



OHS bowlers start strong

The Oregon High School boys bowling team is off to a strong start this season. **Section B**

OGLE COUNTY LIFE

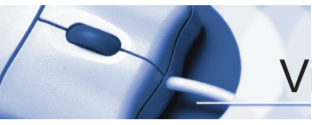
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 37

MONDAY
Nov. 25, 2024

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KNOW IT TODAY



Supper club in Lena honored

State House Minority Leader Tony McCombie recently recognized Beach's Supper Club in Lena. **Page 2**

WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 36	45 29
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
35 24	39 23
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
40 28	40 28

OBITUARIES

- William M. Messenger
- Charlotte Mae Mennenga

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings
- Tractor Supply
- Oregon Candlelight Walk

Crull appointed by 15th Judicial Circuit to serve as associate judge in Ogle County

'I think it's a good step for me to help more people and to help our community'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In September, Ogle County attorney Russell Crull of Rochelle law firm Tess, Crull & Arnquist was appointed as an associate judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. He will preside in Ogle County in courtroom 304 starting on Dec. 2.

Crull received his undergraduate degree in 2009 from Western Illinois University in Macomb and his Juris Doctor in 2013 from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. After college, he worked for Sycamore law firm Klein, Stoddard, Buck & Lewis. He joined Tess, Crull & Arnquist on July 1, 2014 and was named as a partner April 1, 2016.

"The practice of law has its ups and downs, but the biggest up is always being



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

In September, Ogle County attorney Russell Crull of Rochelle law firm Tess, Crull & Arnquist was appointed as an associate judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

able to help people," Crull said of his recent appointment. "I thought it would help both sides and be fair and accurate in application of the law to both sides. I think it's a good step for me to help more people and to help our community."

Crull, who grew up in Ogle County, decided to

pursue law while in college at WIU. After working through law school at NIU and being hired by Klein, Stoddard, Buck & Lewis, he met David Tess through the Focus House Board, which his family has been involved with since its inception.

See **CRULL** page 10



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board and members of the community recognized three county officials who will soon be departing from their positions.

County Board: Departing officials recognized Tuesday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board and members of the community recognized three county officials who will soon be departing from their positions.

The board voted unanimously Tuesday on resolutions in honor of Board Chairman John Finfrock (R-District 7, Mt. Morris), Board Member Thomas K. Smith (R-District 2, Rochelle) and Ogle County

Coroner Lou Finch. Finfrock, Smith and Finch did not seek reelection for their positions.

Finfrock has served on the board since 2010. Following the untimely passing of Board Chairman Kim Gouker in 2019, he stepped into the chairman role. Finfrock was honored Tuesday by his fellow board members along with the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation, which presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

See **COUNTY** page 3

Laudati is new executive director of HOPE of Ogle County

'I really believe in the mission and that everybody has a right to live in safety'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In September, Rebecca Laudati was hired as the new executive director of HOPE of Ogle County. She replaces longtime Executive Director Ruth Carter, who recently retired.

The non-profit organization helps survivors of domestic abuse. HOPE of Ogle County provides safety planning, support, shelter and referrals while empowering survivors to build a safe and peaceful future. It offers counseling, assistance and resources to those who are contending with the effects of abusive relationships. The nonprofit is available 24/7 to listen and provide support and court advocacy services are available as well. HOPE has offices in Rochelle, Oregon and Polo.

See **LAUDATI** page 5



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

In September, Rebecca Laudati was hired as the new executive director of HOPE of Ogle County. She replaces longtime Executive Director Ruth Carter, who recently retired.

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LOCAL NEWS

McCombie honors Beach's Supper Club in Lena

LENA — Illinois House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) spent time honor-

ing a local business this month through her new program launched earlier this year to acknowl-

edge excellent businesses throughout northwest Illinois.

This month, Lead-

er McCombie visited Beach's Supper Club in Lena and presented them with a special certificate of

achievement to recognize and celebrate the commitment and hard work that have contributed to the

restaurant's success. The local spot is the longest operating supper club in Stephenson County — and is known for their outstanding food and warm welcoming atmosphere. Beach's has been operating since 1975, and will proudly celebrate its 50th anniversary on Feb. 17, 2025. The current owners Michael and Anita Parkinson have passionately run Beach's since 2007 and together handle the cooking and management of the northwest Illinois staple.

Beach's has endured challenges throughout the last few years, especially those presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, which makes it even more beloved by the community, including the original owner's wife, who still visits Beach's occasionally, keeping the spirit of its early days alive!

"This is a fantastic supper club, and I am proud to recognize the owners for their unwavering dedication to maintaining this long-standing business, which continues to feed our corner of the state exceptionally well," Leader McCombie said. "The food and atmosphere are simply outstanding, and Michael and Anita Parkinson have created more than just a dining experience — this is a true labor of love. Their commitment to the community shines through, making Beach's Supper Club not just a place to eat but a cherished gathering spot for friends and neighbors."

As Leader McCombie continues to highlight local businesses through the new year, she welcomes area residents to suggest local businesses that deserve recognition by using the nomination form below: <https://repmc-combie.com/local-business-highlight-submission-form/>

The 89th District includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties. With questions, constituents can contact Leader McCombie's Office at (815) 291-8989.

Cardinal Community CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 1
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Downtown Stillman Valley

Live Nativity & Musical Performances

↳ located at The Red Brick Church

Community Tree Lighting

↳ 5:00 p.m. @ Stillman Bank

Photos w/Santa & Mrs. Claus

↳ Arrival at 4:00 p.m. @ Ladders of Learning

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

↳ Pick-up between Tease & Ladders of Learning

Hay Wagon Rides

↳ Pick-up @ Stillman Bank

Tree Decorating Contest

↳ Trees located on the corner of Main and Maple Streets

Nails by Fiona

↳ 4:00 - 6:00 p.m @ Shear Madness

Punch Cards

↳ w/chance to win Rockford IceHogs tickets

Face Painting

↳ Inside Ladders of Learning

Dancing Dads

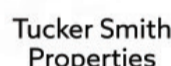
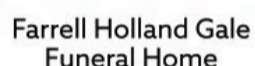
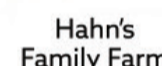
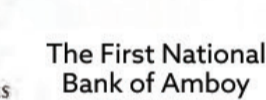
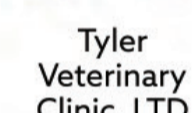
↳ Performing at 4:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m

Cookies & Hot Chocolate

↳ located inside Stillman Bank Garage

Live Radio Remote

↳ 102.3 The Coyote will be on-site



9th Annual MJHS Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. @ Meridian Jr. High School

Character Meet and Greets (Snow Queen, Snow Princess, and Spider Hero) from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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(815) 218-0059

240 S. West Street, Byron

\$460,000 dickersonnieman.com/202405991

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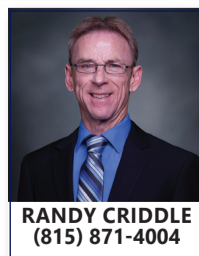
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206 Autumnwood Drive, Davis Junction

\$309,450 dickersonnieman.com/202404869

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JOE CONTARINO
(815) 978-8677



LOCAL NEWS

ENAG art studio open for Oregon Candlelight Walk

OREGON — The members of the Eagle's Nest Art Group will host an art show at their Conover Square studio during Oregon's annual Candlelight Walk festivities, Saturday, Nov. 30. Several art group members will be on hand, welcoming visitors in their Conover studio from 3-8 p.m. There is no cost and parking is plentiful.

A wide variety of work created by the ENAG members will be on display and available for sale. The work includes both large and small pieces in oil, ink, watercolor, acrylic, photography, calligraphy, glass, ceramic, wood, and oil pastel. Prints of original art and greeting cards are also available.

If you would like to learn more about ENAG and its offerings, this is a perfect time to come in and get to know more about our programs, classes, and



The members of the Eagle's Nest Art Group will host an art show at their Conover Square studio during Oregon's annual Candlelight Walk festivities, Saturday, Nov. 30.

art shows.

Come and enjoy an evening of community

fun, music, refreshments, and art at Conover Square Mall, 301 N. Third St.,

Oregon. The Eagle's Nest Art Group studio is on the second floor, with an

elevator available.

This is a relaxed, informal event that is sure

to please the entire family and put everyone in a holiday spirit.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



On Wednesday, Nov. 13 the Polo Cub Scouts held their pack meeting in the gym of Centennial Grade School. It was for fitness. They ran around, played and did some stretching for most of the meeting.

Polo Cub Scouts meet at Centennial Grade School

POLO — On Wednesday, Nov. 13 the Polo Cub Scouts held their pack meeting in the gym of Centennial Grade School. It was for fitness. They ran around,

played and did some stretching for most of the meeting. At the end of the meeting the scouts lined up and to get the patches they have earned.

Jaxon Grenoble received the Bobcat patch, LeRoy Meador (not present) received the Bobcat, Fish On, Tiger in the Swimming and a \$50 gift card for selling over \$1,000 worth of popcorn,

Westlee King received the Bobcat patch, Keaton Lindsey received the Bobcat patch, Lincoln Bocker received the Bobcat, A Wolf Goes Fishing and Paws for Water patch-

es, Cadence Bocker received the Bobcat, A Bear Goes Fishing and Salmon Run patches, Wesley Diehl received the Bobcat, Aquanaut, Catch The Big One, Archery and

BB Gun patches, Tinley Roop received the Bobcat, Fishing, Swimming patches and also received a \$50 gift card for selling over \$1,000 worth of popcorn.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

COUNTY: Board approves community solar agreement Tuesday evening

From page 1

"For the past few years John has been an integral part of bringing the OCEDC to life," OCEDC Chairman Randy Schoon said. "His leadership, knowledge and insight have been invaluable. John will certainly be missed at our meetings. Thank you for all your hard work and believing in the OCEDC."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, former Ogle County Board Member Marty Typer and Polo Mayor Doug Knapp thanked Finfrock for his efforts over the years.

"John was the right guy at the right time at the right place for this board," Typer said. "Our management and leadership at that time needed to be picked up. John was the man for the job and I want to thank him for that. Enjoy your retirement."

Smith has served on the board since 2016 on a number of committees, including the executive committee, the negotiating committee, the state's attorney-court services-Focus House-judiciary & circuit clerk committee, and the supervisor of assessments and planning & zoning committee.

"I want to thank the committees I served on for a long time," Smith said. "We have some great resources in our county. The diversity we have on this board is what our county is all about. You people

have stepped up to serve because you believe in our county. We have elected officials here I can't say enough about."

Finch has served as coroner since he was elected to the position in 2004. Prior to that, he also served as a part-time deputy coroner and full-time Ogle County corrections officer.

"I want to thank everybody," Finch said. "I hope I did the job well for the county. And I appreciated working for everybody. Thank you."

At the end of the meeting, Finfrock made closing remarks.

"I have a lot of people in this room I can and will thank for 14 good years," Finfrock said. "I think we've come a long way, but it's always 'We.' People have taken time to come to meetings and give their thoughts. We've had our debates and sometimes arguments. Once a vote is taken, it's done, and everybody gets on with it. That's something I appreciate. Everyone around this table has made this thing work for several years. And that I appreciate."

Solar

The board unanimously approved a floating commercial subscription agreement with US Solar during the meeting. The agreement regards a community solar project the county will be taking part in.

The county will see a \$12,000 reduction in its electric bills due to the



Ogle County Coroner Lou Finch (left) and Board Member Thomas K. Smith (right) were each recognized for their service during the Ogle County Board meeting on Tuesday evening.

project. The agreement does not require an investment by the county. A community solar project, farm or garden is a solar power installation that accepts capital from and provides output credit and tax benefits to multiple customers, including individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other investors. Community solar helps the state to meet its clean energy goals and utilizes state incentive programs.

Ogle County will be involved with eight local community solar gardens

in the region. The power from the solar gardens will go onto ComEd's system.

Siting

The board voted 23-0 to revise its solar and wind energy facility siting and operating ordinance to now include language for siting within 1.5 miles of municipalities (villages, towns or cities). Those municipal boards will now get consideration on projects sited within 1.5 miles of their limits and solar and wind applications must be formally presented to those entities to make sure

impacts are considered.

Budget

The board voted to approve its 2025 budget and appropriations during the meeting. The new budget's general fund revenue total is \$19,559,518 with general fund expenses at \$19,208,072. The county's general fund levy is listed at \$5,595,000. Total appropriations in the budget are

listed at \$63,705,603 with total levy at \$14,294,200.

ARPA

The board voted to approve American Rescue Plan Act funding requests including a \$500,841 transfer to its general fund and \$621.59 and \$190 expenditures for Larson & Darby Architecture for preliminary work on county construction projects.

(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Please join us as we celebrate

Sam Morrison's 95th Birthday!

Open House
Saturday, November 30th
1:00 - 4:00pm
Byron Museum,
110 N. Union Street, Byron

Annual Holiday Rummage Sale

Saturday, Dec. 7th
8:00 to 1:00

Come see our bargain-priced treasures, selection of gift baskets and sign up for the raffle drawings!



St. Bride's Episcopal Church
1000 Route 64 West
Oregon, IL 61061

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

William M. Messenger

POPLAR GROVE — Bill Messenger, 51, of Poplar Grove, IL, passed away on Friday, November 8th, 2024, following an inspirational battle against cancer.

Bill was born in Elgin, Illinois on June 19th, 1973, to William and Nancy (Nielsen) Messenger. He pursued his higher education at Judson University, where he achieved his MBA. Bill launched his career in the scrap metal industry at Messenger Auto, where he steadily advanced through various roles. He later worked at Behr Iron and Metal and Alter Metal Recycling, concluding his professional career as the Vice President of National Accounts at SIMS Metal.

Bill and his beloved wife, Angie (DeFay) Messenger, were married on November 13th, 1999, a union that was the foundation of a lifetime filled with love. Throughout the trial of life, they remained devoted to one another, their connection only broken by the inevitability of death. Together with his adored

wife, Angie, they raised their three daughters with unfaltering love and commitment. Bill was a selfless and compassionate "girl dad" to his daughters; BrookeLyn, Brynn, and Bree Messenger. Bill considered his role as a father to be the most cherished and meaningful of all his titles.

Bill's competitive nature and dedication were evident in everything he did, especially in his passion for sports, weightlifting, and enthusiasm for cars. Bill's determination was unshakable, always rising to challenges with a strength that never faltered. Growing up he was captivated by Superman, and in his own life, he embodied that same strength and protective spirit, becoming a true hero to his family — their very own Superman.

Bill is survived by his wife, Angie; daughters, BrookeLyn (Nehemiah Arriaga), Brynn, and Bree; parents, William and Nancy; siblings Danielle (John), Jeremy (Amanda), and Josh (Andrea); as



well as various nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his maternal and paternal grandparents, as well as several aunts and uncles.

A visitation will take place on Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, 1860 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, Illinois 61108. Visitation will continue Friday, November 15, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service, 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial to follow at Belvidere Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family to be established at a later date. To send condolences online or share memories, please visit www.fitzgeraldfh.com

Charlotte Mae Mennenga

BYRON — Charlotte Mae Mennenga, age 96, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on November 20, 2024 at Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center where she received excellent care from all of the staff. She was born in Rockford on June 4, 1928 the daughter of John and Hattie (Palmer) Paul.

She attended Leaf River High School graduating in 1946. She married Louis Mennenga on May 31, 1971. Charlotte was a woman with a strong faith and was an involved member of Silver Creek Reformed Church in German Valley. She had a creative soul and loved to paint. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and baking for her family and friends.

Charlotte loved to travel especially to Disney World and to the North West. She got to accomplish her lifelong dream of traveling to Ireland at the

age of 90 where she got to stay in a castle. Charlotte believed in staying involved in the community and was a member of the Leaf River Museum and the Ogle County Farm Bureau. She spent the last year and a half making her home in Belvidere with her daughter where they were both blessed with extra quality time together.

More than anything Charlotte loved spending time with her family and friends making them all feel important and loved. She is preceded in death by her parents, son Eugene Winche, sister, Margie Pepin, step son, Larry Mennenga and husband, Louis.

She is survived and missed by her daughter, Sharon (Bill) Kaple of Belvidere; step children, Larry (Gail) Mennenga of Carlton, OR; grandchildren, Brenda (Wesley) Ganz of Poplar Grove, Elaine (Jeff) McKamey of Moline, and Billy Kaple of



Colona, IL and numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. A funeral service celebrating Charlotte's well lived life will be held at 12:00 PM on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Silver Creek Reformed Church in German Valley with Pastor Nora Johnson officiating.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at church. Burial will be at Grandview Cemetery in Freeport, IL. Memorials are established for Silver Creek Reformed Church. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Nov. 12 at 11:05 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 72. Subsequent to the stop, William Hiatt, 60, of Rockford, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and given a citation for no insurance. Hiatt was released on a notice to appear at the scene.

On Nov. 12 at approximately 6:35 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Jata Drive and Mulford Road for a vehicle that had struck a pole. After investigation, deputies learned that a blue Hyundai Sonata was driven by Logan Huber, 28, of Rockford. Huber was traveling south on Mulford Road when his vehicle left the roadway, and struck a utility pole. Huber was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Huber was also cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, operating an uninsured vehicle, and illegal transportation of alcohol. Huber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Monroe Center Fire and EMS.

On Nov. 13 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a black Volkswagen sedan at the intersection

of West Illinois Route 72 and North Mt. Vernon Road. After a brief investigation, Alivia M. Schiedel, 28, of Chadwick, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Schiedel was taken into custody without incident and released on scene on a notice to appear with a future court date set. Schiedel was also cited for having suspended registration.

On Nov. 13 at approximately 2:07 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 105 northbound for an equipment and moving violation. After an investigation, American Ocampo Corral, 33, of Modesto, California, was arrested for no valid driver's license and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) less than 15 grams. Ocampo Corral was also issued a citation for a defective windshield. Ocampo Corral was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 15 at approximately 8:03 p.m. deputies responded to an address in rural Lindenwood for a domestic disturbance. After an investigation a 16-year-old juvenile was placed under arrest for two counts of domestic battery, interfering with the reporting of domestic

battery, and unlawful restraint. The juvenile was transported to the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center where he is being held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 16 at approximately 11:04 p.m. Ogle County Dispatchers received an automated crash detection alert indicating a possible vehicle crash in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. Deputies further learned a three-vehicle crash had occurred involving a southbound Nissan Maxima, a northbound Subaru Outback, and a northbound Nissan Frontier. The driver and sole occupant of the Nissan Maxima was identified as Edgar Mandujano-Lopez, 19, of Rochelle. The driver and sole occupant of the Subaru Outback was identified as David Ramos, 32, of Byron. The driver of the Nissan Frontier fled the scene. Mandujano-Lopez was pronounced deceased at the scene. Ramos was transported to Mercy Riverside Hospital by Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS for treatment of suspected non-life-threatening injuries. Deputies were assisted by the Illinois State Police, REACT helicopter, and Rochelle Fire/EMS. The accident remains under investigation.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

People Helping People is proud to announce the CPKC Holiday Train will be stopping in Byron at the Colfax Street crossing on Nov. 27 at 11:45 a.m.

CPKC Holiday Train to stop in Byron Nov. 27

BYRON — People Helping People is proud to announce the CPKC Holiday Train will be stopping in Byron at the Colfax Street crossing on Nov. 27 at 11:45 a.m. This local stop will feature a 30-minute Christmas jam featuring Canadian singers Tyler Shaw and Shawnee Kish as well as allowing a close-up view at the Holiday Train all decorated for Christmas.

BYRON POLICE REPORT

Nov. 6
At 2:02 p.m. Byron Police Department issued citations to Jiaer L. Grayson, 29, of Rockford for operating a motor vehicle while registration is suspended and operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance. This violation occurred in the 7,000 block of North River Road.

Nov. 7
At 3:15 p.m. Byron Police Department issued

run to help bring to light those with food insecurities in both the United States and Canada and to support the different food pantries along the way. Food insecurity is a major issue now with food costs being so high.

The performances are designed to assist the local food pantries by generating food or monetary donations so they can help those in need, especially during

this holiday season. People Helping People is the local food pantry in Byron serving people in six townships of Ogle County.

The Holiday Train is enjoyed by young and old alike and the kids will be out of school! So, come enjoy the performance and make a food or monetary donation if you are able. Rumor has it that Santa may be watching the show also!

a citation to Carmen Silva Guzman, 36, of Byron for failure to stop at a stop sign. This violation occurred at 400 North Maple Street.

At 9:12 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to Luis Mendoza-Gil, 44, of Bolingbrook for speeding, going 53 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

Nov. 9

At 5:07 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to Jordan A. Pontnack, 30, of Byron for operating a motor vehicle while registration suspended. This violation occurred at the intersection of East Blackhawk Drive and Luther Drive.

Nov. 11
At 3:27 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to a 17-year-old male of Byron for speeding, going 51 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of North Colfax.

Nov. 12
At 6:53 a.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to Clyde H. Castle, 58, of Rockford for speeding, going 52 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8,000 block of North Barker Road.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper
USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)
Published every Monday by Rochelle Newspapers, Inc. at 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068-1183. Subscriptions in our service area are free on a requester basis. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper, P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068-9801. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have carrier delivery and your paper fails to arrive by 7 p.m. on Monday, telephone our office at 732-2156, if your paper fails to arrive by mail telephone our circulation office at 562-4171, ext. 112. For subscriptions, call the LIFE office at 815-732-2156.

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LOCAL NEWS

LAUDATI: HOPE of Ogle County names new executive director

From page 1

Laudati brings 20 years of experience working in the domestic violence field. After starting with an internship at a shelter in Elgin, she began work at Mutual Ground in Aurora, which offers domestic violence and sexual violence services. There she worked a hotline, did counseling and led support groups, conducted prevention education, worked as a court advocate, managed a shelter, and oversaw programs. She also worked at Safe Passage in DeKalb County part-time facilitating partner abuse intervention programs and groups.

"It was a big move for me," Laudati said of taking

the executive director position at HOPE. "But it's a big move to a smaller agency that's focused on domestic violence. Where I came from it was both domestic and sexual violence. This just kind of gets me back to my roots of where it all started. It's exciting to be able to take everything I've learned throughout the years and run an agency."

Laudati got into the field when she saw Elgin Community College had a family violence counseling program. She got her associate's degree in human services from ECC with a special certification for family violence counseling. She holds a bachelor's degree in human services and sociology and a master's

degree in psychology.

Laudati said she's looking forward to growing what HOPE of Ogle County does and getting to know the community to provide the best care possible to people who need it.

"In my first two months it's been a little overwhelming, but good," Laudati said. "It's been exciting. It's different when you come from a larger agency to a smaller agency, just knowing the people and the community. Everybody has been super welcoming and extremely helpful and friendly. It's already like a family."

Funding is the most pressing issue facing HOPE of Ogle County right now, Laudati said. In recent years, the nonprofit and

others like it have dealt with funding cuts from the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program. HOPE lost a combined total of \$219,000 over three years and the issue will not be revisited until the next funding cycle at the end of the three years.

Local donations have helped HOPE to fill its funding gaps to continue providing as many services as possible.

"The community has been really great with donations since I've been here," Laudati said. "CHS Ethanol gave us a large donation from its golf outing, and that was amazing and it will help us update a lot of systems. 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County

was recently very generous with a donation as well. We were just a recipient of Small Business Bingo. Just the community generosity with things like that helps us with funding. We look for smaller grants. We work on advocacy. We're going into Springfield and advocating for victim services and for human services overall and making sure people know it's important."

Laudati said she's currently trying to understand the level of need in HOPE's service area and trying to get the word out more about what the nonprofit offers to survivors in need. She wants people to know they can come and get help and call HOPE 24/7.

Upon getting into the

domestic violence field 20 years ago, Laudati didn't see herself becoming an executive director of an agency one day. Once she got into more advocating work in Springfield and teaching newer employees, her thoughts changed.

"This work is important," Laudati said. "I really believe in the mission and that everybody has a right to live in safety. You should be able to go home and be safe. You should be able to go to work and school and be safe. I think it takes a lot for people to come forward. So when they do, they need someone who can listen and really support them and advocate for them. Advocacy is at the core of what I do and what I enjoy."



Polo Cub Scouts decorate tree

On Nov. 17, the Polo Cub Scout Pack 337 decorated a four-foot Christmas Tree to help raise money for Rock River Hospice & Home during the 2024 Festival of Trees being held at the Northland Mall in Sterling. All the trees were by Dunhams Store in the mall. Patrons will vote on their favorite tree by inserting cash into the bucket by the tree. The voting taking place during the week of Nov. 18-24. The Polo Cub Scouts made three ornaments that coordinate with what the Cub Scouts is about. (Courtesy photos)

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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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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Dec. 9, 1990, Lech Walesa, founder of the Solidarity trade union, won a landslide election victory, becoming the first directly elected Polish leader.

* On Dec. 10, 1690, a failed attack on Quebec and subsequent near-mutiny forced the Massachusetts Bay Colony to issue the first paper currency in the Western Hemisphere's history. It was initially unpopular for anything except paying taxes and was phased out, but reappeared in Massachusetts just a few years later.

* On Dec. 11, 1946, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to establish the United

Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), an organization designed to help provide relief and support to children living in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

* On Dec. 12, 1970, "Tears of a Clown," penned by William "Smokey" Robinson, became the first No. 1 hit for Robinson and his band the Miracles after more than a decade of hits that had failed to reach that coveted position. Bob Dylan would later call Robinson America's "greatest living poet" in recognition of his skill as a composer and lyricist.

Letter: A step to aid coming together after an election

DEAR editor, The people of this country have come through a very stressful election campaign that included finger pointing and name-calling from both sides. Friendships were divided. Sometimes to make a point, signage with profanity visible to children was used to make a point. Fortunately, in the days after the election, I have noticed several Facebook posts regarding the need for kindness from both political sides. I agree 100%. I want to be friends with my neighbors. A difference in political opinion is simply a difference in opinion which everyone has a right to have. My husband, who has coached for years, has

instilled in me the value of the lessons learned when you lose and how to win with grace. In our household, all political signs, win or lose, come down the day after the election. This letter is to ask my neighbors in Ogle County to take down their Harris/Trump signs. The election is over. Kindness is important. The first step in the "kindness" movement is to take down your party signs. It is a positive step removing a roadblock that can divide neighbors and neighborhoods. It is important to show grace when you win and when you lose.

Theresa "Terri" Fritz
Stillman Valley

Letter: HR 9495

DEAR editor, Last week Rep. Darin LaHood voted for HR 9495. This bill would give Trump and his Treasury Department sweeping authority to label U.S. Nonprofits as "terrorist-supporting organizations" with no oversight, due process, just unilateral power. (it's in Section 4(B)) Political Targeting. Nonprofits advocating for human rights, environmental protection, reproductive rights, and other critical issues could lose their tax-exempt status. Chilling effect: This broad and vague authority

could intimidate organizations and stifle advocacy work. Nonprofits would risk financial ruin just for standing up for our basic rights and freedoms. Played out to the extreme, your grandma who has been donating to Sierra Club or to Feed the Children could find herself facing 20 years for supporting a "terrorist-supporting organization" The bill was killed in the House, but there is a push for another vote this week. Tell Darin LaHood to vote no. Protect our rights and freedoms!

Alice Brigade
Rochelle

Letter: Thanks to Rangel

DEAR editor, Again we are grateful to Joe Rangel for honoring veterans at the Sunrise in Byron with the breakfast. We are also thankful for the sharing of the very recent Honduras

mission adventure by Joe and friends. It was most interesting and encouraging to hear of servant leadership and God at work. Always.

Norma Swanson
Chana

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.

Protecting election integrity: The case for voter ID

ON Nov. 5, voters across the country went to the polls at near-record numbers. Early voting and vote-by-mail participation also reached historic highs. But amid this surge in voter engagement, there remains a significant divide in how states approach one of the most fundamental aspects of our elections: voter identification.

According to a 2024 review by the National Conference of State Legislatures, nine states — Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin — require strict photo identification at the polls. Another three states — Arizona, North Dakota, and Wyoming — require non-photo IDs but still demand proof of identity. In these states, voters who fail to present an ID cast a provisional ballot that is set aside until the voter returns with valid identification. I applaud this process.

In contrast, 14 other states request photo IDs but allow voters without one to sign an affidavit or have their signature verified by an election judge. Thirteen additional states request any form of

identification, whether it's a photo ID or not.

Then there are states like Illinois, that do not require any form of identification at the polls. This raises an important question: In an era where the sanctity of our elections is more important than ever, shouldn't we take every reasonable step to ensure the integrity of our voting system?

On Nov. 5, voters in Nevada, where no form of voter ID is required, sent a clear message. They overwhelmingly approved a ballot proposition that would amend the state constitution to require photo ID for in-person voting, or the last four digits of a driver's license or Social Security number for mail-in ballots. With 73.3% of voters in favor, Nevada's decision is a strong endorsement of the need for clear, verifiable identification at the polls or when voting from home.

When Republicans file voter ID bills in the Senate (SB 2917 and SJRCA 14 in the 103rd General Assembly [GA], and SBs 2949 and 3057 in the 102nd GA), they are blocked by Democrat

leaders who argue that Voter ID laws suppress access to ballots because some people cannot afford photo IDs. Meanwhile, these same Democrats have continually supported legislation providing free photo ID cards to those who cannot afford them or would otherwise have difficulty obtaining them. These laws include measures that provide free state identification cards to seniors aged 65+, homeless people, and those leaving our prisons.

If the controlling party has proven they are interested in making sure free IDs are available, why shouldn't we require voters to present an ID at the polls? Why would Democrats not join us in wanting fairness and transparency in our elections?

Another notable development from the recent election is the growing trend of constitutional amendments clarifying that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote. In November, voters in eight states — Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Wisconsin — approved measures to

enshrine this principle in their state constitutions.

This follows similar amendments that passed in Alabama, Colorado, and Florida in recent years. By reaffirming the right to vote as exclusive to citizens, these amendments reflect a nationwide commitment to safeguarding the integrity of our elections.

The importance of election integrity cannot be overstated. Voter ID laws are one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent voter impersonation and ensure that only eligible voters are participating in our democracy. This is not about partisanship — it's about protecting the legitimacy of every vote cast.

I invite all legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to join me in supporting measures that strengthen the integrity of our elections. We can and should have laws that ensure both access to the ballot box and the integrity of the process. The people of Nevada have shown the way. It's time for Illinois — and the other states that have been unwilling — to follow suit.

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



Andrew Chesney

Apprenticeships offer debt-free options as education and the workforce change

NATIONAL Apprenticeship Week celebrates its 10th anniversary from Nov. 17-23, a week dedicated to sharing the life-changing impact that registered apprenticeships have for jobseekers and employers alike. U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeships offer a debt-free pathway to a middle-class career, while advancing racial and gender equity.

Apprenticeships ensure that good jobs are not dependent on a college degree and strengthen our economy by developing a highly skilled workforce to meet the demands of changing industries. At a time when many Americans are questioning the value of a four-year college degree, economic outcomes for young adults without a degree are improving and apprenticeships are a key reason why.

Apprenticeships are an arrangement in which a worker receives hands-on job training and technical instruction to excel in their desired career, while still earning a paycheck. Apprentices earn to learn, and programs vary in length, with many lasting up to six years depending on the occupation. At the end of a registered program, apprentices graduate and receive a nationally recognized certificate of completion as proof of their skills.

As the cost of higher education increases, we are seeing a demand for young people seeking pathways to good, union jobs across industries without the burden of student debt. Hannah Hill, a 26-year-old painter and treasurer of Painters Local Union 90, went to college to pursue a career in nursing but quickly questioned if she was suited for the field. Hill, like many young people faced with the burden of college debt, instead turned toward jobs that were not marketed to them in high school.

National Apprenticeship Week offers us an opportunity to see more pathways to economic security. Apprenticeships can serve as the great equalizer in our economy. The biggest employee benefit may be earning from day one, and for employers, they can help close the skills gap, reduce hiring costs and increase employee retention.

Illinois is poised for growth in apprenticeship programs across industries, with more than 400 registered apprenticeship programs spanning construction and building trades, hospitality and culinary arts, and mechanic and machinery fields. As the job market for those with four-year college degrees continues to tighten, more and more young people are looking for debt-free pathways

into a career.

The Illinois General Assembly first introduced the Apprenticeship Act in 1819, and in the past decade has reaffirmed its commitment to providing pathways for all workers. This past year, we saw an \$18 million investment for Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship programs across the state, and the launch of the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship program to train underserved residents for careers in the clean energy sector. In the construction industry, we see an annual investment of \$136 million for worker skills development, and significant returns on every dollar invested.

Programs like these show us that there are many paths toward the American Dream, and increasingly, young workers are making the leap from the college campus to the apprenticeship campus. In the construction workforce, workers receive 27% more training than curriculum hours when compared to a bachelor's degree, a model that can be built upon as employers consider expanding apprenticeships into other industries.

We have made significant strides over the past 10 years, and Illinois' investment in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs has led to its top ranking in workforce

development. In fact, we rank number one in the Midwest.

The commitment to examine the future we are creating for young people entering the workforce is leading many of us to rethink college as the only path to good wages. Instead, we are reframing "success" as a diverse economy that works for all, whether you have a college degree or graduated from a registered apprenticeship program. A family sustaining wage, secure retirement, health care and job safety are things that all workers deserve.

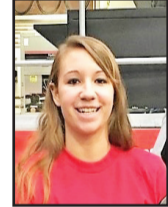
A college degree can pay off for the careers that truly need it, but it's not the only educational option that can lead to a rewarding career. Whether you

are just entering the job market or are beginning a career transition, the apprenticeship model can offer something for everyone. When we invest in our entire education system, including apprenticeships, we are committing to the future of our communities and workforce.

Tim Drea is president of Illinois AFL-CIO. Danielle Sunley is a journey person level plumbing BIM modeler and part-time apprenticeship instructor with United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters and HVACR, Local 137.



Tim Drea



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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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What the Corporate Transparency Act means for farmers

OVER 230,000 farms are up against a Jan. 1, 2025, deadline to file their detailed Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) with the Treasury Department under the requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). Despite facing steep fines and possible jail time for failing to file, less than 11% of eligible businesses nationwide have filed their BOI. Efforts to protect small businesses from these invasive requirements and the harsh punishment for noncompliance have stalled in Congress. Let's review what the Corporate Transparency Act means for farmers.

The Corporate Transparency Act was passed in 2021 to combat money laundering and organized crime funding. The CTA requires that registered businesses register any "beneficial owner" of the company with the U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The BOI filing requirement applies to any small business that files an incorporating document with their state business authority to conduct business in the United States, including corporations, limited partnerships or limited liability

companies (LLCs). The FinCEN classification of a "small entity" is having less than 20 employees and under \$5 million in cash receipts.

While the actual Structure of a business – and the process to incorporate – can vary slightly state to state, most farms operate as pass-through entities in which the company's income is passed directly into the owner's individual income, rather than being taxed as business revenue. When a business files an incorporating document, it is classified as a C-corporation (C-corp) or S-corporation (S-corp). When a business files an organizing document, it is generally classified as an LLC. C-corps are legally separated from their owners and are taxed at both a business and individual level. S-corps, partnerships and LLCs pass business revenue through to be taxed at the owner level, but they provide liability protection to their owners by operating as independent entities.

Beneficial owners include anyone with a significant stake in the company, whether or not they have direct legal ties to the business. This may include holding at least 25% of a company's shares, having a similar

level of control over the company's equity or holding significant influence over the company's decisions and operations (i.e., the authority to exercise substantial managerial control over the reporting company). Should a business partake in illegal activities, each such stakeholder is accountable for the crimes of the business.

Filings must include all personal information like addresses, birthdays and identification numbers for each owner. While this report does not have to be renewed after the initial filing, changes of address, new driver's licenses or changes of name all require updated filings. Since having control over a business' operations qualifies as beneficial ownership, a restructuring of job duties, even if the person does not have a legal ownership stake in the company, could also trigger requirements to file updates.

The vast majority of farms and ranches operate as sole proprietorships and are likely exempt from filing their BOI, but 230,792 farming operations are state-registered businesses, either as corpo-

rations or partnerships. These 12% of all farm operations operate 33% of farm acres.

Farms and ranches aren't the only agricultural businesses that have to meet CTA requirements. Many feed and supply stores, crop marketers like grain elevators and the greater rural business community are also likely required to file their BOI and subject to penalties if they do not. The regulatory burdens and potential enforcement crackdowns could have ripple effects throughout the entire food, fiber and fuel supply chains.

With less than two months left to register, only 11% of the estimated 30 million companies that fall under the filing requirements of Jan. 1, 2025, have successfully filed with FinCEN.

Businesses that fail to file, or do not update records when needed, could face criminal fines up to \$10,000 and additional civil penalties of up to \$591 per day they fail to file. If the hefty fines are not deterrent enough, failure to file could also lead to felony charges and up to two years in prison, whether or not these paperwork

violations are linked to any other crime.

A lack of awareness and other permitting and filing requirements are likely the biggest reason farms and other businesses fail to meet the CTA obligations. Businesses already file registrations with state agencies to operate, leading many to believe their information is recorded with the correct agencies, but FinCEN does not receive ownership information from these agencies. Many financial institutions require their own BOI reports from customers to absolve themselves of responsibility for fraudulent transactions. However, these do not fulfill the new CTA requirements as they are not reported to FinCEN.

CTA filing deadlines also vary depending on business inception. Jan. 1, 2025, is the deadline for businesses established before Jan. 1, 2024. If businesses were registered in the 2024 calendar year, they only had 90 days to file their BOI upon notification of their business certification. Businesses established after Jan. 1, 2025, will have even stricter filing requirements; they will only have 30 days after notification of their formation to submit their initial BOI report

to FinCEN. This 30-day window also applies to updates to previously filed information for all registered businesses, adding another chore for small business owners (or those exercising "substantial control") going through business restructuring, or major life changes, such as a family death or divorce.

While BOI is free to file, business owners should consult attorneys or accountants to determine whether or not they are required to file and, if so, when to ensure they comply with FinCEN's standards.

Small businesses often lack the time and the staff to track ever-changing rules and regulations pushed out by the federal government. The Corporate Transparency Act is an added burden for small business owners nationwide, including farmers and ranchers. With unclear guidance and a lack of public awareness, businesses of all sizes are struggling to comply with new BOI requirements and are quickly approaching a deadline that bears criminal consequences.

See the Treasury Department's BOI filing page at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>

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



Ron Kern



Taunya Madden

Bipartisan solution needed to protect kids online

THERE are a lot of moms like me who had kids at a young age and then after an extended gap had more kids later in life.

Raising my two older kids in the early 2000s had its fair share of difficulties, but there is no question raising my two younger kids in the current digital age pres-

ents some unprecedented challenges.

As much as I would like to be able to monitor everything my kids see and do online, the truth is I can't be there 24 hours a day, seven days per week. It is impossible. I trust my kids, but I don't share that same trust of the online community.

We need Congress to

act to help parents take on the challenges of the digital age, but whatever action is taken must be done in a responsible manner.

One bill still under consideration in Congress is the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA). While the push

to add new protections for kids online is a movement that many, including me, proudly stand behind, several debilitating flaws in the bill's construction were overlooked.

One central concern with KOSA is its "duty of care"

provision. The duty of care calls on social platforms to regulate content considered "harmful to minors." Yet rather than provide further details to explain its vague criteria, it leaves the authority to the platforms themselves and the FTC, which can take legal action against companies that refuse to take down content they

consider "harmful." As platforms seek to avoid these legal battles, they are likely to take any content that could be deemed harmful by KOSA's enforcers, which essentially puts regulators in charge of what kinds of content my kids see.

Moreover, the FTC is not the only regulator that stands to gain tremendous authority to restrict content online through KOSA. In its current state, the legislation also empowers state attorneys general to wield it in coordination with state law to take action against platforms hosting content from individuals and organizations with whom they disagree.

The last thing we need in the effort to protect kids is to have political bias interjected in the rules governing kids' ability to access online content. Access to the Internet is part of everyday life for kids. Kids need access to the Internet to do even basic things like getting their school assignments.

Too often, well-intentioned laws end up doing more harm than good because our leaders in Congress want to do something even if that something might not actually solve the problem.

I hope that Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski and her colleagues will take the time to get KOSA right. Doing something for the sake of doing something is not a real solution. We must protect kids online and prioritize their safety, but we must also ensure KOSA cannot be used as a political weapon.

Taunya Madden is an emergency room nurse at Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

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

Highland board member elected to Association of Community College Trustees

FREEPORT—Highland Community College Trustee Shawn Boldt has been elected to a national leadership role with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Boldt was elected in October as Central Region director, serving community colleges in 10 states and parts of Canada.

Boldt will serve a three-year term with the ACCT, a nonprofit that represents 6,500-plus community college trustees across over 1,200 North American community, technical and junior colleges. His post will empower connections among these institutions, as well as with lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

“The reason I wanted to become involved nationally is the amount of information and ideas that can be gleaned and brought back for use at Highland,” said Boldt. “These include best prac-

tices, ideas for emerging academic programs, grant opportunities and potential partnerships with other colleges.”

Boldt’s new appointment is a continuation of his extensive involvement with the ACCT, most recently on the Finance and Audit Committee and Member Communication and Education Committee. He was also elected to the state-level Illinois Community College Trustees Association board as treasurer in 2022, having previously held a role of regional co-chair for the ICCTA.

Boldt, who started his studies at a community college, has a lengthy legacy of civic involvement. Before his election to Highland’s governing board, he served on the Freeport City Council for 14 years. He has additionally held posts on the boards of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Northern

Illinois Economic Development, and Immanuel Church and School.

As the ACCT’s Central Region director, Boldt will work to advocate for students and employees of the community college system by helping set legislative priorities. In turn, he will collaborate with educational institutions, and impact policy and budget decisions for the ACCT.

“I believe that service to the organization is important, but service to our students and staff must be paramount,” said Boldt. “As a product of a community college that launched my educational path, and now as a parent of two community college graduates and a student trustee, I have been able to benefit greatly from this system. Now, it is time to give back, ensure the future, and improve the community college experience for all.”



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Highland Community College Trustee Shawn Boldt has been elected to a national leadership role with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).



Carefree 4-H Club holds November meeting

The Carefree 4-H Club met for their November meeting on Nov. 11. Kodi Hubbard arranged for a guest to come speak. Captain Mike Spencer came and talked to the kids about being an airplane pilot. He told them all about the planes, the states he flies to, and some fun stories about his job and what it’s like to be a pilot. The kids learned a lot and had many questions. The club meets on the second Monday of the month in Oregon. There is still time to join for the current 4-H year.

(Courtesy photo)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nov. 25: The Ogle County Historical Society in Oregon will have their monthly meeting, Monday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the carriage

house annex building on Franklin Street which is behind (east of) the Nash House Museum at 111 N. Sixth St. All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 3, 5: The Forres-

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ton High School Servant Leaders, in cooperation with Darlene Book, Texas Disaster Relief, and North Carolina Canton Fire Department are hosting a Christmas Book &

Toy Drive for children in North Carolina who suffered great loss from the recent hurricanes. Help us spread Christmas cheer to our neighbors to the south! Servant Leaders will be

collecting donations during the girls basketball game on Tuesday, Dec. 3 and the boys basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 5. Donations can also be dropped off at the FJSHS office

during school hours. The sleigh will be loaded after the start of the varsity game on Dec. 5. All donations will go to children in need. Thank you for your support and your generosity!

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LOCAL NEWS



Ogle Jolly Members visit veterans at Double O Saloon (left) to thank them for their service. Pictured are Wesley Clark, Bristol Clark, Bailey Clark, Alyse Rogers and Hailey Clark. Above at right are the 2024 Ogle Jolly 4-H Officers Ayden Alderks (treasurer), Aubrey Janoski (president), Kennedy Collins (recreation), Alyse Rogers (vice president), Matthew Roos (historian), Owen Collins (recreation), Kaitlyn Adams (reporter), and Bristol Clark (secretary).



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Ogle Jolly 4-H Club hosts November meeting, activities

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle Jolly 4-H Club met on Nov. 18 for their monthly meeting. The Cloverbud children (ages 5-7) made pumpkin pie in a bag. The 4-H members reviewed old business, including a Veterans Day

visit to Double O in Monroe Center to thank veterans and give them cards. Members participated in the Ogle Jolly garbage bag fundraiser, and garbage bags were distributed to members at the meeting. Ogle County

4-H Achievement Day was Nov. 17. Members participated by receiving awards and passing on the "Club of the Year" award. On Achievement Day, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club was awarded a 4-H Honor Club Award

and was recognized for decorating a window to promote 4-H week. The club will be participating in Cardinal Christmas in Stillman Valley by decorating a Christmas tree

and caroling on Sunday, Dec. 1. We will also be caroling at Generations at Neighbors nursing home in Byron on Dec. 12. Our next meeting will be Dec. 16, which will include a

club awards ceremony and a pizza party. Each family is encouraged to bring a dessert.

Submitted by: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly Club Reporter



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ogle Jolly 4-H Members at Ogle County 4-H Achievement Day: Nolan Adams, Kaitlyn Adams, and Alyse Rogers.

PAG to present 'Christmas Eve in Chaos' Jan. 10-12

MT. MORRIS — This winter, the Performing Arts Guild of Mt. Morris will present a dessert theatre, *Christmas Eve in Chaos*. *Christmas Eve in Chaos* is a festive, inside-splitting radio play that captures the spirit of holiday mishaps. Carol (Trudy Whalen), the ultimate holiday enthusiast, is determined to make Rick's home the brightest on the block. But when her elaborate light display causes a massive neighborhood blackout, her dreams of a perfect Christmas quickly turn into a holiday disaster.

Linda (Priscilla Osborne), Rick's sensible wife, finds herself caught in the chaos, trying to keep peace amid the escalating mishaps. Meanwhile, Rick (Mark Tremble) provides sarcastic commentary, and Uncle Frank (Larry Ubben) is convinced it's

all part of a government conspiracy. The family must figure out how to restore power before the entire neighborhood turns on them. As they scramble in the dark, things take an unexpected turn when Santa (Jeff Bold) himself crash-lands his sleigh in their backyard. The reindeer are scattered, Santa is flustered, and Carol sees it as her chance to save Christmas. With Rick reluctantly dragged along, Linda trying to keep everyone grounded, and Uncle Frank still on high alert, the family sets off on a chaotic reindeer hunt through the snowy streets. From runaway reindeer to inflatable snowmen, *Christmas Eve in Chaos* delivers laugh after laugh as the family's holiday woes spiral out of control. This heartwarming com-

edy is perfect for anyone who needs a post-holiday pick-me-up and a reminder that even the most chaotic Christmas can bring joy.

This delightful comedy will be held on Friday through Sunday, Jan. 10-12 at the Allure of Pincrest Grove Theater, 500 Evergreen Lane, Mt. Morris. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Get your tickets now! Tickets are \$16, with a \$2 discount for students. Dessert (included in the price) will be served at Intermission. Reservations are encouraged. For information, call 815.734.2103 or order online at www.performingartsguild.com.

Due to scheduling conflicts, this show will replace the previously scheduled play, *A Christmas Story*.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

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 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

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 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

CRULL: Ogle County attorney appointed to serve as associate judge

From page 1

Tess advised there was an opening in his office and Crull chose to practice law in Ogle County.

During law school, Crull took part in a clerkship in the Ogle County Courthouse, working for a number of Ogle County judges.

"I had a tremendous amount of respect for the judges," Crull said. "Judge Mallon in particular would always come into my office and give me career and life advice and I always really respected and appreciated that. I also remember I was there when Judge Pemberton retired, and he sat on the bench for a great period of time after his last case. You could just see how important that was and how much that meant to him and how much he enjoyed that career. That always kind of stuck in my mind."

Crull, 38, said he chose to apply for the associate judge position to help the community and make Ogle County a better place. He said he was "tremendously

humbled" when he received news of his appointment.

The biggest change for Crull will be working with both sides of cases, rather than just one as an attorney. He thanked everyone at Tess, Crull & Arquist for the past 10+ years.

Crull can trace his family's roots in Ogle County back to the early 1900s. He's found receipts from that time of one of his great grandfathers selling items to another.

"I've been given and need to take advantage of an opportunity to help make Ogle County and the whole 15th Judicial Circuit the best place that I can," Crull said. "I like the people here and want them to do well and I want more people to want to live here. It's humbling, but very exciting. It means a lot that that trust has been put in me and that I can hopefully use it to help our area."

Crull said making sure people respect the court process, and making sure they feel respected during the process will be paramount to him on the bench. He



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Russell Crull received his undergraduate degree in 2009 from Western Illinois University in Macomb and his Juris Doctor in 2013 from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

wants to make sure people feel they have a fair and impartial judge.

"Being able to help both sides is what I'm looking forward to most," Crull said. "I'm looking forward to being able to have the time to listen to everybody. A lot of times as a lawyer you listen to the other side, but you're listening in order to attack. I think it'll be a lot nicer when I have the opportunity to just listen to both sides without predetermining anything and hearing out both sides in advance of making any determination."

Cardinal Christmas is Dec. 1 in Stillman Valley

STILLMAN VALLEY — Stillman's Cardinal Christmas will be held on Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by firetruck at 4 p.m. at Ladders of Learning Daycare. Photos with Santa will be taken by Sammie Cicogna all evening. A craft and vendor show will take place at Meridian Junior High from 3-7 p.m. A live nativity will be across from the Jr. High at the Brick Center. Inside there will be carolers and donuts.

Coyote 102.3 will be broadcasting live from the Royal Blue. Royal Blue will have food and a special peppermint sundae during

the evening. An information booth will be set up at the corner of Main and Walnut. Punch cards can be entered into a drawing for a family four pack of tickets to the Ice Hogs. New this year will be Dancing Dads; they will perform at 4:30 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. downtown.

The annual tree lighting will take place at 5 p.m., along with People's Choice Award for the favorite decorated tree. Lion's will be serving cookies and hot cocoa at the garage by the bank. Horse-drawn carriage rides and wagon rides will be offered all evening. Snow Princess and Super

Hero will be at the Jr. High from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fiona will be doing nails for girls from 4-6 p.m. at Shear Madness. There will also be hair tinsel for the girls. The Grinch will be around town.

Grace Fellowship Church will be doing face painting and making crafts with children. Bonfires will be lit and s'mores can be made. RED will have a table set up at the Wooden Nickel. Fritz will be grilling hot dogs and pork chops outside the Wooden Nickel. There will be specialty drinks available inside. Come downtown Stillman Valley and enjoy the fun on Dec. 1.



Higley Light Extravaganza is Nov. 29 in Mt. Morris

Miles is back on the roof helping to have everything ready for our 13th year of the Higley Light Extravaganza Annual Light Kickoff. Join us at 309 W. Front St. in Mt. Morris on Friday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. for goodies, drinks and fellowship. This year we are collecting new toys for the local police and fire departments. Also we will be accepting monetary donations for Wreaths Across America. This is a nonprofit organization that helps honor, remember and teach future generations what the cost of freedom is by placing a wreath on the headstone or final resting place of an American hero. (Courtesy photo)

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.



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In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

How businesses can make the most of Small Business Saturday

SALES and consumer holidays compete for shoppers' attentions every year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Such events save consumers billions of dollars every year, but small business owners know it's no small feat getting holiday shoppers to part with their hard-earned money.

Competing for holiday shoppers is hard work, but those efforts can provide a big payoff. According to Finder's Black Friday Statistics 2022, 55 percent of men and 52 percent of women planned to shop Black Friday sales in 2022, when men planned to spend \$465 and women intended to spend \$300. If small business owners are concerned they can't compete on Black Friday, they can always look to Small Business Saturday, which encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local. Competition can still be steep on Small Business Saturday, but the following are some strategies business owners can employ to make the most of this unique event on the holiday season calendar.

- Update your website. The Small Business Administration recom-

mends that small business owners consider a digital makeover for their websites. Even though Small Business Saturday encourages individuals to shop in person, modern consumers typically peruse online offerings first. Updating an outdated website or simply reviewing all information, including product details, on the website to ensure it's up-to-date can help small businesses make a strong first impression with holiday shoppers.

- Promote Small Business Saturday. Though it's been around for more than a decade, Small Business Saturday is not yet the household name that Black Friday has become. Small business owners can drum up interest in Small Business Saturday by promoting the day on their social media channels. The SBA recommends business owners encourage shoppers to snap selfies and tag their businesses on their own social media accounts, which can increase engagement and potentially attract new customers.

- Sell and promote gift cards. Gift cards help national retailers generate substantial revenue each year, and there's no reason why small businesses can't get their piece of the



gift card pie. Gift cards remain wildly popular, as a recent survey from the National Retail Federation found that 54 percent of participants identified gift cards as the most-wanted gift of the 2022 holiday season.

Small businesses can offer discounted gift cards on Small Business Saturday and promote those efforts on their websites and via social media.

- Open early and close late. Small Business Saturday, which

occurs on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, is a great opportunity for small businesses to start the potentially lucrative holiday season off on the right foot. The SBA urges small businesses to open early and close late on

Small Business Saturday so they can capitalize as much as possible on this popular retail holiday.

Small business owners can embrace various strategies to make the most of Small Business Saturday.

Why supporting local small businesses matters

THE holiday season is a time of year when shopping takes center stage. While online giants and big box retailers seem to be everywhere, offering an endless array of products with the convenience of low prices, small businesses provide a range of benefits that go far beyond the ease of a mouse click or mountains of merchandise. Shopping local retailers is more than just a transaction — it is crucial for maintaining the economic foundation of local communities. Let's take a look at the many ways it pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long.

- Strengthen the local economy: A large percentage of the money spent at small businesses stays in the community. That's because these businesses often are owned and operated by local residents who are invested in the community themselves. Various studies indicate that for every \$100 spent at a small business, roughly \$70 stays



in the community.

- Enhanced customer service: Owners and employees of small businesses have a keen interest in keeping customers happy. They often do so by providing superior customer service. Tailoring recommendations, exhibiting a willingness to accommodate special requests, offering a more engaging shopping experience, and being more friendly and connected with regular customers sets many small businesses apart.

- Support the community: Small businesses serve the community through the products and services they offer, and many give back in other ways as well. Small, locally owned businesses often sponsor schools, sports teams and charities. This helps foster a sense of belonging in the community.

- Innovative offerings: Small businesses are not beholden to corporate policies or franchise re-

strictions, so they can more readily bring new life to existing ideas and trends. Small businesses can offer customers different options that larger retailers cannot match.

- Job creation: Small businesses employ a significant percentage of the workforce and frequently provide jobs that might not be available in larger corporate settings. The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy says small businesses have generated 12.9 million net new jobs over the past 25 years, accounting for two out of every three jobs added to the U.S. economy. Keeping residents working helps strengthen local communities.

There are numerous benefits to shopping at small businesses this Small Business Saturday and throughout the year. Such firms help to establish a more resilient, diverse and bustling local community.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THANKSGIVING DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Oregon High School varsity and JV bowling teams opened the 2024-25 season at the Mendota Invitational on Nov. 9. The JV team took first and the varsity team finished third in the tournament. Oregon has since added dual wins over Rockford Lutheran, Erie-Prophetstown and Rochelle.

Oregon boys bowling teams open season at Mendota Invitational

MENDOTA — The Oregon boys bowling season was kicked off with a nearly perfect 299 game in the first game of the season at the Mendota Invite on Saturday, Nov. 9 at IV Super Bowl in Peru. Junior RJ Keene rolled the 299, leaving a solid 10 pin in the final shot of

the first game as part of a 1131 team game. Oregon was in second place as a team after the initial 4-game individual format behind last year's 13th place IHSA finishers from Morton High School. After an additional 10 baker format games, Oregon was still in second

place with a 5923-score entering the stepladder finals. Unfortunately, the Hawks dropped the semi-final match play contest to LaSalle-Peru and finished in third place on the day. Individually the Hawks were led by third-place medalist, senior Gavvin Surmo, with a 915 series

(264, 204,191,256) followed by Keene in sixth place with a 840 series, Ethan Smice in 10th with a 817 series, Caleb Brooks with a 748 series and Matthew Stahl with a 723 series. The JV boys finished as champions following an exciting 2-1 match

play stepladder finals with tournament leader Morton. Oregon's JV also entered the stepladder finals in 2nd place behind Morton, but the JV Hawks were able to defeat both LaSalle-Peru and Morton enroute to the tournament win. The JV was led by

Caleb Ehrler in 2nd place individually with a 754 series (200,156,190,208), followed closely by Zack West in 3rd place with a 735 series, Ivan Hernandez 670 series, Wyatt Dunbar 595 series, and Diego Hernandez 576 series. See BOWLING pg 3



12797 Bayside Pointe Winnebago NOW \$435,000 Call Rebecca
Stunning Lakefront Home in Westlake Village | 120 Feet of Private Lakefront Welcome to this custom-built, one-owner home

in the highly sought-after Westlake Village community, offering 120 feet of pristine lakefront complete with a private dock. Set on a sprawling 0.36-acre lot, this residence offers breathtaking lake views from nearly every room, thanks to the abundance of large windows throughout. The main floor features a spacious living room with a cozy gas fireplace, perfect for enjoying the lake views year-round. A bright and airy sunroom adds to the charm, offering the ideal space for relaxation. The kitchen includes an eat-in area for casual meals, while a formal dining room provides the perfect setting for hosting guests. The master suite is conveniently located on the main floor, boasting an updated walk-in shower and plenty of space to unwind. Upstairs, you'll find two more bedrooms and a versatile room that could easily be transformed into a bunk room for extra sleeping space. The fully finished basement offers a 4th bedroom, a full bathroom, and a kitchenette, perfect for guests or a private living space. Westlake Village amenities include access to the community pool, tennis courts, and scenic walking trails. This is a rare opportunity to own a premier lakefront property in Westlake Village—don't miss out!



707 S 5th Street Oregon NOW \$141,000 Call Carla
New listing in Oregon awesome building 36x88 with 200 amp service, heated. 1-16 ft door

for easy access plus a 10 ft door. This building is only 6 years old and offers many uses. There is also a single family home that is included with this sale. Call today to schedule your viewing of this unique offering with Rt 2 road frontage and daily highway traffic count of 9,700 in Oregon.

NEW LISTINGS



2166 Fawn Ridge Drive Dixon \$44,000
Gorgeous Lot 3 (1.49 Acres) available to build your dream home. Located just off of Lowell Park Rd close to Dixon. Electric and natural gas at lot line, well and septic required. Stately lamp lighted lane offers evening comfort. The front of the lot offers partial grass area plus original hardwoods at the back of the lot to offer wooded privacy. Covenants and Restrictions are in documents. Don't miss out on your opportunity to own your own piece of paradise just outside of historic Dixon, Illinois. Don't delay call today!!



4303 Kendall Road Winnebago \$349,900 Call Becky
Country living! Enjoy the peace and quiet on this 5.5 acres in Winnebago school district. This one owner 2 story home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and a 2 car garage. Spacious kitchen open to the dining room with a brick fireplace & pellet/corn fireplace insert. Main level has a large family room, a bedroom and main bath with walk-in tile shower. Laundry room is also on main level (washer/dryer stay). Upstairs has 3 additional oversized bedrooms with hardwood floors and a bathroom with a cast iron tub. LL has a brick fireplace & the potential for a beautiful family room. Large deck on the back of house. 40x60 concrete slab to build a new shed on. 2 other outbuildings, 2 silos (not used), old brick milk house, flower garden, new roof 2023, water hr (LP) '19, GFA heat from LP on main level and electric heat upstairs. Window unit, Aprilaire, free internet with Aeroband for being on property, recently resurveyed this 5.5 acres from larger parcel. 197 additional acres available. Property sold AS-IS.



3128 E Mill Road Byron \$168,900 Call Becky
Great location for this 3BR, 1.5 BA home which sits on 1 acre! The bi-level has been freshly painted inside and new carpet in the main living area and 1 bedroom. Open concept for kitchen, LR and dinette area. Corner stone fireplace in LR. All appliances stay, raised panel oak cabinets, breakfast bar & pantry. LL has large laundry area with newer LVP flooring, a sink and washer/electric dryer stay. Office (or could be 4th bedroom) has attached 1/2 BA and full walkout to a patio. 2 car garage with heat, shelving & workbench. Slider from dinette to freshly painted deck overlooking the spacious backyard with trees and above ground pool. Across from bike path and close to 2 parks. Water hr 2022, water filter, water softener. Covered front porch, partial brick front. All electric, 4 window units. Sold AS-IS.



101 E 2nd Street Leaf River \$107,000 Call Rebecca
Charming 3+ Bedroom, 2 Full Bath Home in Leaf River - Move-In Ready! Welcome to this spacious and inviting home in the peaceful community of Leaf River! This 3+ bedroom, 2 full bathroom property offers plenty of room for family living and is packed with fantastic features. The main floor boasts an open-concept design that seamlessly flows from the kitchen to the dining area and living room, creating a perfect space for both everyday living and entertaining. A large family room provides additional versatile space that could easily be transformed into a fourth bedroom or home office. The main-floor master bedroom is generously sized, offering a relaxing retreat. Convenience is key with the main-floor laundry - a thoughtful touch that adds practically to the layout. Upstairs, you'll find two bedrooms, perfect for family, guests, or a quiet home retreat. The fenced backyard provides a wonderful outdoor space for pets, gardening, or enjoying time with loved ones. An attached 1.5-car garage with extra depth offers plenty of storage for vehicles and more. This charming home is ready for you to move in and make it your own. Don't miss your chance to call this one home - schedule a showing today!



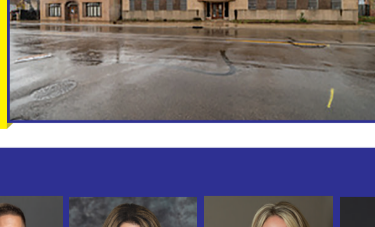
6749 N Friday Road Byron \$270,000 Call Rebecca
Welcome to your dream home in the highly sought-after Byron School District! This beautiful 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom ranch offers a perfect blend of modern updates and cozy charm. Step inside to find an inviting main floor with updated vinyl plank flooring throughout the living area. The heart of the home-the kitchen-boasts granite countertops, a stylish tile backsplash, painted cabinets, and sleek stainless-steel appliances, making it a chef's delight. The spacious master suite and additional bedrooms provide comfort and ample living space for your family. The finished lower level adds incredible versatility, complete with a full bathroom and the potential for a 4th bedroom, perfect for guests, a home office, or recreational use. Car enthusiasts and hobbyists will be thrilled by the 28x24 outbuilding with a 12-foot door and durable 7-inch concrete floor, ideal for storage or workshop needs. The attached heated garage adds convenience and ensures comfort year-round. With extensive features, and modern updates, this property is sure to capture attention. Don't miss your chance to own this exceptional home-schedule your showing today! This one won't last long!



3174 S Butternut Road Oregon \$259,900 Call JD
Charming rural ranch home with acreage and endless potential. Nestled on over 6 acres of picturesque land with stunning rural views, this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home offers the perfect blend of tranquility and opportunity. Inside, enjoy spacious living area, a master suite with private bath, main floor laundry, and an oversized attached garage. The third bedroom provides versatility, making it ideal for use as an office or hobby room if desired. Add your personal finishing touches to make this home uniquely yours. Outside, the property is complete with an outbuilding featuring a heated workshop, storage shed, and a horse shelter within a fenced pasture-perfect for animal enthusiasts or hobbyists. A whole-home generator ensures peace of mind, while the serene setting offers a sense of privacy and rural charm. With so much potential, this is the country retreat you've been waiting for! An additional 5 acres to the north are also available, giving you the flexibility to expand your space and dreams.



206 Smith Drive Oregon \$292,900 Call Stephanie
Discover modern living in this 3 bedroom 2 bath ranch home, boasting 1430 square feet of comfort and style. Built in 2018, this gem is nestled in the sought after Stone Gate Subdivision. Step inside to find an open floor plan featuring vaulted ceilings and an inviting living room adorned with hickory hardwood flooring and gas fireplace. You will love the master suite offering a spacious walk-in closet. There are 2 nice sized secondary bedrooms offering ample space for family, guests or a home office. Built with 2x6 construction, this home features partial exposure in the lower level and is rough in for a third bathroom, providing ample potential for future expansion. Home is complete with a 3 car garage, 12x12 deck, outdoor firepit and retaining wall. Stay connected and in control with the smart home package and fiber internet, and convenient city water/sewer and natural gas utilities. Don't miss the chance to make this exceptional property your new home.



1111 5th Avenue Rockford \$255,000 Call Lori
Stunning Lakefront Home in Westlake Village | 120 Feet of Private Lakefront Welcome to this custom-built, one-owner home in the highly sought-after Westlake Village community, offering 120 feet of pristine lakefront complete with a private dock. Set on a sprawling 0.36-acre lot, this residence offers breathtaking lake views from nearly every room, thanks to the abundance of large windows throughout. The main floor features a spacious living room with a cozy gas fireplace, perfect for enjoying the lake views year-round. A bright and airy sunroom adds to the charm, offering the ideal space for relaxation. The kitchen includes an eat-in area for casual meals, while a formal dining room provides the perfect setting for hosting guests. The master suite is conveniently located on the main floor, boasting an updated walk-in shower and plenty of space to unwind. Upstairs, you'll find two more bedrooms and a versatile room that could easily be transformed into a bunk room for extra sleeping space. The fully finished basement offers a 4th bedroom, a full bathroom, and a kitchenette, perfect for guests or a private living space. Westlake Village amenities include access to the community pool, tennis courts, and scenic walking trails. This is a rare opportunity to own a premier lakefront property in Westlake Village—don't miss out!

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LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET LIBRARY NEWS

Thanksgiving Hours
Bertolet Memorial Library will close at 5pm on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and will be closed on Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving.
White Christmas

Monday, Dec. 2 at 10:30AM: Enjoy watching this Christmas classic movie with us. Then be sure to return on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10:30AM: The 1954 movie White Christmas was

a hit even before it debuted; how was that possible? How has it remained a perennial classic up through the present day? What creative forces banded together to bring Irving Berlin, Bing Crosby,

Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Mary Wickes, and others together to create a spectacular moment in cinematic history? Librarian Laura Keyes will show you how the film was created, who were the creative geniuses behind it, all with behind-the-scenes images and historical information. See our Facebook page for event information!

Stories With Stacey
Thursdays at 10 AM: Miss Stacey continues your journey learning about a variety of animals as we lead up to the end of the year. Remember, we will not have Stories With Stacey on Nov. 28.

November Book of the Month
The Accidental Tourist

by Anne Tyler introduces Macon Leary, a travel writer who hates to travel?? He is also a lonely man as well. Dog trainer Muriel turns his world upside down when they meet. Stop by the circulation desk and pick up your copy today.

November Craft
Stop by the circulation desk and pick up your kit to make a pumpkin, just in time for Thanksgiving.

A to Z Reading Challenge
Wait; What? Whether you've been Watching for "W" titles or you're already Waist deep in them, our Wonderfully Well-chosen display of "W" titles is Wider than you could ever Wish for!

Coloring Pages

Don't forget we have new coloring pages each week available for you to choose from. Enjoy a relaxing evening at home as the weather turns to fall.

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

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

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books
The Waiting by Michael Connelly

Five & Dime Christmas: Four Historical Novellas by Asst Authors

What Does It Feel Like? by Sophie Kinsella

Chapter Book
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess by Jeff Kinney

Picture Book
Alone Together by Suzanne Bloom

If I Drove an Ice Cream Truck by Dr. Seuss

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Monday, November 25
Open Swim 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Volleyball & Basketball in the Gym 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Gaga Ball in the River Room 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26
Open Swim 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Gaga Ball & Games in the River Room 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
Wallyball 9-11 a.m.
Volleyball & Basketball 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27
Open Swim 9-11 a.m.
Wallyball 9-11 a.m.

Nash Recreation Center closed Thanksgiving Day

Holiday Pickleball Tournament
Monday, December 30 - 4-8 p.m.
\$30R/\$36NR per Team

Christmas Breakfast with Santa at Lorado Taft
Saturday, December 14
Two seatings 8-9:30 a.m. or 10-11:30 a.m.
Children \$16R/\$18NR
Adults \$20R/\$24NR
Enjoy a morning with Santa and a breakfast buffet at Lorado Taft's last public event prior to closure!
Mr. and Mrs. Claus will have a fun morning interacting!

Deadline to register is 12/7 or until full

Search For Santa
Saturday, December 14
1-3 p.m.
\$20R per family/\$24NR per family
A fun family adventure! Santa Claus is hidden somewhere in Oregon, can you find him? Registration is priced per family. You will start your adventure at Nash Recreation Center and head out to solve clues around Oregon. Families must have their own car for traveling for clues.

Deadline to register is 12/7

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SPORTS

BOWLING: OHS teams score three wins after strong tournament finish

From page 1

Oregon boys bowling team rolls over Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon Hawks boys bowling team opened its dual match season with a convincing 3,679-2,418 victory over Rockford Lutheran at Park Lanes in Loves Park. RJ Keene rolled a 288 game, following up on his 299 on Saturday, and a 674 series (173, 288, 213) to lead Oregon.

However, this was a complete team effort with five varsity bowlers averaging over 205 for the night. Gavvin Surmo was second highest with a 658 series, followed by Ethan Smice with a 635 series,

Matthew Stahl with a 624 series, Caleb Brooks with a 616 series and Caleb Ehrler with a 472 series.

The JV team won by forfeit but bowled and recorded a 2,850 team series. A trio of bowlers recorded the high JV game Diego Hernandez, Isaac Kramer and Asher Kramershot 193 games with Isaac Kramer recording the high series of 512. Great job everyone.

Oregon boys bowling team beats Erie-Prophetstown

The Oregon boys bowling team headed to Fulton to take on Erie-Prophetstown and came away with a 3,625-2,582 non-conference victory. The duo of Gavvin Surmo and RJ Keene continue

to lead the Hawks.

Surmo lead all bowlers with a 720 series (225,266,229) followed closely by Keene with a 703 series (211,269,223), then Ethan Smice with a 585 series, Matthew Stahl a 574 series, Caleb Brooks with a 543 series and Caleb Ehrler with a 500 series. In the process, Surmo raised his team leading season game average to 229 and Keene raised his average to 221. The Hawks season record now stands at 2-0.

The JV also won its match 2,589-1,881 and for the second night outscored their opponents varsity team as well. The JV was led by Ivan Hernandez with a 602 series, including a 252

game. The JV is also 2-0 in the season.

Oregon boys bowling team defeats Rochelle

The Oregon Hawks Boys bowling team opened their home schedule with a 3,526-3,076 victory over Rochelle today at Town & Country Lanes, Mt. Morris. Oregon was led by Gavvin Surmo with a 676 series (214, 186, 276) and Matthew Stahl with a 675 series (287, 194, 194). Rounding out Oregon's performance were RJ Keene 601 series, Caleb Brooks 551 series, Ivan Hernandez 514 series and Ethan Smice 509 series.

The contest continued Oregon's streak of at least one individual game over 265 in all four events this

season, with Matthew Stahl's 287 and Gavvin Surmo's 276. Rochelle was led by Logan Frye with a 603 series. The win raised Oregon's season record to 3-0.

The JV did not bowl a match, however a special acknowledgement goes to two JV bowlers who did bowl, Wyatt Dunbar with a 630 series (154, 221, 255) and Nolan Page with a 602 series. Great job everyone.

Ehrler wins Oregon Bowling Tournament

The Oregon Boys bowling team hosted its annual JV tournament at Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon and finished in second place in the 13-team field, just behind Freeport. The Hawks were led by

champion Caleb Ehrler with a 1,219 six-game series (171, 213, 217, 162, 188, 268). His sixth game, 268, was also the highest of the tournament.

Also in the top 12 were seventh place finisher Nolan Page with a 1,079 series and 12th place finisher Wyatt Dunbar with a 1,037 series. In addition, Ivan Hernandez rolled a 989 series, Diego Hernandez a 897 series, Ashe Kramer a 867 series and Kodi Miller a 717 series.

The Hawks made a run at the eventual champion Freeport in the sixth and final game with a 1,043, the highest of any team in the tournament, but came up 51 pins short of the championship.

Time to let the dream slip away?

NOVEMBER marks a 50-year love/hate relationship I have with the Illinois high school football playoffs; dating back to the very first year the IHSA instituted post-season play. I recall gazing out to our empty practice field at Rochelle in 1974 and silently saying to myself, "What a shame."

Even though we had defeated league champ Geneseo in the regular season, they represented the NCIC in the playoffs, not us. With a team good enough to win the state title, we botched our chances with shoddy play in a couple other games. And, with only 80 teams in five classes in the playoffs, you practically had to win your conference to qualify.

It was FOMO before that term was coined. However, the next year we won the conference outright and got the automatic invite to the playoffs. My senior season came to end, though, as Geneva knocked us out 21-14 and advanced to the championship game. That one-touchdown loss was further amplified by me dropping a wide-open pass that would have gone for a score.

In 1977, Rochelle was unscored upon in the conference and entered the playoffs ranked No. 1 in the state. In a fate worse than Byron facing Montini in round two, the Hubs ended up against conference archrival Geneseo in round one.

Though my playing days were over, it was with nervous anticipation I sat in the old Helms Field stands

on a Wednesday afternoon (yes, teams used to play two games in the first week on the playoffs) watching the two best teams in 3A go at it. Sadly, an early Hub lead evaporated and Geneseo pulled out the win on its way to an easy romp to the state championship.

Thus, my IHSA playoff psyche was impacted early on with my school's chances for grid glory gone by the wayside. It continued over the decades, with three semi-finals defeats circa 2000.

Don't get me wrong. As much as playoff losses can haunt a person, the wins can be heavenly. And, the experience of playing past the regular season is unique in itself, especially for us old-timers who remember when football was over after the regular season.

I bring all this up because of the dread I felt on last Saturday morning. With one of its best teams ever, Rochelle had a quarterfinal playoff game that day. Unfortunately, it was against two-time defending 5A champ LaGrange Nazareth and its D-I roster.

My gut was telling me that more playoff disappointment awaited. Rather than subject myself to this, dare I stay home and regret that Rochelle didn't fall down to 4A instead?

My spirits were lifted a bit as I stepped outside that morning and felt a brisk chill and smelled leaves burning, almost like going back in time to 1974, as some nostalgic senses never leave you. Gosh darn it, this is football weather and

anything is possible, right? I couldn't stay home.

Besides, Rochelle put major beat downs on its first two Catholic League playoff foes. With their physical brand of play, high-scoring offense, home field advantage and stellar group of 20 seniors, maybe the Hubs could shock the state.

My newfound optimism was soon replaced by the cruel realities of Illinois high-school playoff football. A far superior team, Nazareth reeled off 28 points in the second quarter and for the 50th straight year, there will be no state title game appearance for Rochelle.

Over the years, I have gotten some relief in the form of numerous marches to the state finals by Byron, Forreston and Stillman Valley. Covering each of those championship games, I felt emotionally attached and truly enjoyed the experience, admittedly with a twinge of jealousy. Still, it's not the same if it isn't your school or town. For me, the dream lives still lives on. Or does it?

In 1974, the most popular graduation song was "We May Never Pass This Way Again" by Seals and Croft. One of the lyrics is, "Dreams, so they say, are for the fools and they let them slip away."

Maybe I have been playing the fool all this time and after 50 years, it is time to let the dream slip away.

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



Oregon wrestlers medal at 2024 Midwest Preseason Nationals
Oregon wrestlers traveled to Illinois Wesleyan University on Oct. 26 for the 2024 Midwest Preseason Nationals. Nelson Benesh finished third in the Boys 9th-10th 129-137 Division, while Tucker Lahman took second in the Boys 1st-2nd 40-44 Division. Isaiah Perez finished third in the Boys 9th-10th 117-123 Division and Josiah Perez finished second in the Boys 11th-12th 114-126 Division. (Courtesy photo)

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Friday Flick!

All are welcome to join us for a movie on the fourth Friday of each month at 6:00 pm. See you on November 22nd for a family-friendly flick!

Basic Savings & Investing class

Monday, November 25th at 6:00 pm join us for a

Basic Savings & Investing class. The CCCS will lead the discussion. They are an agency that helps people manage their money more effectively.

Sign up for the Fall Dinner!

On Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm we will be serving chili and potato soup with all the fixings as well as dessert. The cost is \$15 and tickets must be purchased prior

to the event (no walk ins). Please reserve your spot by November 22nd.

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!

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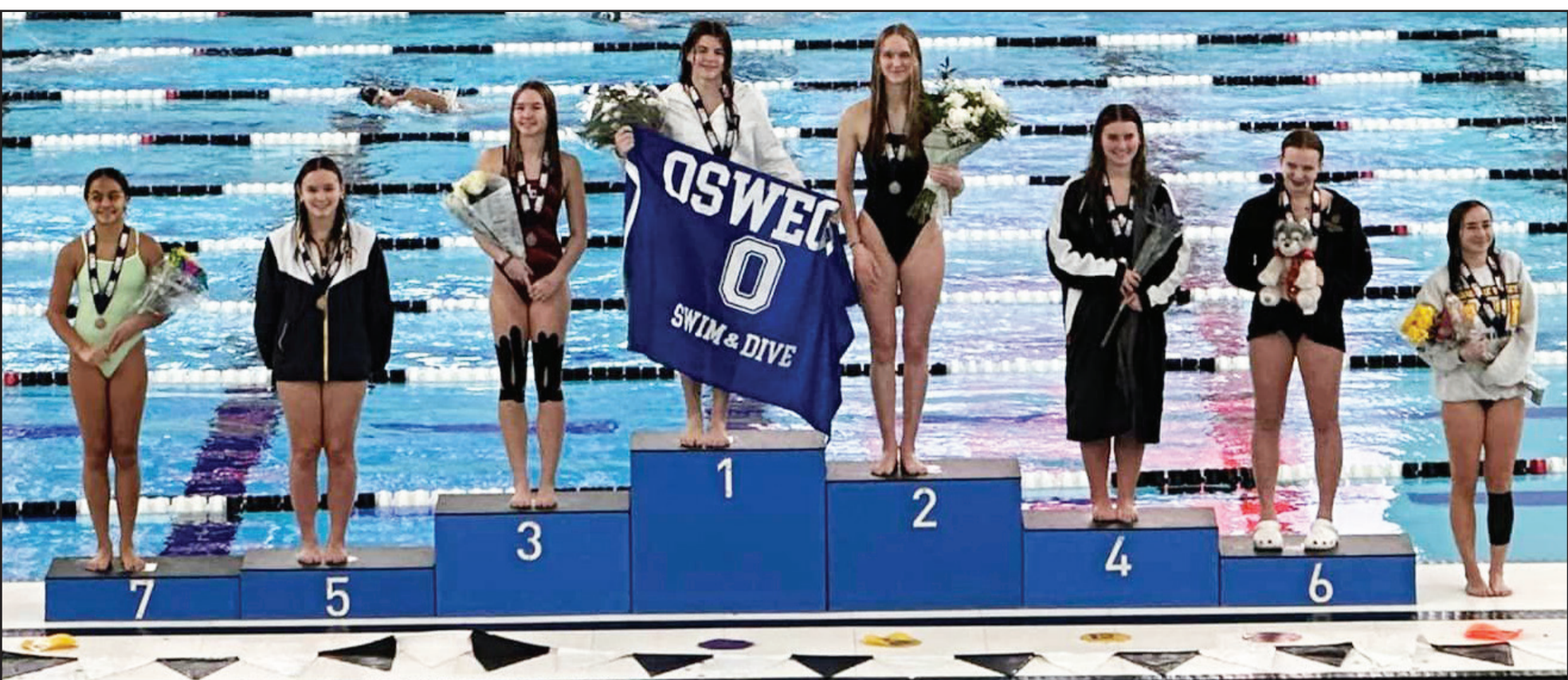
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SPORTS



Byron High School Co-op diver Bausman medals in fourth at IHS State Championship in Westmont

The Byron Co-op girls swimming and diving team had multiple athletes in the water for the IHS State Championship meet at the FMC Natatorium in Westmont. Addison Bausman medaled in fourth place in the 1-meter diving competition during the state meet, which took place from Nov. 15-16. Bausman scored 458.65 points to finish in fourth place. (Courtesy photo)

ROCK RIVER CENTER

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

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Senior Information Services Provided by Rock River Center
Do you need help with Benefit Access Application, Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating assistance or other things? Rock River Center's Information & Assistance Specialists are available at various locations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is avail-

able BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Place - Date - Time. Byron - Jarrett Prairie Center Dec 9 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forrester - Library Dec 11 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris Senior Center Dec 12 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Polo Senior Center None/Closed 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Rochelle - Hub City Senior Ctr. Dec 5 & 19 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

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

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

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON
A Member of the United Church of Christ
701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spelious
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am - 8:45am
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) during the 10:30 worship
Coffee & fellowship time: 10:00am - 10:30am
Main Worship: 10:30am
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

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

CHANA

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

DAVIS JUNCTION

DAVIS JUNCTION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors • "God's Heart in Our Community"
Located in town on Rt. 72 • Our Pastor is Rev. Keith Kelsay-Powell
Sunday Services: Worship 10:30am, Childrens time during Worship Service.
Fellowship following the Worship Service each Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Potluck luncheon following Worship every 4th Sunday, except in the summer months of June, July and August. Various small groups meet throughout the month. For more information about the small groups please call 298-2310. AA meets Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays at 9am. For more information please visit our website WWW.DJUMC.ORG

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Pastor Bob Clardie 8:30am Sunday School
815-535-6990 9:30am Church Service
90 W. Flagg Road www.lostlakechurch.org
Dixon IL 61021

FORRESTON

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

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

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

LEAF RIVER

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

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

LINDENWOOD

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

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

KINGS

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

MOUNT MORRIS

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

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

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

MOUNT MORRIS

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD
East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church
EOCCOMinistries@gmail.com 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Worship following at 10:30 a.m.
Breakfast is served every fifth Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday evenings both Adults & Youth (during the school year) meet weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m.
In the event that Oregon Schools are not in session the Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays.
We look forward to meeting you!

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

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
1831 S Harmony Rd. Oregon, IL 61061
Worship Services: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning, 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Sunday Evening, 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evenings of the Month.
Pastor: Norman Reinford 779-861-3700

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLO

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS
Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815-837-5255
poloatcrossroadsn.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.
Visit our website: www.crossroadsn.com

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

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

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

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

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION
Pastor Brad Pittman www.graceforyou.com
10479 E. High Rd., Stillman Valley, IL 61084 • 815-973-1369
Worship Service: Saturday at 5pm

WINNEBAGO

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



SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

BNC releases All-Conference football winners

OGLE COUNTY — The Big Northern Conference revealed its All-Conference football honorees for the 2024 season. Among the First-Team winners were Byron's

Brayden Knoll (RB), Jared Claunch (OL), Nolan Brass (OL), Sam Gentz (OL), Ben Denton (K), Maddex Draheim (DL), Dillon Shank (LB), Andrew Talbert (DB) and Brock Wagner (P) as

well as Oregon's Briggs Sellers (OL), Josh Crandall (DL) and Keaton Salisbury (DB). Second-Team winners included Byron's Caden Considine (RB), Jarrett

Ross (OL) and Dawson Criddle (LB) as well as Oregon's Kade Girton (WR/TE), Kyson Morris (OL), Seth Rote (DL) and Hunter Bartel (DB) in addition to Stillman Valley's Brady

Hinkle (WR/TE), Nick Wythe (OL), Caesar Gonzalez (DL), Brock Needs (LB), Michael Orlando (P) and Jackson Musial (DB). Honorable Mentions included Byron's Dylan

Springer and Kade Politsch as well as Oregon's Avery Lewis and Cooper Johnson. Stillman Valley's Jackson Barrett and Henry Hildreth also earned Honorable Mentions this season.

Rockford man sentenced to 9 years for unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon

OREGON — A Rockford man was sentenced to nine years in jail for unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon on Nov. 7, a Nov. 14 press release from Ogle County State's

Attorney Mike Rock said. Jesse Alar, 37, of Rockford, plead guilty to unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon and was sentenced to nine years in the Illinois Department of

Corrections by the Honorable Judge John B. Roe. On March 8, 2024, the Illinois State Police responded to a complaint about a driver who pointed a handgun at a victim on In-

terstate 39 in Ogle County. The trooper located the suspect vehicle near the Baxter Road exit on Interstate 39 and the defendant was identified as the suspect. Troopers located a Taurus

9mm handgun inside of the defendant's vehicle during the investigation. The defendant had prior felony convictions from Winnebago County. Unlawful possession of

a weapon by a felony is a class-two felony with a sentencing range of 3-14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by 12 months of mandatory supervised release.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

School's Out Drop-In Fun! Monday, November 25th from 2-5:30pm
Bring the children out on Tuesday for some fun! You can stop by any time between 2pm to 5:30pm to create a fun foodie craft, color some pictures, check out some books, and you can even play some games!

***Date Change* Lego Club Tuesday, November 26th at 6pm**

Lego night is usually the third Thursday of each month. We are having it on Tuesday this month due to Family Reading Night! Join in the fun with all the family as they build and create together. Families can build from 6 – 7pm! All children and parents are invited every third Thursday of the month. Children under 8 need to bring a parent with them.

Library Closing Thursday, November 28th

The Mount Morris Library will be closed on

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28th. We will resume normal hours on Friday at 11am.

Cookbook Club Tuesday, December 3rd at 6pm!

Come in, choose your recipe, and bring your dish to pass at our next meeting! Meetings held potluck style at the Senior Center at 6pm.

Mt. Morris Holiday Festivities, Saturday December 7th at 10:30am

Mount Morris festivities will be starting on December 7th with breakfast at the Senior Center! Afterward, bring the kids over to the library to make some holiday crafts to take home! We will have stations set up so that you can drop-in to make one or all of the crafts! Happy Holidays!

Book Donations Welcome

Our book sale was such a great success due to all of your wonderful donations! We are accepting

donations again for the next book sale! If you have any media you no longer need or want-bring them to the Mount Morris Library! We cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books, VHS tapes, or audio cassettes.

Display Case Showings

We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois users can access and reserve passes from any of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library website, mtmorris-il.org, under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections

Donation boxes for eyeglass recycling are

available at the library. When the boxes are full, they are picked up by local Lions members and dropped off at collection depots. These recycled eyeglasses are given to people in need, with the help of various medical missionaries, in Central and South America and around the world. When the eyeglasses arrive in these countries, doctors and technicians conduct eye exams and provide a free pair of prescription eyeglasses that are as close as possible to that person's sight needs. When donating HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.

Adult Programming

We would love to hear from you. Do you have any program ideas? Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have a program you would like to share/lead? Contact

Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at mmlib@mtmorris-il.org or call 815-734-4927.

Memorial Gifts

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

Newspaper Available!

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

Curbside Service is available!

We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we

will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

Additional Services Offered

We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Library Board Meetings

Monthly board meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the library unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend.

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054 – 815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

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.

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

The library will close at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and remain closed Thursday, Nov. 28 - Friday Nov. 29, for Thanksgiving.

Tween Scene: Holiday Slime Lab

Get into the holiday spirit with this STEM lab

for tweens. We'll make slime that's festive, merry and bright! Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m. Ages 10-12. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Music and Movement

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some fun musical play with a variety of instruments. Friday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Festival: Our Favorite Things

Join us for our annual holiday festival featuring our favorite traditions (crafts, games, community), but with a fun new twist! Each registered family will work together to collect holiday-inspired clues, to solve holiday-inspired puzzles, in order to win some holiday-themed prizes! Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Friends of the Library Mini Bazaar

Cupcake, cookies, and scones—oh my!

Stop by, sit down to enjoy a homemade treat, grab treats to-go and shop our mini-bazaar! All proceeds support library programs and services. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A Midcentury Christmas w/ Leslie Goddard

Christmas in America from the 1940s through the 1960s meant aluminum trees, department store Santas and TV specials. Every kid wanted an Easy Bake Oven, a G.I. Joe or a Slinky. Join historian

Leslie Goddard, PhD, as she looks back at this optimistic era in a fun illustrated lecture, using photos, ads, greeting cards and catalogs to explore why this era was a turning point for how we celebrate the holidays. Monday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Holiday Pajama Party

Twas the night before, the night before... And your little ones are filled with pent-up holiday energy! Join us at the

library for games and crafts with a fun festive theme. Pajamas encouraged. Monday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Puzzle Palooza!

Because... we just fit! Teams of 2-4 will face off to see who can assemble the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in 90 minutes! Prizes will be given to first, second and third-place finishers. Space is limited. Register your team early by calling the library at 815-645-8611. Saturday, Jan. 4, 2 p.m.

POLO LIBRARY

Blood drive

RRVB Blood Drive outside the Polo Public Library, 302 W. Mason St., Tuesday, December 3rd, 2-6 P.M. - For appointments call 815-946-2713.

Polo Christmas Festival

Saturday, December 7th - All day, starting at 8:00 a.m.

2nd Annual Polo Public Library Reindeer Run

Saturday, December 7th, 8:30 a.m. 1 Mile Reindeer. Fun Run Starts at the Polo Public Library pavilion parking lot and ends at Crossroads Community Church. Registration - \$25 (Includes Shirt and a treat).

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Maker Mondays

Mondays, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. for ages 10 & up, Check out STEM kit items & craft & art materials on hand...kiddos, come by to let your creativity & imagination go wild!!

Tot Time Tuesdays

Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., for ages 0 to 3, social time for the littles and grown ups, many hands-on activities, arts and music, and of course, storytime & snack!!

Last Storytime Saturday with Ms. Melanie

December 21st starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Polo Library, Children's area. Join her for a story,

games, and a craft.

Returning: Teen Advisory Board meetings

Thursday, December 19th @ 5 p.m., youth input program to brainstorm ideas, provide feedback about library services, & find ways to help in the community. Pizza & games provided!

ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Book discussion

2nd Fridays, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library. Book discussion will be West with Giraffes by Lynnda Rutledge. January's book discussion will be Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson.

Book 2 Movie

3rd Thursdays, De-

cember 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library: Book 2 Movie. Book discussion will be The Book Club by Mary Alice Monroe. January's book discussion will be The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin.

Book discussion

4th Mondays, December 30th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Library. Book discussion will be Ruby by Cynthia Bond. January's book discussion will be Maggie Murders #1 by Anthony Horowitz

Book Club & Brunch

4th Saturdays, (date & discussion TBA) at 10:30 a.m. at the Polo Library: NEW! Book Club & Brunch For Young Adult to Adult audiences.

DNA Genealogy Assistance

1st Wednesday (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and 3rd Saturdays monthly (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.): DNA Genealogy Assistance (Next dates: Wednesday, December 4th & Saturday, December 21st.) Donna Baumann will be here to help with genealogy questions and DNA questions, or to research your genealogy with any resources she has access to.

NEW FIT class

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, December 3rd & 17th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.: NEW FIT class – Drum-FIT with Terra. This is a choreographed type fit class where participants

use drum sticks in combination with buckets and exercise ball workout to target various areas of the body, legs, arms. For ages 12 to adult.

Yoga with Becka

4th Wednesdays monthly, December 11th, 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Yoga with Becka is back!! Downstairs children's library area. Encouraged to bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required, space is limited.

Reminder

Visit pololibrary.org to access the online catalog, to see what programs and services we offer, and for the latest public events held here at the library. Call us at 815-946-2713 for more information.

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Special Hours

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Byron Public Library will be open 9 am – 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 27, and closed Thursday, Nov. 28 through Friday, Nov. 29. We will be open for our regular hours on Saturday, Nov. 30. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Did you know

The library's Creative Studio is home to two 3D printers that are available for making 3D prints for learning and entertainment purposes. 3D prints cost \$.10 per gram PLA, and will be available for pickup within 7 – 10 business days. Please visit <https://www.byronlibrary.org/3d-printing/> for more information on how to submit your 3D print idea.

Creative Studio

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

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

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!

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving. We will be open regular hours on Friday, November 29th.

Red Bow Box Location

The Library is participating in the Red Bow Give-A-Way. Enter for your chance to win prizes from the Library and a Grand Prize Giveaway. Oregon's 38th Annual Candlelight Walk will be held Saturday, November 30.

Toys for Tots

The Oregon Public Library is a Toys for Tots drop-off location. Last day to contribute is Tuesday, December 3.

Preschool Story Time

(18 months – 6 years). Story Time is on Mondays at 10am. Stories, crafts and friends to share books...all at your Library! Registration is required, visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, December 11 at 12:30 to discuss *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, December 18 at 1 pm to discuss *Once Upon a Wardrobe* by Patti Callahan. Cocktails and Crime will meet not meet in December, but there are two books available which will both be discussed in January. Books on Tap Book Club will not meet in December, but will meet on January 23 at Cork & Tap to discuss *The House Maid* by Freida McFadden and *Maybe Next Time* by Cesca Major. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet in December to discuss *The Poppy War* by R. F. Kuang.

Holiday Movie Binge Boxes

Registration has begun. Holiday Movie Night Binge Boxes are back! Inside each box are DVDs hand-picked for you by our librarians plus a festive treat and activity. Call (815) 732-2724 or visit our website to complete your registration for your box before December 19th. Once your box is ready, you will be notified to pick it up at the Library. Must be an Oregon Library Card holder.

Lego Club

Monday, November 25 at 2pm (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 can 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.

Bottle Cap Flowers

Tuesday, November 26 at 5:30 pm (5th grade through adults). Brighten up fall decorations by creating your own flowers! Turn old metal bottle caps into rustic bottle cap flowers. All supplies will be provided. If you have your own collection of metal bottle caps or would like a variety of colors, bring your own to create a unique arrangement. Registration required.

The Magic of Raina Telgemeier

Tuesday, December 10th at 7 pm. Join us for a night with critically acclaimed comic artist, Raina Telgemeier! Raina is the author and

illustrator of the graphic novels *Smile*, *Drama*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts*, and *Guts*, all #1 New York Times best-sellers. She also adapted and illustrated four graphic novel versions of Ann M. Martin's *Baby-Sitters Club* series, and has contributed short stories to many anthologies. New in 2024, The Cartoonists Club — a one-of-a-kind graphic novel from Raina and Scott McCloud. Raina's accolades include six Eisner Awards, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, a Stonewall Honor, and many Best-of-and Notables lists. Raina grew up in San Francisco, then moved to New York City, where she earned an illustration degree at the School of Visual Arts. Raina currently lives and works in San Francisco, CA. Children's Librarian Genevieve Grove will join Raina in conversation. Register at: bit.ly/ILP_RainaTelgemeier

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Craft with Corks

Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm (4th grade through adults). Create a one of a kind item using old wine corks. Bring your own corks or use supplies that are provided.

Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, December 16th at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required (815) 732-2724 or www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, December 17 at 1:30pm or 5:30 pm (Choose your time slot). Salt Shaker Snowman! ALL supplies provided. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Functional Fitness

Wednesdays at 9:30am. In this class, we use exercises based on whole-body movements to restore posture, improve body mechanics, build strength and endurance, and fine-tune balancing skills. We start with a slow warm-up followed by core exercises — then explore how to utilize these tools based on real situations in daily life. Bring your yoga mat! All levels are welcome. - OREGON PATRONS ONLY - Registration required, this class fills quickly. Please call (815) 732-2724 or

visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Knit & Crochet is BACK!

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill levels 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.

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 resource materials on a variety of topics. Follow the links from our website to access the new EBSCO databases from the library, or login remotely from home with your Oregon Public Library Card. What interests you?

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- *A Horse Called Now* by Ruth Doyle. At the StoryWalk is Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr.

OREGON POLICE REPORT

Oct. 28

At 12:30 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Karen K. McKinley, 79, Winnebago, for retail theft. McKinley was issued a notice to appear and was released from the Oregon Police Department's custody.

Oct. 30

At 9:38 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Andrew J. Swift, 38, Polo, on an outstanding Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Swift was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officer's custody.

At 7:15 p.m., Oregon

Police arrested Wieslaw Szawkalo, 53, Chicago, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Additional citations were issued to Szawkalo for driving under the influence of alcohol with blood alcohol content greater than .08% and illegal transportation of alcohol as a driver. Szawkalo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released.

Oct. 31

At 2:42 p.m., Oregon Police issued George E. Enstrom, 77, Byron, citations for disobeying a stop sign and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred at the intersection of Fairground Circle Drive and Fair Street.

At 2:45 p.m., Oregon Police issued one 16-year-old male juvenile, Mt. Morris, a city citation for violating the tobacco products and alternative nicotine products ordinance. This violation occurred at the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

At 7:12 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of Madison and South 2nd Streets involving a 2019 Jeep driven by Joshua M. Deuth, 33, Oregon, and a 2018 Jeep driven by Wayde J. Reimer, 21, Polo. Deuth was issued a citation for failure to yield at a stop intersection.

Nov. 1

At 8:30 a.m., Oregon Police issued one 16-year-old male juvenile, Mt. Morris, a city citation for violating the tobacco products and alternative nicotine products ordinance. This violation occurred at the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

At 8:55 a.m., Oregon Police issued Lucas L. Griffith, 29, Sterling, citations for operating a motor vehicle when registration suspended for non-insurance and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

At 3:18 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of North 3rd Street resulting

in the arrest of Kristina P. Richards, 48, Oregon, for disorderly conduct. Richards was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

Nov. 2

At 2:48 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jasmine J. Johnson, 23, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

Nov. 3

At 8:28 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Robert M. Disch, 53, Polo, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Disch was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

At 10:36 p.m., Timothy P. Valdivia, 32, Oregon, who was housed at the Ogle County Jail for separate charges, the Oregon Police charged Valdivia for aggravated fleeing/attempting to elude peace officer, and issued citations for driving while license suspended, disobeying a traffic sign, and speeding, 66 in a 40 miles per hour zone.

Two verbal warnings were issued during the week of Oct. 28-Nov. 3.

Nov. 4

At 10:35 a.m., Oregon Police issued one 15-year-old male juvenile, Mt. Morris, a city citation for

the offense of violating the tobacco products and alternative nicotine products ordinance. This violation occurred in Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

At 5:07 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Timothy P. Valdivia, 32, Oregon, for driving while license suspended. Valdivia was also issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Valdivia was transported to the Ogle County Jail. These violations occurred in the 300 block of South 2nd Street.

Nov. 5

At 5:08 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Kyle S. Lowe, 36, Oregon, for driving while license suspended. Lowe was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 900 block of West Washington Street.

At 11:15 a.m., Oregon Police issued Jonathan B. Alaniz, 20, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 4th Street.

Nov. 6

At 1:58 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 400 block of W. Washington Street involving a 2020 Amboy CUSD school bus driven by Cynthia D. Mundell, 52, Ashton, and

a 2022 Ford driven by Mitchell D. Wilson, 29, of Huntley. Mundell was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Nov. 8

At 5:48 a.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic accident at the intersection of South 4th and Madison Streets involving a 2010 Volkswagen driven by Kade M. Girton, 18, Chana, and a 2015 Ford driven by Alan J. Webb, 25, Oregon. Girton was issued citations for disobeying a stop sign and operating a vehicle with an expired registration.

Four verbal warnings were issued during the week of Nov. 4-10.

Nov. 12

At 8:38 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Jesse R. Bushman, 28, Rock Falls, for driving while license suspended. Bushman was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

Nov. 13

At 7:42 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Joann G. Lee, 53, Oregon, for criminal damage to property. Lee was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

Nov. 14

At 7:01 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a crash

report at the intersection of 4th and Washington Streets involving a 2002 Chevrolet driven by Skyler J. Bethel, 33, Mt. Morris, and a 2023 Chevrolet driven by Alan S. Pruzik, 78, Sycamore. No citations were issued.

Nov. 16

At 3:37 p.m., Oregon Police issued Gloria J. McKenzie, 79, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Franklin Street.

Nov. 17

At 1:36 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Robert D. VanDyke, 43, Oregon, for criminal trespass to real property. VanDyke was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear.

At 10:24 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Brenda J. Florin, 61, Mt. Morris, for driving while license suspended. Florin was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 300 block of North 4th Street.

Five verbal warnings were issued during the week of Nov. 11-17.

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

BYRON POLICE REPORT

Nov. 13

At 11:11 a.m. Byron Police Department issued citations to Gregory D. Kendrick Jr., 36, of Sterling for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance and operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license. This violation occurred at the 100 block of Lincoln Street.

Police Department issued a citation to Zachary R. Anderson, 38, of Rockford for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at Walnut Street and Merchant Street.

Nov. 14

At 2:10 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to Joel G. Helms, 54, of Roscoe for operating a vehicle while driver's license is suspended. Helms was arrested and transported to Ogle County Jail where he was fingerprinted and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred at the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

At 4:21 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a domestic at the 900 block of West 2nd Street. Scott C. Crain was

arrested for criminal damage to property, criminal trespassing to residence, disorderly conduct, violation of bail bond, and possession of cannabis. Crain was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Nov. 15

At 7:07 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a citation to Curtis G. Rucker, 28, of Leaf River for

operating a vehicle without proof of valid insurance. This violation occurred at the 600 block of West Blackhawk.

Nov. 16

At 12:11 a.m. Byron Police Department issued citations to Bryan C. Banbry, 18, of Sycamore for disobeying a traffic control device and operating an uninsured motor

vehicle. This violation occurred at Walnut and Blackhawk.

At 6:26 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a single-vehicle accident at the 6,800 block of North German Church Road involving a 2017 Honda, driven by Patrick Simpson, 35, of Winnebago. There were no injuries or citations issued.

LOCAL NEWS



Stillman Valley High School's November Students of the Month named

Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for November were recently named. Pictured from left to right are: SVHS Assistant Principal Jeff Voltz, Rowan Considine (ninth grade), Tyler Kenyon (10th grade), Josie Gibson (11th grade), Kendall Knoll (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Jennifer Simons. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

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					60					61		

ACROSS

1 Newt
 4 Former Delta rival
 7 Very dry
 11 Bjorn of tennis fame
 13 Documentarian Burns
 14 Portrayal
 15 Afrikaner
 16 Fire sign?
 17 Pinnacle
 18 Lieu
 20 Trumpet
 22 Actress Vardalos
 24 Trité
 28 Basking venue
 32 Skiing spot
 33 Twistable treat
 34 TV's Danson
 36 Autobahn auto
 37 Open-mouthed
 39 Swiss cheese
 41 Wards off
 43 Resort
 44 Pleasing
 46 Batter's dry spell
 50 Spiced tea
 53 Vitamin stat
 55 Bangkok cuisine
 56 Hayloft site
 57 Whatever

DOWN

1 Recedes
 2 Shoe insert
 3 Shade provider
 4 - -la-la
 5 Desire
 6 Sneeze sound
 7 Basis for repeat purchases

8 Sinbad's bird
 9 City on the Danube
 10 Golf peg
 12 Banner at a new store
 19 Conk out
 21 "Kidnapped" monogram
 23 Play part
 25 Aspiration
 26 Mimic
 27 Prefix with conference
 28 Fly high
 29 Incite
 30 Tide type
 31 Small barrel

35 Hosp. workers
 38 Football's Manning
 40 Boom times
 42 Discard
 45 - St. Vincent Millay
 47 "Nope!"
 48 Algeria's neighbor
 49 Artist Mondrian
 50 "CSI" ailer
 51 Solo in space
 52 Altar constellation
 54 Novelist Rand

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MAGIC MAZE ● YELLOWSTONE

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------|------------|
| Black bears | Elk | Mud pots | Waterfalls |
| Buffalo | Geysers | Old Faithful | Wildfires |
| Canyons | Lakes | Pronghorn | Wyoming |
| Earthquakes | Moose | Rangers | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

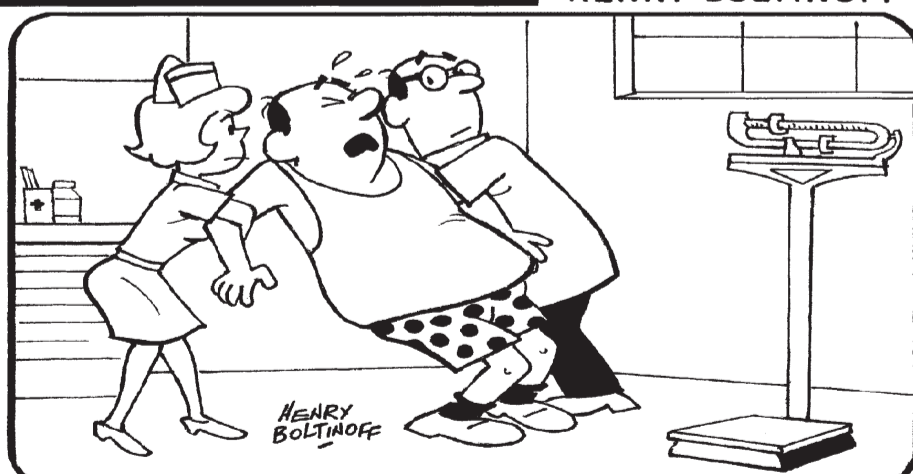
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

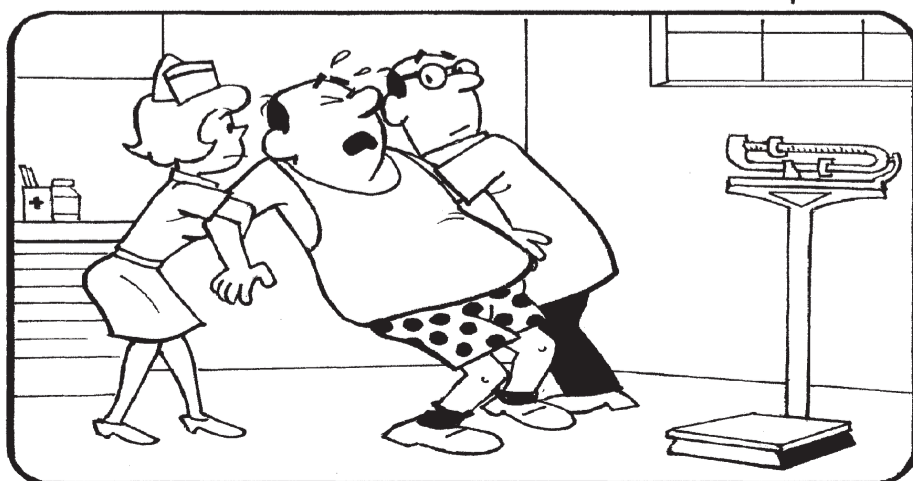
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Scale is shorter. 3. Nurse's foot is shorter. 4. Cabinet is not as wide. 5. Window is smaller. 6. Sock is shorter.

King Crossword
 Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
OGLE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE
417 N. COLFAX STREET
PO BOX 582
BYRON, IL 61010

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2024. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact: Ogle County Educational Cooperative

	Educational	Oper. & Maint.	Transp.
Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024			
Local Sources	10,675,032	155,825	34,836
Flow-Through Sources	0	0	0
State Sources	845,550	0	0
Federal Sources	873,285	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues	12,393,867	155,825	34,836
Total Direct Disb./Expenditures	12,282,345	254,280	14,836
Other Financing Sources & (Uses)	0	0	0
FUND BALANCES – JULY 1, 2023	890,056	367,126	75,988
Other Changes in Fund Balances			
FUND BALANCES – JUNE 30, 2024	1,001,578	268,671	95,988

OGLE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE SEJA/801
Byron, Illinois, Ogle County

Gross Payments for Certified Personnel
Salary Range: Less than \$25,000

E. Baxter, C. Bridge-Groves, N. Clausen, H. Feldhaus, M. Gardner, A. Hayes, T. Henson, C. Holden, J. Howard, S. Hummermeier, G. Ihde-Nelson, M. Irving, T. Johnson, A. Johnston, B. Kremse, S. Lavieri, L. Leblanc-Parks, N. Minett, H. Newman, J. Person, D. Soulliere, C. Stern, K. Stern

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999
B. Demartino, C. Gray, M. Messer, T. Stooos, A. Watson

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999
A. Baker, A. Becker, R. Becker, T. Brummett, M. Carr, B. Fullmer, R. Gruber, A. Hess, B. Krantz, A. Lamb, J. Marney, K. McIlwain, S. Milan, K. Rager, J. Shelton, E. Soyars T. Thomas, S. Tipsord, D. Wilhelm

Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999
K. Ballard, A. Cardot, N. Connell, B. Drozed, P. Escatel, C. Jernnings, L. Kalmis, L. Keilman, T. Koch, V. Manning, K. Miller, M. Miller, J. Preston Mondello, M. Robinson, B. Santopalo, L. Smith, J. Tartaglia, C. Tornabene, Q. Virgil, A. Waddle, S. White, K. Williams, B. Wyatt, L. Zarembski, T. Zarembski

Salary Range: \$90,000 and over
T. Bailey, J. Blaisdell, A. Brass, S. Buss, T. Camplain, M. Dettman, J. Kitzmiller, T. Luxton, D. Omietek, C. Roberts, C. Southwick, A. Zbinden Henkel, M. Zilm

Gross Payments for Non-Certified Personnel
Salary Range: Less than \$25,000

A. Anderson, C. Balestrieri, C. Barcai, P. Barker, E. Baxter, A. Bell, J. Berry, J. Brauns, J. Brazee, C. Bridge-Groves, T. Brooks, H. Bumber, N. Bunger, R. Cardot, D. Chisamore, N. Clausen, J. Cox, K. Crisp, B. Demartino, K. Denler, C. Dispensa, S. Eichstaedt, V. Farbo, D. Galster, S. Garza, L. Gaulrapp, A. Gerry, S. Giddings, S. Goodwin, C. Hallerud, A. Hayes, A. Hendrickson, T. Henson, C. Holden, S. Hummermeier, J. Hunley, G. Ihde-Nelson, L. Ingersoll, M. Irving, M. Johanning, T. Johnson, H. Jones, A. Kipping, D. Kramer, B. Kremse, P. Land, S. Lawrence, B. Lehman, L. Luciani, J. Maltbey, J. Manos, M. Martens, M. Mois, P. Moreno, H. Newman, J. Obmann, E. Ogden, K. Paulsen, K. Pepper, J. Person, P. Peterson, A. Ramos, C. Ramos-Naber, K. Reid, K. Richards, L. Rios, T. Rowland, J. Scheck, K. Schwartz, R. Shupert, T. Slade, S. Snapp, B. Snyder, D. Soulliere, T. Stouffer, H. Topping, H. Turner, S. Unger, L. Weaver, C. Wells, J. Whetsel, E. Whipple, A. Wilkinson, M. Wolter, A. Yanos, S. Young

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999
E. Batson, J. Beach, D. Durnas, C. Esterday, M. Jones, E. Karper, S. Martin, R. McCormick, C. Murray E. Overby, P. Pottorff

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999
D. Joslin, J. Shafer

Salary Range: \$60,000 and over
C. Amquist, L. Davids, K. Horozewski, D. Mahoney, S. McNamee, T. Moser, K. Rogers

Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.
Alexander Graham Bell 55,420, Amazon Capital Service 9,059, American Century Investments 13,600, Anderson Plumbing and Heating 10,700, Andy's Professional Landscaping 6,620, Applied Communication 88,020, Aspire 8,700, Belrock Asphalt Paving 7,561, Benning Group LLC 14,400, BlueLink 7,920, BMO Harris Commercial 73,735, Byron Quick Lube 3,940, CALO 54,847, Camelot Therapeutic 1,033,694, Carroll University 40,670, CDH Educational Center 233,580, Central Bank Illinois 3,600, Commonwealth Edison 12,769, Constellation 7,556, Contract Paper Group 2,653, Crisis Prevention Institute 26,341, DeKalb CUSD #428 12,217, Delta Dental Of Illinois 34,065, Diversified Benefits Services 15,835, DORS-Work Study 7,391, Easter Seals Metro 519,616, Eligio's Landscaping 3,200, Embrace Education 46,008, E-Rate Online LLC 3,104, Farley's Appliance 3,283, Firm Systems 2,576, Flexible Spend Acct-FSA 43,422, Frontier 11,627, Frontline Technologies 2,608, The Harvard State Bank 3,250, Hillmann Pediatric 37,769, HodgesLoizziEisenhammer 7,803, HD Supply 6,795, iFiber 3,360, Illinois Educational 24,678, Illinois Dept Of Employment 27,366, Illinois Counties Risk 85,795, Illinois Dept. Of Revenue 294,566, ISC - BCBS 1,299,076, IMRF 192,685, Imprest Fund Account 8,108, Internal Revenue Service 932,527, Johnson Controls 16,676, Stephanie Kaskavage 74,656, Little Friends Inc 17,788, Marco Technologies LLC 16,505, Midland National Life 5,780, MNJ Technologies 50,252, N2Y, LLC 7,880, Neurorestorative IL 4,742, Nexus-Onarga 95,226, NIA 180,337, Nicor Gas 4,523, Northern Partners Coop 7,181, NIU 7,322, Ombudsman Educational 285,508, Oregon Community 66,050, Performance Food Group 10,831, Powerschool Group LLC 19,204, Prairie Farms 3,646, Presence Learning INC 108,362, Rochelle Elementary 12,322, Rockford Public School 10,130, Special Educ Svcs 144,315, Sprout Educational Svcs 38,951, Staples 4,508, Star Autism Support 5,795, The Stepping Stones 111,405, Sunbelt Staffing, LLC 76,101, Sysco Food Services 16,939, Thrivent Financial 4,800, Top Youth Speakers 7,900, Trafera, LLC 14,376, Teachers Retirement 462,603, UCP Seguin Infinitec 5,921, Union Savings Bank 4,850, Vanguard Group 3,760, Verizon Wireless 5,591, Voya Institutional 4,650, VSP of Illinois 8,775, Walter Lawson Children 68,743, Wexbank (Exxon Mobil) 2,892, Wexbank (Shell) 2,702, Wisconsin Dept Of Revenue 2,903, Yellowfolder 12,747

101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Supplement to October 16, 2024 Notice of assessment level of assessment changes: Required level of assessment (35 ILCS 200/9-145) 33.33% Property other than farmland and coal is to be assessed at a 33.33% median level of assessment, based on the fair cash value of the property. Truly, Tricia M Black, CIAO Ogle County Supervisor of Assessments No. 1120 (November 25, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept

fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale.
Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Stillman Valley, IL \$800/Month & NO PETS 815-988-5831

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K&P SELF STORAGE
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Storage Unit Sizes:
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All in the Classifieds!

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Find free Care Guides to support you and your loved one at AARP.org/caregiving

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FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.
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Advertise in our AUCTION SECTION
Deadlines Wednesday at 5 p.m. Call 815-732-2156

103 AUCTIONS

VIRTUAL ONLINE LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}
210.23 TAXABLE ACRES± • 2 TRACTS
Tract 1 is located 5 miles west of Lostant, IL, and Tract 2 is located 2 miles north of Lostant, IL. Lostant is located 14 miles south of Peru, IL. The land is further described as being located in Sections 12 & 19, T31N-R1E, Hope Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.
The Whitmore farms represent the best central Illinois has to offer. Tract 1 contains 100% Class A soils, and Tract 2 contains 98% Class A soils.
WALTER E. WHITMORE FARMS
Representing Attorney: Richard L. Burton, Partner
Burton, Fuller & Associates, P.C. | (815) 433-3111
227 West Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767
BigIron SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS
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Hacksauction.com
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ad COUNCIL American Heart Association AMA
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Or scan code for more.

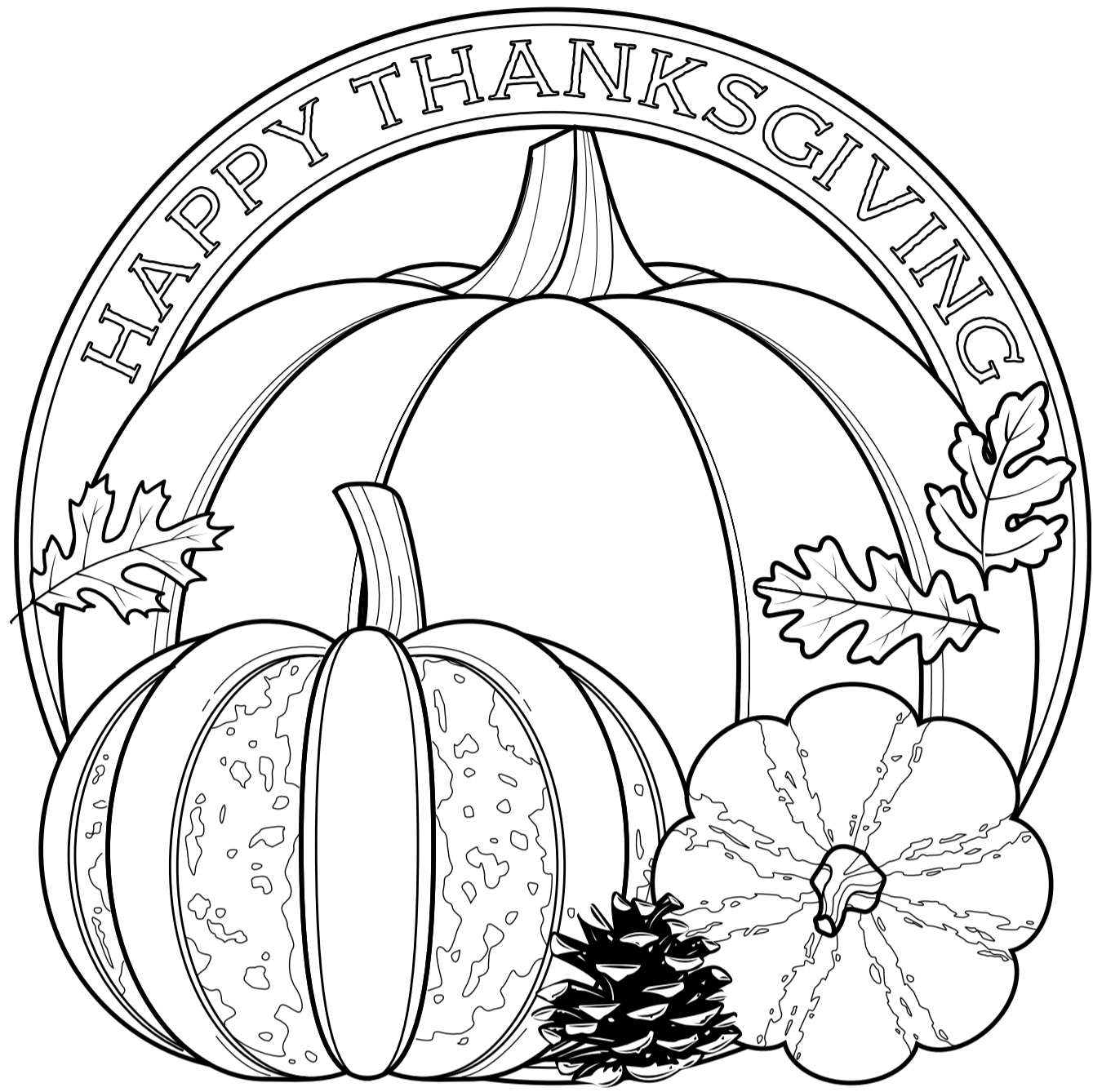
307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

THANKSGIVING



ACTIVITY PAGE



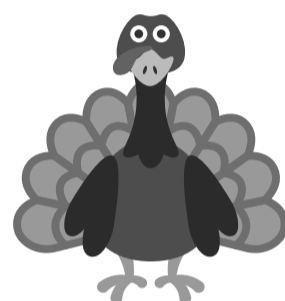
Talkin' Turkey Jokes for the Thanksgiving Table

Why didn't the turkey stay for dinner?
It was already stuffed!




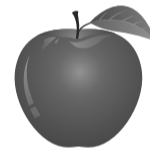

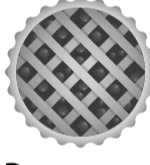
How do turkeys travel for Thanksgiving?
They take the gravy train!

Why did the police arrest the turkey?
They suspected fowl play!

Why couldn't the pilgrims keep their pants on?
Their belts were on their hats!



Have a happy and fun Thanksgiving holiday!

 L _ _ _	 B _ _ _
 R _ _ _	 A _ _ _
 C _ _ _	 P _ _ _

Answers: Leaf, Boot, Rake, Apple, Coat, Pie

Happy Thanksgiving

Answers: Turkey

Answers: Pilgrim, Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, November

GUESS WHO ?

I am a singer-songwriter born in Canada on November 5, 1959. As a child, I traveled to different places with my father, who was a diplomat. I've had many hit songs, but my work on the soundtrack for a Robin Hood movie really set my career ablaze.

Answer: Bryan Adams

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the holiday season.

REKUYT

Answers: Turkey

Spelling Scramble

Unscramble these Thanksgiving mystery words!

MGLIRP _____

KYERUT _____

YGRVA _____

FFUSNITG _____

ERNVMEOB _____

Answers: Pilgrim, Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, November

THANKFUL WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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

WORDS

- ASSISTANCE
- AUTUMN
- BASTE
- BLESSINGS
- CARVE
- CASSEROLE
- COLONISTS
- CORNBREAD
- CORNUCOPIA
- CRANBERRIES
- DINNER
- DRESSING
- FEAST
- FOWL
- FRIENDS
- GIBLETS
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- INDIGENOUS
- NEW WORLD
- NOVEMBER
- OVEN
- PARADE
- PILGRIMS
- PLATE
- PUMPKIN PIE
- RELATIVES
- ROLLS
- SEATING
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- SWEET POTATO
- TABLE
- TASTY
- THANKSGIVING
- TURKEY

How they say that in...

English: Dine
Spanish: Cenar
Italian: Cenare
French: Diner
German: Abendessen

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Turkey

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS

Tips to simplify your Thanksgiving dinner menu

THANKSGIVING is a much anticipated and beloved holiday. Celebrated on the second Monday in October in Canada and the fourth Thursday of November in the United States, Thanksgiving in each country offers families and friends an opportunity to gather and break bread together.

Food is indeed a focus of Thanksgiving in both Canada and the United States, and that can be a little overwhelming if not intimidating for those tasked with hosting the celebration. Guests might come to expect certain Thanksgiving staples, including turkey and mashed potatoes. Such expectations can make it easier to plan a Thanksgiving menu, and sticking to Turkey Day standard bearers is not the only way to simplify meal planning on this beloved holiday.

• Accept help, but keep it limited. It's customary for loved ones invited to Thanksgiving celebrations to offer to bring a dish to dinner, and that can alleviate some of the work hosts are tasked with managing. However, hosts can keep things simple by asking only a small handful of guests to

prepare a side dish. Once the quota is filled, politely decline any additional offers to bring food. It can be hard to find space on the table if too many guests bring dishes from home, and that can lead to hurt feelings if certain sides are ignored or left on the kitchen counter due to a lack of real estate.

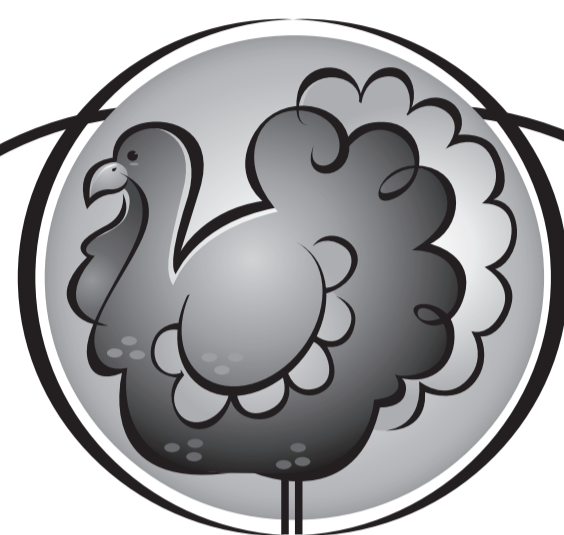
• Explain your desire to reduce food waste. Another way to simplify the meal is to avoid succumbing to the temptation to cook too much food. Guests may expect to go home with full bellies. Indeed, the Calorie Control Council notes that Americans consume between 3,000 and 4,500 calories during Thanksgiving celebrations. Such consumption is not only unhealthy for humans, but the planet as well. The U.S.-based nonprofit ReFED, which is devoted to stopping food waste, estimated that Americans would waste 312 million pounds of food on Thanksgiving 2023. Hosts who want to avoid cooking excessive amounts of food, much of which may eventually end up in the trash can, can simplify meal prep by cooking less and explaining to guests that they aspire to reduce food

waste this Thanksgiving.

• Keep table settings simple. Unless you're planning to post photos of the family meal on Instagram this Thanksgiving, you can skip the more elaborate formal table settings in favor of a simple setup you might use on most nights when dining at home. Polishing the fancy silver and folding cloth napkins in a way that would impress a seasoned maitre d' is a time-consuming task that can complicate meal preparation. Keep it simple with less formal settings, which will allow guests to direct their focus to the task at hand: eating a delicious, homecooked holiday meal.

• Purchase a premade dessert. It might be tempting to try your hand at a homemade dessert, but it's far easier to purchase pies and ice cream from a local farmer's market in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. This approach ensures hosts have it a little easier once the main course has been served and consumed.

Hosting Thanksgiving dinner is no small task. However, hosts can take various steps to simplify Thanksgiving meal planning this year.



Thanksgiving Turkey Winners

The following lucky winners have been selected to receive a Gift Certificate towards a Thanksgiving Turkey.

A special thank you to the following businesses:

Byron Bank

Alice Taylor
Byron

Stillman Bank

Mike Wiginton
Oregon

Byron County Market

Charles Sutton
Leaf River

Stillman Bank

Sharon Klein

Sullivans Foods

Janice Kereven
Oregon

Holcomb Bank

Kristi Quigley
Stillman Valley

Oregon Super Valu

Howard Cowan
Rockford

First State Bank of Polo

Beverley Binkley
Polo

M. Mongan Decor

Joyce Bruns
Oregon

Certificates may be picked up at the winning locations! Congratulations!

Why do the Detroit Lions always play on Thanksgiving?

HOUSEHOLDS have their own unique Thanksgiving traditions, but one custom common in many homes come Turkey Day involves watching football. Each year on Thanksgiving, the National Football League hosts a handful of games, and it's customary in many households to gather around the television with friends and family and take in some of the action on the gridiron, excitement that always features the Detroit Lions. This unique tradition has endured for decades, but when did it start? According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the tradition of the Lions playing on Thanksgiving can be traced to George A. Richards, who purchased the franchise in 1933 when they were the Portsmouth (Ohio) Spartans. Richards felt competing in a game on Thanksgiving Day would



attract Motor City fans who were more devoted to the Detroit Tigers, the city's baseball team. Fans who attended the Lions' first Thanksgiving Day game in 1934 were treated to a nail-biter, with the hometown Lions falling 19-16 to the Chicago Bears at the University of Detroit Stadium. The Bears had won the league champion-

ship the previous year. In a quirk unique to the game in 1934, the two teams locked horns again just three days later, with the Bears once more emerging victorious in another close contest that ended with a 10-7 score. In the modern era of the NFL, the teams that play on Thanksgiving Day do not play on the following Sunday.



HAPPY Thanksgiving

Please know how much we appreciate your support, and how much happiness we wish you at Thanksgiving and all year.

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Happy Thanksgiving
from all of us at

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Give thanks

Friends like you are what make the season so special. Thanks for giving us so many reasons to be grateful at the holidays and always. Happy Thanksgiving!

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815-732-6851

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(COURTESY PHOTO)

In early November, Jackson Martindale proudly represented Stillman Valley High School at the 2024 Slinger Super Speedway Awards Banquet, where he was recognized for his impressive second-place overall points finish in the High School Racing Association (HSRA).

SVHS's Martindale honored at Slinger Super Speedway Awards Banquet

STILLMAN VALLEY – In early November, Jackson Martindale proudly represented Stillman Valley High School at the 2024 Slinger Super Speedway Awards Banquet, where he was recognized for his impressive second-place overall points finish in the High School Racing Association (HSRA).

Addressing an audience of over 300 attendees, Jackson delivered a heartfelt speech, reflecting on his season and his passion for racing. Throughout the season, Jackson embodied the values of sportsmanship and respect, representing Stillman Valley High School with integrity both on and off the track.

“We are incredibly proud of Jackson’s accomplishments this season,” Henry Robison, athletic/activities director, said. “His dedication and character are a testament to the values we strive to instill in our students.”

Congratulations, Jackson, on this outstanding achievement!

Season's Melodies

A community concert to welcome the Christmas Season.

Sunday, December 1
2:00 PM
@ St. Paul Lutheran Church
114 S. 5th Street
Oregon, IL

Cookies and treats will be served following the concert
Please join us for the joyful sounds of the season!

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

5
DAY

NOV 29 - DEC 3

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