high-powered Cardinal machine was finally stopped.

Oregon failed to score on a short field, as Luke Miller thwarted the drive on fourth down, but the turnover gave the Hawks a boost of confidence.

On SV’s next possession, it was Lucas Cole stopping top rusher Brock Needs (two touchdown runs) for a loss. That combined with a penalty stopped another Cardinal scoring threat before halftime.

“Even though we were up 14-13 at half, it didn’t feel like we were winning,” Kundert said.

Considering SV had 230 yards on 39 carries compared to 183 on 19 for Oregon at halftime, that statement had validity. For the game, SV had 24 first downs to only eight

for Oregon.

“Coach (Colby) Dace made some adjustments on defense that made a big difference for us in the second half,” Kundert said.

Besides Bartel’s long score, it was Cooper Johnson breaking free for a 45-yard touchdown on fourth down for an early 6-0 Hawk lead. Later in the fourth quarter, he had an interception to stop a potential game-tying drive by SV.

“Cooper does everything right. It really helps having him back from an injury,” Kundert said.

A controversial non-call late in the first half on fourth down stopped another Cardinal drive. With 1:25 left, SV quarterback Ryan Rueff appeared to have snapped the ball before an (12<sup>th</sup>) Oregon player got off the field. No flags were thrown and Rueff was tackled three yards short of a first down, stalling the drive 24 yards from the goal line.

In the second half, SV continued to move the ball, but were hampered by mistakes. Their passing game was also anemic, failing to make a single completion.

“We stopped ourselves on penalties and miscues,” SV coach Mike Lalor said. “Credit to Oregon. They overcame adversity and hung in there.”

The Hawk defense, led by Briggs Sellers, Kyson Morris and Lucas Cole (all with double-digit tackles) began to make stops when they needed to.

“I knew where to be on some of those plays

because of the way our coaches repped us in practice,” said Morris, with eight unassisted stops.

After stopping SV on downs for the second time in the third quarter, Oregon began what would be the game-clinching drive.

Taking over at their own 35-yard line, it was Weems breaking free for 20 yards. The key play of the drive, though, was a shoestring catch by Keaton Salsbury on a fourth-and-eight. Salsbury caught Benny Olade’s throw for 12 yards

“Coming over from soccer, Keaton’s been a godsend,” Kundert said.

Three straight runs by Weems set up a fourth-and-one. Disaster loomed, though, with the play-clock running out and Olade dropping the ball.

Weems alertly picked it up before the SV could pounce on it and ran for a first down. Three plays later, it was Bartel bouncing in for a one-yard touchdown.

“Stillman Valley really brings out the best in us,” Weems said. “We had a great game with them last year. When I saw the ball on the ground, I just tried to make a play.”

Gavin Morrow kicked the extra point and SV needed eight points to tie the game and only had 4:46 left to do it. They had two cracks at it, but a 10-yard tackle for loss by Avery Lewis, and interceptions by Johnson and Ethan Mowry stymied those opportunities.

“We didn’t give up and kept pounding the rock,” Rote said.

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# SPORTS

## Polo rolls in battle of top-ranked 8-man schools

**I**N a battle between the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in eight-man football, it was Polo over Milledgeville in a great atmosphere at Floyd Daub Field.

Before getting into game specifics, let's go back several years when both schools were considering a co-op in football. At the time, it made sense, especially the close proximity to each other.

With declining enrollments, schools all over Illinois were co-oping for football to keep programs afloat. So, why not Milledgeville and Polo?

Without getting into all the details, there was a resistance to it, and it never came to fruition. This past Friday was proof positive that the right decision was made.

We also have to give an assist to the formation of eight-man football. That has made it much easier for stand-alone programs like Milledgeville and Polo to thrive.

Had both remained the brutally-tough NUIC, it would be a different story. Let's say Milledgeville and Polo would have co-opted to stay competitive in the NUIC and play 11-man, the community interest would not have the same intensity as it did Friday at Milledgeville.

The story of the game was the performance of Brock Soltow, I mean Gus Mumford. Bearing likeness to the former eight-man MVP, Mumford accounted for 290 of the 314 total yards Polo had in the 30-14 win.

And, how about the Marco defense holding Milledgeville to 50 points under its season average of 65. In the high-scoring theatre of eight-man, Polo has only allowed 28 points all year, a mark that some teams put up in one quarter.

One final thought. After tearing up eight-man from the get-go, Polo has managed to keep its prominence afloat for each of the past six seasons. Credit to head

coaches Jeff Bumstead, Ted Alston and all the assistants for maintaining a proud heritage.

Earlier in the season, I questioned whether Oregon had the mental fortitude to be truly competitive. With Stillman Valley running all over the Hawks in the first half, I still had my doubts.

But they didn't quit. As SV coach Mike Lalor aptly put afterwards, Oregon "hung in here". Yes, Oregon caught more breaks than the Cardinals did in the 21-13 victory.

However, they capitalized on the breaks and seemed to get stronger as the game went on. That's difficult to do with SV's no-huddle offense allowing hardly any time between plays.

With the way Oregon stood up in the face of adversity, it was the most gratifying Hawk win for me to witness in recent memory.

Credit also to my Rochelle Hubs for their somewhat stunning demolition of highly-ranked Morris. If Rochelle drops down from 5A into 4A, they have to be considered one of the favorites to win state.

When talking to coach Broc Kundert after he first came to Oregon, he said one of the drawing cards for him was that Oregon had a history of good track & field and wrestling and those sports lend themselves to good football players.

That is so true and quite evident at Rochelle where several of their best football players are elite wrestlers. Rochelle has never been overly talented, but it would be hard to find a team more physical than them.

Lena-Winslow surprised people with a running clock over Pec-Durand. Make no mistake. Le-Win is still the kingpin of the best small conference school in the state.

Last year in the state finals, they did get their comeuppance at the hands of Camp Point

Central. An even bigger challenger looms downstate with Belleville Althoff.

The private school of 288 with D-I talent has been destroying schools several times larger than them. Althoff is an independent and peppers its schedule tougher than what is seen in the NUIC.

Additionally, the area 1A playoff picture has gotten stronger with private schools Sterling Newman and Rockford Lutheran on board. That is one of the effects of 30 schools playing eight-man. It has driven larger schools to 1A, subsequently toughening things up.

At halftime of the Forreton football game, the inaugural hall of fame class was announced. Reviewing the selections, this had to be a complicated affair for the committee.

Rather than focusing on a sports HOF, Forreton's encompasses all aspects at the school. Categories included dedication, extra-curriculars, service and teamwork.

Credit to Forreton for attempting to honor all graduates. For example, the criteria for service is contribution to community, state or country.

Speaking of Forreton, congratulations to junior Kaden Brown for qualifying for the 1A state golf tourney, by shooting at 78 at the sectional.

Jake Guse, son of Lutheran coach Tom Guse, was individual medalist for the third year in a row. Equally impressive was the 299 carded by Riverdale to win the team title, an average of under 75 for its four top players.

Also headed downstate from the 2A boys sectional is senior Davis Baker of Byron.

For the girls, both Alayne Brandt (79) of Byron and Amelia Dunseth (82) went top five at the Byron sectional to qualify.

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



**Byron boys golf team takes third at BNC meet**  
The Byron High School varsity boys golf team scored 323 to finish third in the Big Northern Conference meet at Timber Pointe on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Davis Baker tied for second in the individual standings with a 77, while Cason Newton and Landon Smith each shot 81 to tie for seventh place. Brady Scheck tied for 15th with 84 and Cooper Mershon tied for 18th with 85. (Courtesy photo)



**Byron girls swimming and diving team wins Freeport Invitational**  
The Byron High School girls swimming and diving team took first in the Freeport Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 28. Pheona Warden finished second in the 11-dive portion, while Ella Simpson and Audrey Ebersohl placed first and third in the 6-dive portion. Addi Bausman set a new Boylan pool and meet invite record with a score of 463.85.



**Stillman Valley's Dunseth medals in two tournaments**  
Stillman Valley High School varsity golfer Amelia Dunseth medaled in first place during the 15th Annual Stillman Valley Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 14, shooting a 79 to win the tournament. Dunseth followed with a strong performance during the Big Northern Conference tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 25, when she finished first and accumulated enough points during the season to finish as the conference champion for the season. (Courtesy photos)



**Andy Colbert**

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**Christel Ackland 815-561-2153**  
**Chris Grimm 815-561-2125**

# SPORTS



## Polo High School varsity volleyball team wins home tournament

The Polo High School varsity volleyball team finished first in its home tournament on Saturday, Sept. 28. The Lady Marcos went 4-0 over four matches, winning all four matches in two sets. Polo defeated notable schools such as Amboy, Ashton-Franklin Center and Dakota. (Courtesy photo)



## Byron cross country teams win titles at Byron Invitational

The Byron High School varsity cross country team swept both the boys and girls titles during the Byron Invitational on Wednesday, Sept. 25. The Tigers finished with and Tim Starwalt won the individual title with a time of 15:08. Braden Dietrich took fourth in 16:18 and Michael Muzzarelli placed sixth in 16:36. The Lady Tigers also finished first and Ashley Potter won the individual title with a time of 19:04. Emma Franchi and Elinor McHale went seventh and eighth with times of 20:26 and 20:29.

## MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

**Walking group**  
We have a new walking group forming at The Center. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 pm we will follow Jan from U of I on a walk in town. This is a 6 week course and a good way to get out and exercise with friends and neighbors.

**Trivia & Tacos**  
Grab your friends and join us on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> for a night of tacos, trivia and laughs! Cost is \$2.00 per person to play trivia and a goodwill donation for the tacos. Tacos served at 6:00 pm and the game begins at 6:30 pm.

**Diamond Painting**  
Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> -

**FORRESTON LIBRARY**  
**Spooktacular Saturday**

Saturday, October 26th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Be sure to stop in during Spooktacular Saturday for a special Halloween bag and treats. We can't wait to see your costumes!

**New Materials**  
New adult fiction titles include: Gathering Mist by Margarer Mizushima and God of the Woods by Liz Moore.

**Fall Storytime**  
Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Join us every Wednesday at 10:00 am for stories, games, and crafts. This program is a great opportunity for children and caregivers to discover the joy of sharing stories and making new

Diamond Painting! You are welcome to join our Diamond Painting Club. We have choices of paintings for sale (\$1-\$10) and there is no skill involved. We meet on the first and third Friday at 11:00 am.

**Witches Tea**  
All are welcome to mount your broom and swiftly take flight on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00. Please call The Center for more information.

**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!

friends in a relaxed setting. We hope you'll join us!

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

**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!

## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Knock
  - 4 Boxer Ali
  - 9 "60 Minutes" ainer
  - 12 Leading lady?
  - 13 Edmonton player
  - 14 2016 Olympics city
  - 15 Moisturizer
  - 17 Finale
  - 18 Name
  - 19 Buzzing insect
  - 21 Neglect
  - 24 Steerer's place
  - 25 "So that's it!"
  - 26 QB's goals
  - 28 Nasal partitions
  - 31 Lopsided win
  - 33 Feeling down
  - 35 Tank filler
  - 36 Chef's garb
  - 38 Up to
  - 40 "Alice" waitress
  - 41 Suffix with "techno"
  - 43 Break fluid?
  - 45 Sentence fragment
  - 47 Overly
  - 48 Wish otherwise
  - 49 Famed Boston deserts

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41		42		43		44			
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

- DOWN**
- 1 Game caller
  - 2 Glam Gardner
  - 3 Chest muscle
  - 4 Short-horned grasshopper
  - 5 Inflatable
  - 6 Land in la mer
  - 7 Extract via percolation
  - 8 Fighting forces
  - 9 Ineffectual type
  - 10 Predicament
  - 11 Pop
  - 16 Sch. URL
  - 20 Staff symbol
  - 21 TV explorer
  - 22 Denny's rival
  - 23 Baked potato topping
  - 27 Used a chair
  - 29 Conference leader?
  - 30 Body lotion ingredient
  - 32 - Bora (Afghan region)
  - 34 Give orders
  - 37 Daytona 500 acronym
  - 39 Was foreboding
  - 42 - firma
  - 44 Dandy guy
  - 45 Use a rosary
  - 46 Luau dance
  - 50 "A mouse!"
  - 51 WWW access enabler
  - 52 Right angle
  - 53 Tofu source

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## MAGIC MAZE ● — BILL

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: — BILL CODY

- Appropriation
- Duck
- Electric
- Hand
- Horn
- Hotel
- Kaiser
- Medical
- Overdue
- Pawnee
- Pecos
- Play
- Spoon
- Tax
- Way

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

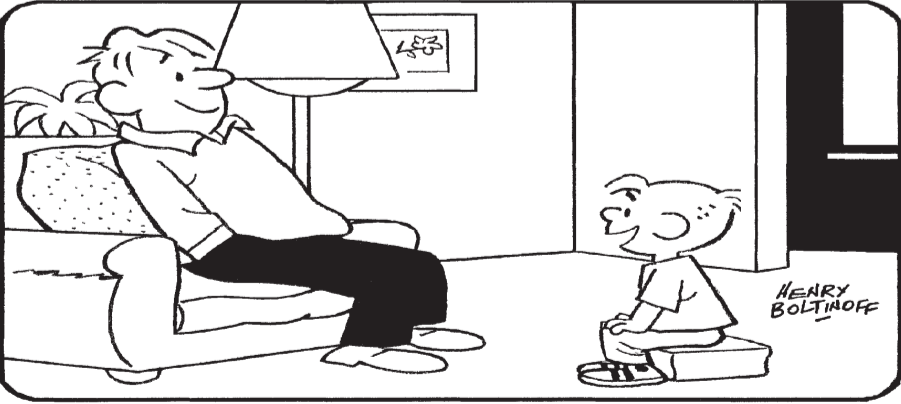
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Lamp is moved. 2. Arm of chair is different. 3. Wall is wider. 4. Picture frame is thicker. 5. Pillow is different. 6. Boy's hair is different.

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU



# Classified Marketplace

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**203 HELP WANTED**

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Go to the "About Us" tab  
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\* Source: America's Newspapers

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Contact Barb Rundle at  
815-234-5491 ext 4400 for  
more information

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**FULL-COLOR GLOSSY MAGAZINE**  
Over 15,000 copies distributed in Ogle & Lee Counties  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**New Resource at the Library! EBSCO Databases has arrived!**

Do you want to know more about arts and crafts, car repair, starting a business, or planning an estate? Maybe you need to prep for the GED or study for college-entrance exams. Have you ever wished you could research academic topics from home? Oregon Public Library patrons can now find full-text resources 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 a.m. Stories, crafts and friends to share books...all at your Library! Registration is required.

visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Artwork will then be displayed in the library for judging October 18<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. Winner will be announced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Kits will be available October 1<sup>st</sup>, first come while supplies last.

**Lego Club**

Monday, October 14th at 1:30 pm (2nd grade & up) (No School). Get together and spend some recreational time building! There will be a limited number of vintage kit instructions available, so if you make it, you take it! (First come, first serve) The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration is required.

**Try It Tuesday**

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

**Spooktacular Game Night**

Thursday, October 17th at 6:00 PM. Spooktacular is a tabletop game with an emphasis on role playing 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com)

**Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club**

Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com)

**Halloween Trivia Night at Cork N Tap**

Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com). Prizes!

**Book Clubs**

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. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, November 12:30 to discuss Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

**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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

**Knit & Crochet is BACK!**

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on it while socializing. Need help getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit <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-Creepy Crayons by Aaron Reynolds At the StoryWalk is Apple Picking Time by Michele Benoit Slawson.

## ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

**ROCK River Center** is a resource center located at 810 S. 10th Street, Oregon. Our activities and trips are open to all ages. Visit us at [www.rockrivercenter.org](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

**inoes**  
Wednesdays - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Michigan Rummy**  
Wednesdays - 12:30 – 3:15 p.m.  
**Bunco**  
October 14 – 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
**Activities with Mary**

Tues., October 15.  
**Murder Mystery Party:**  
1:00 – 1:45. Drumming:  
1:45 – 2:30.  
**Crocheting & Knitting Club**  
October 17 - 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Brain Health**  
Monday, October 21 –

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets: 4 t h  
Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. 24 Hour Advance Registration Required.  
**CAREGIVER SUP-**

**PORT GROUP**  
Meets: 3 R D  
Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
**DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets: 1 s t  
Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**LOW VISION GROUP**  
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

## 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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**Gabriel Mack**  
[pineview@daystar.io](mailto:pineview@daystar.io)

Phone • Fax  
**779-251-0254 • 815-946-4372**

# LOCAL NEWS

## BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### Pumpkin Decorating in October

Drop in this month and decorate a gourd with a variety of markers. Take your pumpkin home or show it off on display at the library for the season.

### 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 storytime sessions for your toddlers and preschoolers. No registration

is needed.

### A to Z Reading Challenge

Top that! Book titles that start with "T" are on display for you to choose from. Have you finished your list from A to Z? Bring it to the circulation desk for your entry into the prized drawing in January.

### 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 zip-loc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

### NEW RELEASES

- Adult Books**  
The English Chemist by Jessica Mills  
Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty
- Chapter Book**  
Just Keep Walking by Erin Soderberg Downing
- Picture Book**  
20 Fun Facts About The Locomotive by Caitie McAnaney

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### 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.

### Did you know

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

### Storytime at the Library

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

### 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

That the library has craft projects for adults? During open hours in the Creative Studio adults are welcome to come in and make a free seasonal card or craft from the material available on the studio tables. Please note that table crafts are not available during Teen Time or other library programs in the Studio. Stop by the Creative Studio to indulge in your craftier side!

### Creative Studio

Our Creative Studio is

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

Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

### Check out Our Mobile App

Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and

holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

### Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when

you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news and programs!

Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

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 re-

quired: 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 "cemetery" 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.

### Toddler Time: Fall Sensory Bins

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some tactile play using a variety of sensory bins with a fun fall twist! Friday, November 1, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Tween Scene: Jeopardy!

This IS Jeopardy!

Twens will get to test their knowledge on books, movies, games and more while munching on snacks and laughing with friends.

Tuesday, November 5, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

### Fall Slime Lab

Get ready to experiment, explore and create together. We're whipping up some messy science fun by making slime with an autumnal twist. Saturday, November 9, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**SULLIVAN'S FOODS**

**Frozen, Wild Caught COLDWATER LOBSTER TAILS** 4 oz **6.99**

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN FILET** **9.99** 8oz

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ARM POT ROAST** **4.99** lb

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BONELESS STEW MEAT** **5.99** lb

**MEAT MASTER** **MADE IN STOCKTON IL!** **Meat Master's SMOKED HAM** **6.99** lb

**DEVILED EGG POTATO SALAD** **5.59** lb

**JUMBO KAISER ROLLS** 6 ct **2.59**

**FHN FLU SHOT CLINICS AT SULLIVAN'S FOODS LOCATIONS**

LENA	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1	1pm-3pm
STOCKTON	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1	4pm-6pm
SAVANNA	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2	9am-Noon
FREEMONT	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7	3pm-6pm
MT MORRIS	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11	1pm-3pm

Prices Effective: Wednesday, October 16 thru Tuesday, October 22, 2024

**3 DAY sale!**  
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 -

**SWEETEST DAY IS OCTOBER 19**  
FLORAL SALE FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
18th, 19th & 20th OCTOBER, 2024

**Certified Angus Beef® brand BOTTOM ROUND RUMP ROAST** **3.99** lb

**ROSE RADIANCE BOUQUET** Roses, Filler, Lily **17.99**

**ASSORTED DOZEN ROSES** **13.99**

**US Gov't Insp CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOIN ROAST** **2.88** lb

**Sullivan's Signature OVEN READY SEASONED HAM LOAF** **3.99** lb

**PERFECT IN THE SMOKER!** **6.90** CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 10 lb bag

**2.99** Bakery Fresh ICED CUPCAKES White or Chocolate 6 ct

**3.99** Deli Fresh EGG ROLLS Chicken, Pork, or Veggie 4 ct

**99¢** ea HEAD LETTUCE

**3 lb bag** **2/\$4** HONEYCRISP APPLES 3 lb bag

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