

**Stillman BANK**

# Holiday GIVEAWAY

**3 Beef Quarters & 3 Pork Halves** will be given away **December 23!**  
 You could be one of **6 Winners!**  
 Register at any of our **six locations** or online at [www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com)!

Byron • Oregon • Rochelle • Rockford • Roscoe/Rockton • Stillman Valley

\*Contest runs 11/29/24 through 12/22/24. No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by phone. Must be 18 years of age or older to enter. See office for complete official rules.

**Holcomb Bank**

On behalf of our Holcomb Bank employees & Board of Directors, we would like to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to all!  
 May 2025 be filled with health & happiness!

Member FDIC

Friday, Dec. 13

## Christmas in the Grove

Stop by The First National Bank in Amboy at our Franklin Grove Lobby, 108 N Elm St, 5-7 PM.  
 We'll be serving up cream puffs, hot chocolate, and good cheer!

Saturday, Dec. 14

## Amboy's Hometown Christmas

The First National Bank in Amboy  
 Amboy • Dixon • Franklin Grove • Monroe Center  
 815-857-3625 • [fnbamboy.com](http://fnbamboy.com)

Visit The First National Bank in Amboy at our Amboy Lobby, 220 E Main St, 4-6 PM.  
 Grab a hot chocolate with all the goodies from our hot chocolate bar!  
 Kids can enjoy a craft ornament kit in our craft area.

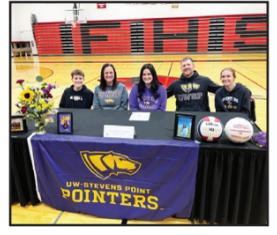
Member FDIC LENDER

Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season!

This season is a time of joy, reflection, and gratitude. We are incredibly thankful for the trust and support you show us throughout the year.

**Byron Bank**

Member FDIC

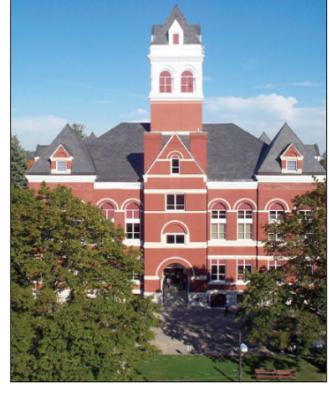


**Schneiderman signs with UWSP**

Forreston's Jaiden Schneiderman signed with UW-Stevens Point. **Section B**

# OGLE COUNTY LIFE

## ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 39 **MONDAY** Dec. 9, 2024 **FREE**

Visit [www.oglecountylife.com](http://www.oglecountylife.com) Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!



**Cardinal Xmas celebration held**

Cardinal Community Christmas was held Dec. 1. **Page 3**

**WEATHER**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>47 35</b>	<b>35 25</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>30 23</b>	<b>36 25</b>

**OBITUARIES**

- Larry Stiles
- Forrest Eugene Floto
- Paula J. Stark
- Wayne E. Suter
- Gary Lee Reinke
- Marjorie Anne Wilhelm
- Theodore 'Tedd' F. Grzywa

See pages 4-5

**INSERTS**

- Felker Foods
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings

## Dachsies to Danes in Steward operates as dog rescue facility

'We got into operating the rescue for all breeds because we love all dogs'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
 MANAGING EDITOR

**STEWARD** — On top of boarding and grooming for dogs and cats, Dachsies to Danes in Steward has also operated as a rescue facility for dogs for the past 23 years. Last year, it became an all-breed rescue.

Dachsies to Danes at 1751 Melugins Grove Road is owned by Lyle and Sally Ranken. The rescue is a 501c3 nonprofit and accepts donations and welcomes volunteers. The rescue has seen an increase in dogs in need of homes in recent years.

"The rescue work can be heartbreaking," Sally Ranken said. "It's a lot of physical work. The dogs can't just be left to sit. They're in and out all day long and at night. It's 24/7 work. Everybody that works here is just family, except for our groomer. We start early in the morning and everything is power washed inside and out and the dogs are fed and they spend time outside when the weather permits. We spend



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)  
**Dachsies to Danes at 1751 Melugins Grove Road is owned by Lyle and Sally Ranken. The rescue is a 501c3 nonprofit and accepts donations and welcomes volunteers. The rescue has seen an increase in dogs in need of homes in recent years.**

time socializing them and getting them ready for a forever home."

Dachsies to Danes as a whole has been in oper-

ation for 25 years. It has worked with Chesapeake Bay Retriever Rescue (CBRR) for 23 years. The rescue takes in dogs in

need and works with them and adopts them out. Lyle Ranken said the rescue expanded to all breeds last year for a simple

reason: The Rankens love all dogs.

See **DACHSIES** page 9

## Ogle County farmers wrap up fall harvest

OCFB's Kern: Bean yield around average, corn above average

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
 MANAGING EDITOR

**OGLE COUNTY** — In an interview with the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life on Nov. 25, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said that harvest should be fully wrapped up locally by the beginning of December.

"There may be small pockets of unharvested crops out there, but for the most part harvest is done and the grain is in the bin," Kern said. "We had a pretty dry fall, so we didn't really have any weather pressure with things like not being able to get out into the fields. It was excellent weather for fall harvest. We were able to move and move when we wanted to and needed to without any interruptions."

Kern said from what he's seen, bean yields have been "around average."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)  
**In an interview with the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life on Nov. 25, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said that harvest should be fully wrapped up locally by the beginning of December.**

He said Ogle County farmers hoped for better than average yields on

beans, but dry conditions around mid-August likely hampered that. For

corn, Ogle County farmers have seen "a little or a lot better than average"

yields, Kern said.

See **HARVEST** pg 9

# LOCAL NEWS

## 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, side-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 comedy 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 Pinecrest 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](http://www.performingartsguild.com). Due to scheduling conflicts, this show will replace the previously scheduled play, *A Christmas Story*.

### The First National Bank in Amboy Home Equity Specials!

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Member FDIC

### RCH Holiday Drive-Thru Dinner is Dec. 18

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Community Hospital is hosting a Holiday Drive-Thru Dinner for anyone in need on Wednesday, Dec. 18. It is free for the first 200 dinners reserved. The menu includes a choice of ham or turkey,

mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable medley, dinner roll and cheesecake. To reserve your dinner, please call Michelle at 815-561-3110 or email [mlapage@rcha.net](mailto:mlapage@rcha.net). Deadline for reservations is Friday, Dec. 13.

Pickup is on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at the hospital's main entrance at 900 N. 2nd St. from 3-5 p.m. A special thanks to the RCH Food and Nutrition Department and RCH Foundation for making the dinner possible.

### Local students named to Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic

**DAVENPORT, Iowa** — The following local

students were named to the 2024 summer trimester

Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa: Grace Pfeiffer of Davis Junction, and Britney Salinas of Lindenwood. Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

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**Stillman BANK**

*Holiday*  
**GIVEAWAY**

**3 Beef Quarters & 3 Pork Halves**  
 will be given away December 23rd! You could be 1 of **6 Winners!** Join us in this **60 year tradition!**

Register once a day, every day at any one of our six offices or online at [www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com)!

*Celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with Stillman Bank!*

Byron • Oregon • Rochelle • Rockford • Roscoe/Rockton • Stillman Valley

No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by phone. Must be 18 or older to enter. See office for complete rules.

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# homes

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Ogle County's Real Estate Market Leader!

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181 Terrace View Boulevard, Oregon

**NEW LISTING!**

\$189,900 dickersonnieman.com/202406763

**EXPANSIVE TRI-LEVEL IN THE HEART OF OREGON!** This 5 bed, 3 full bath tri-level is located in a mature subdivision just outside of the city limits. Ample updates. Newer appliances, new roof, new bedroom flooring, updated LL full bath, 2 primary bedrooms, and so much more. The dining room slider goes directly out to a sitting area on the deck with pergola and mounted TV. Attached 2.5 car garage.

TIFFANY CRAVATTA  
 (815) 988-4388

8634 N. Kilbuck Road, Monroe Center

\$625,000 dickersonnieman.com/202406512

**18 ACRES OF ABSOLUTE PARADISE!** One of a kind 5 bed, 4 bath custom home. Large open foyer, open concept living room with volume ceilings, stone fireplace, 4 season room and wonderful views of the 18 acre paradise. Kitchen with granite counters, desk area, and breakfast area. Formal dining room, first floor laundry room leading to 1 of 2 stairs to the exposed LL. Main floor master bedroom with walk-in closet, double vanity, jacuzzi tub, & shower area. 2 more beds on ML with walk-in closet & shared bath. Plus so much more!

MARK PAYNE  
 (815) 978-0788

3040 Broadway, Rockford

\$114,900 dickersonnieman.com/202405432

**EXPANSIVE ALL BRICK BEAUTY IN THE HEART OF ROCKFORD!** This 2 bedroom home has a walk-up attic and partially finished basement with endless possibilities. Could potentially be 5 full bedrooms or an apartment for separate living. The basement has a partial kitchen and functioning wood burner to heat the house. Large open space, beautiful hardwood floors. MUST SEE!

TIFFANY CRAVATTA  
 (815) 988-4388

 DOROTHY BOWERS (815) 985-3264	 LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL (815) 218-0059	 TIFFANY CRAVATTA (815) 988-4388	 RANDY CRIDDLE (815) 871-4004	 DANA DAUB (815) 440-2835
 KAYLA HESLOP (815) 222-9771	 SEAN HOSSEINI (815) 200-8490	 MAYDELL LESSEN (815) 622-4619	 CHRIS SNYDER (815) 494-7857	 TANYA VINCER (815) 703-6118

# LOCAL NEWS



The Village of Stillman Valley hosted its annual Cardinal Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Santa arrived by fire truck to Ladders of Learning at 4 p.m. Children could get photos taken with Santa and tell him what they would like for Christmas.

## Cardinal Christmas held Dec. 1 in Stillman Valley

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — The Village of Stillman Valley hosted its annual Cardinal Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa arrived by fire truck to Ladders of Learning at 4 p.m. Children could get photos taken with Santa and tell him what they would like for Christmas. The tree lighting took place at 5 p.m. beside Stillman Bank. Be sure and drive by all the beautiful trees that will remain

decorated thru the end of the year. Stillman Lions served cookies and cocoa at the bank garage. Coyote 102.3 was broadcasting live from The Royal Blue.

A craft show took place at Meridian Jr. High from 3-7 p.m. where many Christmas gift items could be purchased. Snow Princess and Spider were greeting children at the Jr. High. You could find Grinch around town. New this year was Dancing Dads with a great performance to Jingle Bell Rock.

You could take a horse drawn carriage ride or a hay wagon ride around town. Fresh cider donuts and hot cider were served at the Brick Center while Carolers sang Christmas songs.

A live Nativity was outside. Fire pits with S'mores could be found by Ladders of Learning. Grace Fellowship handed out popcorn and painted faces. Girls could get nails painted and hair tinsel at Tease. Grilled pork chops and hot dogs



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

were available beside the Wooden Nickel.

There was a punch card entered for a drawing to an Ice Hog game and the winner was Jill Wheelock. It was great to see so many folks that braved the frigid temperatures to make this event a success. Planning for next year will start in the spring.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Yvonne at the Village Hall and she will let you know when the next meeting will be held.



## McCombie supporting local diaper drive for Illinois families

**SAVANNA** — Illinois House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) is inviting residents of northwest Illinois to spread holiday cheer by supporting local families in need through a Holiday Diaper Drive, an effort spearheaded by State Rep. Ryan Spain (R-73rd District). The drive will collect diapers, baby wipes, and diaper

cream to help families facing financial challenges.

“With the rising cost of living, it’s more important than ever to help families meet their basic needs this holiday season,” McCombie said. “The season is a joyful time for many, but it can also be a difficult period for families struggling to make ends meet. No one should have to choose between essentials

like diapers and other necessities.”

According to Rep. Spain, “Nearly one in two families in the U.S. struggle to afford diapers, but programs like WIC and SNAP do not cover diapers and many other items families need to care for a baby. Many families in need turn to local food pantries in times of need, but with such high de-

mand, it’s often difficult for our local food pantries to keep up with the need for diapers, wipes and cream.”

The Holiday Diaper Drive is an annual initiative that has received strong support from area residents and neighboring communities.

Donations are being accepted now through Dec. 11. Donations may

be delivered in-person on Wednesdays to McCombie’s District Office in Savanna or shipped directly to Rep. Spain’s Peoria office using the Amazon wish list. Rep. Spain will be offering a Drive-Thru Donation Event option.

Drop off or ship donations to Leader McCombie’s District Office: 9317B Illinois Route 84 Savanna, IL 61074

Drive-Thru Donation Event: Dec. 11, 2024. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Illinois Central College North Campus – Arbor Hall. 5407 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614

All donations will be distributed to local food and diaper pantries.

Questions about the drive can be directed to McCombie’s District Office at: 815-291-8989.



### Polo Lions offer grocery delivery

On Wednesday, Dec. 4 a Polo Lions member is loading his car with the third grocery order to be delivered. This service is provided by the Lions Club free of charge every Wednesday morning. With the weather getting colder and snow coming down, if you know someone that has a hard time getting around in this weather have them call the Polo Fresh Food Market on Tuesday by 7 p.m. If they forget call Wednesday morning by 9 a.m. so the worker has time to fill the order. The order must be at least \$25 to get this service. (Courtesy photo)

### Byron Civic Band 2024 Holiday Concert is Dec. 15

**BYRON** — The Byron Civic Band in Byron, under the direction of John Gelasi, announces its 2024 Holiday Concert. This concert will be performed at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15 in the Byron High School Theatre. Yes, please note that we will be performing in a different venue this time. The Byron High School

theatre is a smaller, more intimate place for a band performance.

The Holiday season program will feature First Noel, The Polar Express, With Every Winter’s Breath, Sleigh Ride, A Christmas Festival, Candlelight Carol, You Better Sleigh!, and It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the

Year. As usual, there is no admission fee for this concert, although a free-will donation will be appreciated.

For additional information or directions to the theatre, please call or text Ron Kroeger at (847) 219-9393 or email him at ronkroeger@gmail.com.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR BYRON PARK DISTRICT

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Byron Park District, Ogle County, Illinois, for 2024 will be held on December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Park District Conference Room, 500 N. Colfax Street, Byron, Illinois 61010

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Nick Warrner, Executive Director, 500 North Colfax Street, Door #55, Byron, Illinois 61010, (815) 234-6218.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$564,700.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$606,099. This represents a 7.3% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$548,573.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$575,000. This represents a 4.8% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$ 1,113,273.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$1,181,099. This represents a 6.1% increase over the previous year.

No. 1207  
(December 9, 2024)

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Larry Stiles

**MT. MORRIS** — Larry Stiles left the physical world on Monday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at UW Swedish American Hospital, Rockford, IL, after battling a short illness, at 85 years old. Larry is preceded in death by his parents, Marjorie Lippert (Siebert), Ralph Stiles and his stepfather Evans Lippert.

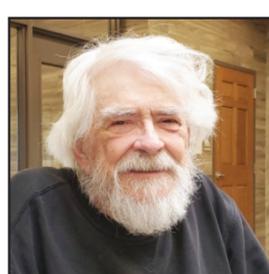
Marjorie Lippert was a well-known local artist and one of the founding members of the Eagles Nest Art Group. Larry was also preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, Frank and Emma Siebert of Oregon, IL, (who owned Siebert's Grocery Store) Aunt Lana Cann (Siebert) and Uncle Ben Siebert (Ruth) also of Oregon, IL. Larry is survived by his children, Laurie Molosz (Bill), Cindy Deming, Aimee McCoy (Richie), David Stiles (Whitney) and Kaitlyn Janssen.

He is also survived by his grandchildren Jackie Haas (Jeremiah), Jayson Hongsermeier (Heide), Kyle and Collin Deming, Avi McCoy, Tyler McCoy, Nolan Stiles, Colton Stiles and Logan Stiles. Larry also has four great-grandchildren, Reagan and Britain Haas, Sabine and Aksel Hongsermeier. In the early years, Larry enjoyed the family cabin on Kyte Creek (outside

of Oregon, IL) with his relatives and friends. He enjoyed the outdoors, cooking over a fire and many family picnics at The Pines and Lowden Park. Larry graduated from Oregon High School in 1957. He served in the Illinois Army National Guard from 1956 – 1962. He then served an apprenticeship at Kable Printing Co., Mt Morris, IL.

He also went to Colorado Springs and was educated at the Typographical Union School. He later worked at the Rockford Register Star, and Frontier Ford in Rockford. He eventually opened his own successful body shop in Mt. Morris (Larry's Auto Reconditioning), where he also bought his first home on 7 acres. This allowed Larry to pursue his love of animals (7 dogs, 2 ducks, 5 rabbits, a horse, cats, a cow, and raised a flock of chickens for several years). Larry had a true love of cars, especially Mustangs (he was a Ford guy).

He enjoyed doing custom paint jobs and souping up his favorites. He also raced at the drag strip in Cordova, Union Grove and Byron, IL. He had a passion for trains and the railroad. He spent much of his time at the Oregon Depot watching the steam engines go by as early as



age 3. He once rode his tricycle from S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the depot at that age as well.

He also enjoyed model railroading and had an American Flyer setup that he built in his basement. Larry was an avid Cubs fan and was thrilled to see them win the championship in 2016. He also worked for the United States Postal Service as a rural route mail carrier, which he really enjoyed. Everyone that knew Larry will remember his booming voice, funny stories and jokes and a larger-than-life personality.

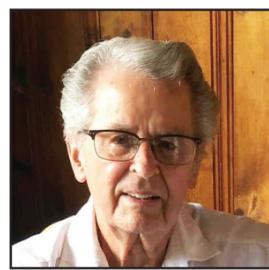
He had a unique sense of humor with a special talent of embarrassing his kids in public, just to get a rise out of them. He loved gardening and growing plants of all kinds. Larry will truly be missed and forever remembered by his family and friends.

To remember Larry and his passion, memorial contributions can be made to the Oregon Train Depot/Museum, 401 Collins St, Oregon, IL 61061.

### Theodore 'Tedd' F. Grzywa

**OREGON** — Theodore "Tedd" F. Grzywa, 96, died peacefully in his home in Oregon, IL on Sunday December 1, 2024. He was born July 14, 1928 in Fullerton NE, the 3rd son of John & Barbara (Koziol) Grzywa, moving to Illinois in 1942, where farming prospects were better. He graduated from Maple Park High School in 1946 before joining the United States Army, serving overseas in postwar Japan. He married the love of his life, Mary Wells, in DeKalb, IL on July 14, 1951. For over 20 years, Tedd and Mary farmed and raised a family outside of Burlington IL, then quitting farming, spent nearly another 20 years in a house he built nearby. He held jobs with the DeKalb Ag, Burgess Norton in Geneva and as a homebuilding carpenter. Tedd and Mary retired to Oregon IL in 1994. He was an enthusiastic golfer in retirement, playing daily weather permitting. Along with golf he enjoyed tending his garden, polka music and horseshoes. He was a self-taught wood carver, filling his home with

whimsical busts and animals from 'found' wood. A longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oregon, he served as an usher and worked in the kitchen during church meals. His true passion throughout his entire life however, was his family. He was a devoted husband to his wife Mary who preceded him in death in 2018. He is also preceded in death by his parents, son Ronald Grzywa, brothers Virgil & Richard and sisters Dorothy & Joan. He is survived and missed dearly by his loving children Michael (Frances) Grzywa of Germantown Hills, IL, Christine (Chia) Krause of Loves Park, IL, Douglas Grzywa of Lake in the Hills, IL, Stephen (Mary) Grzywa of Marseilles, IL, Mark (Elisabeth) Grzywa of Downers Grove, IL, Kenneth Grzywa of Maple Park, IL, Eric (Connie) Grzywa of Drums, PA, Timothy (Leanne) Grzywa of Winter Garden, FL; 25 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother Jack Grzywa of LeRoy, IL; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.



Visitation will be held Friday, December 13, 2024 between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. All are invited to stay after to pray the rosary immediately afterward. The Rite of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, December 14, 2024 beginning at 11:00 AM at the St. Mary's Catholic Church of Oregon, IL, with Father Richard Kramer presiding. Tedd will be laid to rest, next to his wife and son at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery of Oregon, IL, following the service. Memorial donations can be made in his name to either the St. Mary's Catholic Church or the Oregon Fire Dept. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his memory please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com)

### Forrest Eugene Floto

**MT. MORRIS** — Forrest Eugene Floto, age 73, passed away on Friday November 29, 2024 in his home with his family by his side after a short illness. Forrest was born on November 21, 1951 in Freeport, IL the son of Harvey & Thelma (Derby) Floto. He graduated from Mt. Morris High School class of 1969.

Forrest really enjoyed the young Ladies he spent time with, learning from each and every one of them, then he met Pam Whitten in 1974, and he said "it couldn't have been any better," and married her on August 8, 1980, in Rockton, IL. He told Pam: "how do you know you have the best if you haven't tried the rest." Forrest had three children and he was proud of them.

Forrest worked his family farm, and one of his passions was working with his cattle.

Forrest became a 4-H leader at the age of 21, and remained a leader for

34 years, he was involved in the extension youth council, FFA alumni for an extended amount of time, he served as president for the new fairgrounds starting in 1993 and served as president for 6 years, and he helped build the new fairgrounds, he served on the board for Ogle County Farm Bureau, Ogle Service Co., Blackhawk Service, and then Carroll Service. Forrest's favorite past times were Sunday drives, pickynicks and parades, going out to eat with friends, weanie roast, and farm beautification.

Forrest is survived by his wife: Pamela Floto, Mt. Morris, IL; 3 children: Katherine (Ryan) Byers, Forreston, IL, Alison (Albert) Smith, Leaf River, IL, Andrew (Kori) Floto, Mt. Morris, IL; 4 grandchildren: Delaney Byers, Alana and Allan Smith, and Hadley Floto; 5 older Floto girls, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Forrest is preceded in death by his parents; infant



daughter: Christina Ann, his in laws; and 2 brother in laws.

A funeral will be held on Saturday December 7, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. in Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL; with Rev. Larry Jameson officiating. A burial will be held in West Grove Cemetery, Forreston, IL. Visitation will be held on Friday December 6, 2024 from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.; and another visitation will be held on Saturday from 10:00 A.M. until service time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Mt. Morris Fire Station and/or Serenity Home & Hospice.

In Forrest words "Whatever"

### Paula J. Stark

**OREGON** — Paula J. Stark, 78, of Oregon passed away on Friday, November 29, 2024. Born March 21, 1946, in Rockford, the daughter of Otis and Valda (Holly) Johnson. Graduate of East High School. Paula married Raymond Stark on November 29, 1969. She worked as a switchboard operator for Rockford Products Corp and Rockford Screw Products. Pau-

la was filled with kindness and had the biggest heart. She was an amazing wife, mother and grandmother.

Survived by her husband, Raymond; sons, Chad (Tiffany) Stark and Kai (Sandy) Stark; grandchildren, Ember, Kai Jr., and Alyssa; great-grandchild, Ezio; sister, Donna Bodah; and nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents; sister, Carol Hammer; and niece, Mary

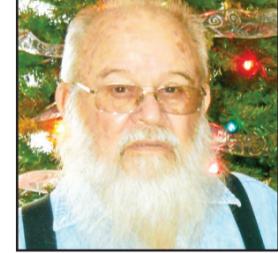


Hammer. Private family services were held. To share a memory or condolence please visit [olsonfh.com](http://olsonfh.com)

### Wayne E. Suter

**CHANA** — Wayne E. Suter, age 93, died Saturday, November 30, 2024 at Oregon Living and Rehab Center. He was born June 2, 1931 in Honey Creek, Ogle County, IL the son to Jesse and Nellie (Helman) Suter. He attended Oregon Schools. Wayne married RuDella "Rudy" Benson on March 9, 1956 in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He served his country by joining the United States Navy in January of 1951, and served aboard the USS James E. Kyes DD787 from March of 1951 to November, 1954, as a boiler tender. He and Rudy lived in Waukesha, Wisconsin until they moved to Oregon, IL in June of 1956 and then to Chana, IL on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1956. They remained in Chana and raised their 2 children Randy and

Wenda. Wayne worked 20 years for T.R.I.M. Incorporated in Oregon, IL and then worked for 21 years at the City of Oregon Street Department prior to his retirement in March of 1997. Wayne was active in his community and was a member of the Oregon VFW Post 8739, Rock River Senior Center, and Mt. Morris Moose Lodge. He was predeceased by his parents, his daughter Wenda (Suter) Camacho, and his nine siblings: Dorothy Boyden, Hilda Aurand, Hannah Jane Travis, Elnora Rodeffer, Mary Ellen Alderks, Nellie Pemble, Erma Fuller, Gordon Suter, and Jess Suter. He is survived by his wife Rudella "Rudy" Suter; son Randy Suter of Oregon, IL; grandchildren Cody Suter, Randi Suter, Tori



Williams, and Nicole Foss; great grandchildren Sofie Suter, Kody "KJ" Suter, Coda Suter, Jada Suter, and Quinton Harrolle; many nieces and nephews. A memorial visitation will be held from 5-7pm on Thursday, December 12, 2024 followed by 7:00 PM military honors provided by Oregon VFW Post 8739 at the Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Oregon. Visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com) to leave a condolence or memory of Wayne.

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**Kitchen closed Tue.**

**VFW EVENTS**

Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm  
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Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm

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05/2024

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Marjorie Anne Wilhelm

**OREGON**—Marjorie Anne Wilhelm, 92, passed away on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at KSB hospital with her family by her side.

Marjorie was the oldest of four siblings, the daughter of John & Mildred (Umbdenstock) Thies. She was born and raised on a family farm near Mundelein, IL. Marjorie went to school in Mundelein and later graduated from Libertyville high school in 1950. On June 7, 1952 Marjorie married John A. Wilhelm of Ivanhoe, IL.

She met her future husband while working as a waitress at Wangmans Diner in Mundelein. Marjorie enjoyed raising her family and became a leader in both Boy and Girl scouts. She enjoyed serving as a leader for both her boys and daughter for many years. She was also an active member of the Illinois extension unit of Lake County and Gurnee Women's club where she served as president and secretary.

As her children grew she became employed at J.C. Penny of Lakehurst Mall in Waukegan. She enjoyed working there for many years selling major appliances, sewing machines and furniture. She also loved to take them on camping vacations throughout the United States, which included her favorite, two trips to Alaska. In 2000 Marjorie, her husband, and mother, Mildred, built a

house for themselves to share. Marjorie & Mildred continued to live in the house together after her husband's passing in late 2000, until Mildred's eventual passing in 2007. In 2013 she moved to Oregon, IL where she became involved with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon Women's Club, and various activities of her great-grandchildren. She took delight in being involved with her family's activities through the years and being a leader for them when the opportunity arose. Being a grandmother & great-grandmother was especially joyful, she fully enjoyed being part of their lives.

Marjorie continued the family tradition of making cookies and always having some ready to be enjoyed by all. Christmas time brought the opportunity for all the family to get together and bake dozens and dozens of cookies. Her favorite will always be the family's recipe for sugar cookies and decorating them. She is preceded in death by her parents, brother David Thies and sister Carolyn Becker.

She is survived and will be missed dearly by her loving children Steven (Valerie) Wilhelm of 29 Palms, CA; Alan (Chris) Wilhem of Waukegan, IL; Ann Wilhelm of Oregon, IL; brother Roger (Kathy) Thies of Potomac, MD; grandchildren Elizabeth (Jimmy) Cleveland,

Bethany Kilarski, Ranell (Rudy) MacBrayer, Katrina Bresemann, Rosie (Norman Rowe) Wilhelm, Marta (Jeremy) Goodson, John "J.P." Paul Wilhelm, Patrick (Katy) Wilhelm, Sara (Adam Batchlor) Wilhelm; great-grandchildren Macklynn Rager, Kayla Rager, Dan Cleveland, EM Cleveland, Aiden Goodson, Zoey Kilarski, Zander Kilarski, Addison Grosskreutz; and many nieces and nephews.



A visitation is planned for Wednesday, December 11, 2024 beginning at 10:00 AM at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Oregon, IL, and going until 11:00 AM. A funeral service is planned for 11:00 AM at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Oregon, IL, with Pastor Terese Whitten presiding. Marjorie will later be laid to rest alongside her husband at Highland Memorial Park of Libertyville, IL following a private family service. In lieu of flowers the family has asked you please make a donation to either Lifeline of Oregon, IL, or St. Paul Lutheran Church. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit [www.farrellhollandgale.com](http://www.farrellhollandgale.com).

### BYRON POLICE REPORT

**Nov. 18**  
At 7:38 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Shea A. Bierman, 43, of Byron a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at 2nd and Walnut.

**Nov. 19**  
At 12:32 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Raymond A. Herold, 39, of Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Blackhawk.

At 6:45 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Meghan E. Palmer, 39, of Davis Junction a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at Walnut and Merchant.

**Nov. 21**  
At 1:35 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Joshua C. Eco, 27, of Byron citations for operating a vehicle with an expired registration and operating a vehicle without proof of valid insurance. This violation occurred at the 400 block of West Blackhawk.

At 3:17 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Matthew D. Minnaert, 35, of Byron citations for disregarding an official traffic control device and passing a school bus loading/unloading. This violation occurred at the 400 block of North Colfax.

At 10:44 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Cassie A. Bartosik, 19, of Freeport a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred at the 300 block of Blackhawk Drive.

**Nov. 22**  
At 9:49 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Merle D. Yocum, 85, of Oregon a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration.

This violation occurred at the 500 block of East Blackhawk.

At 10:17 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Joshua M. Rienstra, 42, of Polo a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred at the 200 block of East Blackhawk Drive.

At 1:41 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Johnathon L. Lewis, 30, of Freeport a citation for operation of a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred at East Illinois Route 72 and North Mill Road.

At 11:20 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Samantha J. Maggio, 33, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at Blackhawk and Walnut.

**Nov. 23**  
At 10:51 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Omar E. Guerrero Jr., 18, of Rockford a citation for operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at Illinois Route 2 and Creekside Drive.

At 1:08 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a crash with property damage at the 300 block of Chestnut, involving a 2017 Dodge driven by Richard Chelminski, 81, of Byron and a 2022 Subaru driven by Nathan S. Gentz, 28, of Byron. There were no citations and no injuries.

At 8:35 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jaxson J. Diedrich, 18, of Winnebago citations for operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance and operation of a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at East Blackhawk and North Union.

**Nov. 24**

At 2:09 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Kayla M. Miller, 25, of Forreton citations for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance, driving under the influence of alcohol, and DUI-alcohol concentration in blood or breath 0.08 or more. Miller was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released. This violation occurred at Creekside and Blackhawk.

At 1:25 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Mia I. Avila, 27, of Dixon a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at East Blackhawk and Luther Drive.

**Nov. 26**  
At 5:34 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Benjamin R. Denton, 18, of Byron citations for driving without lights when required, disobeyed traffic control device, and driving too fast for conditions. This violation occurred at Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford.

At 2:08 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Alicia P. A. Johnson, 33, of Roscoe a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at Ashelford and Illinois Route 2.

**Nov. 27**  
At 8:31 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Jeremy B. Hicks, 49, of Rochelle a citation was issued for speeding over the statutory limit. This violation occurred at the 500 block of Colfax.

At 3:01 p.m. Byron Police Department issued James Simmons, 24, of Des Moines, Iowa a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred in the 400 block of Union.

### Gary Lee Reinke

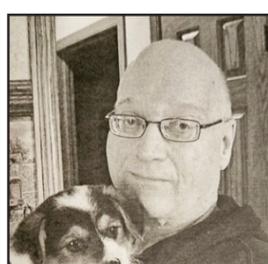
**OREGON**—Gary Lee Reinke, age 60, of Oregon, IL., passed away peacefully early Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, after a short illness.

Gary was born December 11, 1963, to Maurice Warren Reinke and Geraldine Lucille Carr Reinke. Gary loved many things in life. He especially enjoyed bike rides with his son Caleb. Gary and Caleb also had a great time playing video games. Gary had a passion for vehicles. His favorite thing to do in the summer was to go to car

shows. If he was not at a car show, Gary was detailing his own car. Gary worked for Bemis Ford, Oregon, IL., detailing cars until they closed. Gary took up weight lifting and good nutrition. If he was not lifting or exercising at home, he would be working out at Nash.

Gary was a die-hard Bears fan, so whenever they played, Gary would be watching and cheering them on.

Gary is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived and missed by his son Caleb Reinke,



Oregon, IL., his brother David Reinke, Mt. Morris, IL., and special friend Tina Reinke., Oregon, IL.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Caleb Reinke, 202 Madison St, Oregon, IL 61061.



### Leaf River Lions Breakfast With Santa is Dec. 14

On Saturday, Dec. 14 the Leaf River Lions Club will be serving breakfast 7-10 a.m. at the Bertolet Memorial Building, 103 W. Second St., Leaf River. The menu includes pancakes, waffles, french toast, scrambled eggs, Eickman's Breakfast Sausage, applesauce, orange juice, milk and coffee. Santa will arrive at 9 a.m. so don't forget your camera to get some pictures with Santa. For more details see our Facebook page - leafriverlionsclub or send an email to leafriverlionsclub@yahoo.com. Merry Christmas! (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.



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

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

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

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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. 23, 1982, Chaminade University of Honolulu, a school with only 900 students, beat the top-ranked University of Virginia by a mere five points in one of the most stunning upsets in American basketball history. As ESPN's Chris Berman remarked, "We can't tell you what happened, but the No. 1 team in college basketball has lost to -- we don't even know who they are."

\* On Dec. 24, 1851, a fire at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroyed approximately two-thirds of its 55,000 volumes, including most of Thomas Jefferson's personal library.

\* On Dec. 25, 1962, the film adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" opened in Los Angeles. It was nominated for eight Oscars and won three, and the American Film Institute rated lead character Atticus Finch as the greatest movie hero of the 20th century.

\* On Dec. 26, 1820, Moses Austin, a merchant turned mine owner, met with Spanish authorities in San Antonio to ask permission for 300 Anglo-American families to settle in Texas, in the hope of recovering from bankruptcy via the establishment of a new colony. His request was approved, but he died before he could carry it out, so the task was completed by his son, with more than 20,000 arrivals eventually succeeding in making Texas an independent state.

\* On Dec. 27, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered his secretary of war to seize properties belonging to the Montgomery Ward company after it refused to comply with a labor agreement, announcing that the government would "not tolerate any interference with war production in this critical hour."

\* On Dec. 28, 1908, the worst earthquake in recorded European history struck the Straits of Messina in southern Italy, leveling the cities of Messina and Reggio di Calabria and ultimately causing the deaths of an estimated 100,000 people.

\* On Dec. 29, 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four of King Henry II's knights, apparently on his orders. Four years later, Henry was forced to do penance at Becket's tomb, and his efforts to end the separation between

church and state came to an end.

\* On Dec. 18, 1966, Dr. Seuss's popular book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was made into an animated TV special narrated by well-known horror movie star Boris Karloff, who also provided the voice of the titular character, and shown for the first time on CBS.

\* On Dec. 19, 1942, American fighter pilot Eddie Rickenbacker was pulled out of the Pacific Ocean after being lost at sea for 22 days. He and six other men would have starved to death if they hadn't caught and eaten a seagull. Rickenbacker was on a special mission in the South Pacific when he went missing.

\* On Dec. 20, 1990, the Population Crisis Committee declared Lagos, Nigeria the worst city in the world in which to live, with the top-ranked cities listed as Montreal, Melbourne and Seattle-Tacoma. Half of Lagos' homes lacked water and electricity, and only one person in 100 owned a telephone. The city also had a density of 5.8 persons per dwelling.

\* On Dec. 21, 2007, Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair left the Anglican Church to become a Roman Catholic. The cardinal who led the service to welcome him said he was "very glad" to do so, but controversy remained on whether the conversion was in pursuit of the European Union presidency.

\* On Dec. 22, 1945, broadcast journalist Diane Sawyer was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Before landing at CBS in 1978, she was a White House press aide during the Richard Nixon administration and later assisted Nixon with his memoirs. At one point she was the highest-paid woman in American TV news.

\* On Dec. 23, 1954, Dr. Joseph E. Murray and several other surgeons performed the first truly successful human kidney transplant, between identical twin brothers, at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

\* On Dec. 24, 1828, egg-nog riots began at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, in what was also known as the Grog Mutiny. The disturbances were sparked by cadets' copious consumption of egg-nog made with smuggled whiskey and lasted until the next day.

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## LIFE letters' policy

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

# Sustainability in agriculture

**S**USTAINABILITY is a word we hear quite a bit these days. In agriculture it translates in context to caring for the air, land and water to pass our farms onto the next generation to produce food and fiber for a global economy. Sustainability also translates into improving the efficiencies of agriculture in order to provide a profit to those involved in the industry in order to sustain their families and their livelihoods.

Often folks ask me why don't farmers do this or that. Most times it comes down to profitability and timing, which inexplicably go hand in hand. When commodity market prices are good farmers tend to have greater profitability and can afford to make equipment, farming practice changes or conservation projects on the farm. When commodity price is low and farmers are farming at a net loss per acre the funds simply aren't available at that moment in time to make those expenditures. It's a delicate slope to operate on.

Sustainability and efficiency on the farm go hand-in-hand. Farmers today are doing more with less thanks to innovation and technology. In fact, U.S. agriculture would have needed nearly 100 million more acres 30

years ago to match today's production levels. Smarter farm equipment, precision ag tools and biotechnology are helping farmers care for their crops, while using less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

As farm efficiency goes up, emissions are going down in the livestock sector. Although livestock emissions get a lot of attention in discussions around sustainability, they make up 4.3% of overall emissions in the U.S., and those numbers are declining thanks to improvements in feed and production.

Agriculture can also play a role in offsetting emissions beyond the farm gate. From climate-smart farming practices to voluntary management of forests, grasslands, wetlands and croplands, farmers are not only reducing their footprint, but also are actively absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. The demand for carbon offsets from agriculture has grown significantly in recent years, but the process is still confusing and cumbersome, which then limits farmers', ranchers' and foresters' participation. Often, farmers who want to participate have to hire private parties to

help them adopt the right conservation practices and verify that certain processes and protocols were followed in implementing those practices. As these markets are being developed work is being done with industry partners and lawmakers to identify solutions to ensure these markets are voluntary and economically viable for farmers.

Farmers are embracing and growing renewable energy. Biofuels are an American-grown energy success story, reducing our country's emissions and increasing our energy independence. Over the last decade, nearly three trillion pounds of corn have been used to produce clean, renewable ethanol for blending into motor fuels. In 2022 alone, the reduction in GHGs from the use of renewable fuels in place of gasoline was equal to taking 30 million cars off the road.

Beyond biofuels, farms and ranches are embracing a variety of clean energy sources, harnessing natural resources and turning farm waste into fuel. Over the last decade, we have seen a 167% increase in farms and ranches using renewable energy-producing systems, which

includes geothermal, solar panels, windmills, hydro systems and methane digesters—that's nearly 100,000 additional farms.

The only way agriculture will be able to achieve the dramatic goals being discussed today is through investments in research to develop the next generation of technology and practices to help us take our efforts to the next level. We need researchers and innovators working on tomorrow's tools today if we are going to continue to reduce net emissions across the food chain. Many of the innovations that have helped farmers and ranchers significantly reduce their environmental footprint in the last several decades began in agricultural research labs at America's land-grant universities, but funding for these programs has declined in recent years. The U.S. has dropped from being the global leader in funding research and development in the last decade, and it's time to bridge that gap before we also lose our place as the leading producer of sustainable food, fiber and renewable energy.

"Ask five economists and you'll get five different answers - six if one went to Harvard." -Edgar Fiedler

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



Ron Kern

## Ferdinand Langhoff: A cowboy with a secret

"A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma, but perhaps there is a key." So said Winston Churchill in 1939.

Our story starts at Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and Congress of Rough Riders of the World. Colonel Bill Cody wanted to be part of the greatest show on Earth and in 1893 that show was in Chicago. The World's Columbian Exposition also known as The Chicago Worlds Fair would draw people from around the world. Buffalo Bill wanted to be attached to the show but was having a few problems. The exposition had rules that Bill could not live with; exhibitors were required to pay half of their gross income to the fair sponsors, the fair decided how much display space each exhibition could have, and to curry favor with the Protestants the fair agreed to be closed on Sundays.

To get around these problems Buffalo Bill rented 14 acres of land along Stony Island, which was just outside of the World Exposition property. He constructed an 18,000-seat arena with stages, sheds, and housing for buffalo, horses, and actors. Next Bill requested and received permission to be open on Sundays. All obstacles were cleared and the Congress of Rough Riders of the World performed two shows per day for the next eight months. The total take for Buffalo Bill was in excess of \$30 million in today's dollars.

Fred Langhoff was one of the cowboys in Bill's show. He rode horses and specialized in "mesmerizing" wild horses. It was his horse handling ability that caught the attention of a Rochelle

horse breeder and stable owner. The breeder had come into possession of an expensive stallion but was having problems training the beast. One trainer had even been killed. Fred was offered the job, and at the end of the show's run, boarded a train and came to Rochelle to try his hand training the stallion.

In 1874 Fred Langhoff, 37 years old, was a lean cowboy and a bachelor. Fred developed a strong reputation as a horse trainer and became very successful. He lived in and around Rochelle until he finally settled near Chana. Fred married Estelle Babb in 1896 and as a couple they had nine children. Fred became ill and passed away in 1925. The story could have ended there, but there was "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

It was nearly 20 years later, when Fred's son went to school at the University of Wisconsin, that the story started to reveal itself. It was discovered that there was a rather large group of folks named Langhoff in the Fort Atkinson area of Wisconsin. So Fred's son decided to see if they might be related, and boy were they related.

Ferdinand A. Langhoff was born in Jefferson County, Wisconsin on June 14, 1856. As was common in the day Ferdinand Americanized his name to Fred Langhoff. For Fred it was difficult to live under his father's strict protestant rule so, at the age of 13, he joined a wagon train and headed west to the Dakota Territories. Initially he stayed with his brother Charles

but the wanderlust was overpowering. When he was 15 Fred left on his first cattle drive from Texas to Kansas. Fred's adventures spanned across Texas, Wyoming, Canada, and across the Dakota Territory. When he turned 18 Fred was riding with a mapping and surveying group in Wyoming. He even had a narrow escape during an Indian attack. For 12 years Fred worked cattle and horses, he had grown from a Wisconsin farmer to a true western cowboy.

December of 1881 saw a new development in Fred's life, he married Evaline (Eva) Farrell and they settled on 360 acres of land in Wyoming. Fred and Eva grew a successful cattle and horse ranch at the confluence of two forks of the Sybille Creek.

Over the years the family was blessed with three children and the ranch prospered. Some believed the ranch prospered a little too well.

The Laramie Republican of Aug. 11, 1892 told the story. "Fred A. Langhoff of the Sybille, who is well known in Laramie was brought to Cheyenne yesterday, by Sheriff Kelly from Clintonville, Wisconsin charged with stealing 26 head of horses from his neighbors and selling them in Kentucky." Eva and two ranch hands, Tom Boucher and Louis Bath, were also arrested, the hands held in jail and Eva released to care for her three children.

Had the Langhoffs been stealing horses? The family insisted that they were being framed by large landowners who wanted to take their prop-

erty. The Cattlemen's Association had hired a stock detective, James Moore, to keep an eye on the smaller ranches. The question is still unanswered as to whether Mr. Moore was there for the protection of all or to find evidence for the few. The trials were held with varying results. Tom Boucher and Louis Bath were released. The prosecution's key witness, Detective Moore, had been arrested and sent to jail for stealing a saddle. Eva Langhoff was found not guilty. Fred Langhoff had a split jury, six guilty and six not guilty.

Fred was out on bail awaiting a new trial, his wife was in Laramie trying to secure money for legal expenses. Eva heard rumor that a band of men from the Cattlemen's Association was going to go to the Langhoff ranch to dole out their own justice. Eva raced home and told Fred that the lynch mob was close behind her. Fred had no options, he mounted a fresh horse and fled to the railroad at Cheyenne with a posse on his heels. He never returned to the west or his family again. Eventually Eva divorced Fred for desertion.

So what happened after the two families became aware of each other? Amazingly the two families became very close. The wives, Eva and Estelle, became pen pals and wrote each other frequently. The children of both families stayed in contact and periodically gathered in Wisconsin for family reunions.

There you have it, Fred Langhoff, a cowboy with a secret.

Tom McDermott is a Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.



Tom McDermott

# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st.

**Preschool Story Time** (18 months – 6 years). Story Time is on Mondays at 10am through December 16th. Stories, crafts and friends to share books...all at your Library! Registration is required, visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or call (815) 732-2724.

**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 Housemaid* by Freida McFadden and *Maybe Next Time* by Cesca Major. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet December 17 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.

**StoryWalk I Spy Contest**

Now through December 20th (Oregon Library cardholders only). Come by the Library and pick up an entry form, walk the Story Walk at Oregon Park West and

before going airborne across a small water ditch and coming to rest. The vehicle sustained heavy damage and the driver was transported OSF Hospital in Rockford by Monroe Center EMS for non-life threatening injuries. The driver was later issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Nov. 27 at approximately 9:37 p.m. deputies responded to 10950 East Flagg Road for a car in the ditch. After investigation, deputies arrested Guadalupe Mejia Rosas, 51, of Mt. Morris, for driving under the influence of alcohol. It was determined that a silver Ford Focus driven by Mejia Rosas, was attempting to back out of a driveway and misjudged the entrance of the roadway, causing the vehicle to enter the ditch and become immobile. Mejia Rosas was later transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was issued a notice to appear with a future court date. Mejia Rosas was also cited for DUI - intoxicating compound.

On Nov. 27 at 4:44 p.m. deputies responded

to the 11,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a one-vehicle accident with unknown injuries. After a brief investigation, deputies discovered a 17-year-old female juvenile was traveling southbound before veering off the roadway and striking a guardrail and over-correcting, causing the vehicle to overturn. The vehicle sustained heavy damage and the driver was transported to Mercy Riverside for non-life threatening injuries. The driver was later issued a citation for failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions. Byron Fire/EMS and Byron Police assisted with the accident.

On Nov. 28 at approximately 11:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop around the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Charles N. Jackson, 26, of Rockford under arrest for an outstanding McLean County warrant for failure to appear on a domestic battery charge. Leonard Cotton Jr., 25, of Sterling, was also placed under arrest for

an outstanding Whiteside County warrant for failure to appear for a traffic offense, driving under the influence of drugs. Both were transported to the Ogle County Jail. Cotton Jr. was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 28 at approximately 12:18 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After investigation, deputies placed Edward Weber, 32, of Westmont, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Weber was additionally issued citations for speeding 15-20 miles per hour over the speed limit and DUI with a BAC of .08 or more. Weber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. As a result, deputies arrested Damion C. Yocum, 32, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, for driving while license revoked. Yocum was additionally issued citations for operating an

answer the questions about the story. Once completed, turn in the entry form no later than December 20. Individual with the most correct answers will receive a gift card from an Oregon business.

**December Distraction - It's Back!**

Now through Friday, December 20th, when Oregon Public Library District cardholders check out reading material, they may receive a scratch-off ticket for every 3 reading material items for a chance to win prizes. Scratch off your ticket and see if you win! Winning ticket holders may select one of the prize packages that are now on display at the Library. Ask one of our librarians for more details.

**The Magic of Raina Telgemeier**

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 bestsellers. 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](http://bit.ly/ILP_RainaTelgemeier)

*This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among pub-*

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

lic 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) Registration ends Sunday, December 8th. 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](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com)

**Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club**

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

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

**Little Women: The Musical**

Friday, December 20 to Sunday, December 22- An At Home Experience (in collaboration with BroadwayHD). Louisa May Alcott's classic story of four sisters growing up

in 19th-century Massachusetts made its London premiere in this acclaimed production at Park Theatre. Originally presented on Broadway in 2005 starring Sutton Foster, Lydia White and Savannah Stevenson lead a talented cast in this beloved tale of family, self-discovery, and hope. Little Women at Park Theatre is directed by Bronagh Lagan with set and costume design by Nik Corral, musical direction by Leo Munby, orchestrations by Andy Collyer, choreography by Sarah Golding, lighting design by Ben M. Rogers, sound design by Paul Gavin and casting by Jane Deitch. It is produced by Katy Lipson for Aria Entertainment, Hope Mill Theatre and Knockhardy Productions, in association with Park Theatre, and co-produced by Bonnie Comley and Stewart F. Lane. Little Women has a book by Allan Knee (Finding Neverland, The Astonishing Times of Timothy Cratchit), lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, and music by Grammy Award-winner Jason Howland. Register at: [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_LittleWomen](https://bit.ly/ILP_LittleWomen) *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).* ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

**Lego Club**

Monday, December 23 pm at 1 pm (2nd grade & up) (No School). Get together and spend some recreational time building! There will be a limited number of vintage kit instructions available, so if you make it, you can take it! (First come, first serve) The club is designed to provide an enjoyable

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

**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- Winter's Gift by Jane Monroe Donovan. At the StoryWalk is If You Take a Mouse to the Movies by Laura Numeroff.

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activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration is required.

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

**Knit & Crochet is BACK!**

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on it while socializing. Need help getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com> or call (815) 732-2724.

**New Photo Printer at the library!**

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

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uninsured motor vehicle. Yocum was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Nov. 29 at approximately 8:21 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After further investigation Melinda Yerk, 31, of Davis Junction, was charged with no valid driver's license. Yerk was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 29 at approximately 6:06 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Main Street and Locust Street in Forreston. After further investigation Ashlee Williams, 31, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Williams was also cited for expired registration. Williams was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 29 at approximately 10:15 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of West Pines Road. After further investigation

Lauren Pelka, 48, of Dixon, was charged with driving while license suspended. Pelka was released on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 1 at approximately 10:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 38 and South Mulford Road. After further investigation, Irma R. Chicaj Pu, 28, of DeKalb, was arrested for no valid driver's license. Chicaj Pu was also cited for speeding 26-34 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Chicaj Pu was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Dec. 2 at approximately 2:16 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 10,000 block of West Judson Road. After an investigation deputies arrested Nisan J. Dean, 29, of Rochelle, for unlawful possession of cannabis. Dean was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

# ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for November

OGLE COUNTY – Illinois State Police Troop 1 Troopers issued 1,469 citations, 1,000 written warnings, and made 37 criminal arrests during the month

of November. Troopers issued 595 citations for speeding, 78 citations for distracted driving violations and 127 citations for occupant restraint

violations. Troopers investigated 130 traffic crashes, assisted 245 motorists, and conducted 383 commercial motor vehicle

inspections, of which 48 were placed out of service for safety reasons. There were 20 arrests for driving under the influence. Troop 1, which encom-

passes Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated no fatal crashes in November.

# LOCAL NEWS



### Polo Lions to donate to Lions of Illinois Foundation

The Polo Lions Club will be donating 148 pairs of glasses, 15 pairs of lenses, 15 hearing aids and seven cell phones to the Lions of Illinois Foundation. The Lions Club has boxes for people to put these items in at the Polo Library, Polo Senior Center, Tom Suits' office and at the Shannon-Polo Bank. (Courtesy photo)

## Chesney to host IPASS on Demand Event in Elizabeth on Dec. 9

**FREEPORT** — State Senator Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is bringing a mobile team from the Illinois Tollway to Elizabeth on Dec. 9 for an IPASS on Demand event from 3-7 p.m. at Elizabeth Village Hall at 200 E. Myrtle St., Elizabeth. The event will be co-hosted by Elizabeth Village President Jason Thomasson.

“The Tollway is transitioning away from plastic transponders and are replacing them with new sticker technology,” said Chesney. “Rather than having my constituents complete this transaction at the DMV or elsewhere where there may be a fee, I am bringing a mobile team into the 45th District for quick, easy, and free

service.” Officials from the Illinois Tollway will be on hand to help people transfer over to the new sticker technology and ensure people can make the switch without disruption to their IPASS account activity. Along with providing this service, the tollway officials can help people with questions they may have about their IPASS account and with ‘Pay by Plate’ issues. Please note that those who attend should jot down their license plate number to ensure quick service.

Once activated, the sticker tag can be used on the Illinois tollway and on E-ZPass roadways in other states within 24 hours of activation. There

is no deposit required for the sticker and the \$10 transponder deposit that was paid when a transponder was purchased will be transferred to the new account when it is activated. Balances on current transponders will also be transferred over to the sticker account.

An additional IPASS event is scheduled for Dec. 16 in Kirkland at Resource One Bank. “These events provide easy access for my constituents to make the switch,” added Chesney. “I would encourage motorists to attend the event closest to their home.”

For additional information about these free events, please contact Lori at lyates@sgop.ilga.gov.



### Camplain recognized for service with OCEC

Terry Camplain was honored with the Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Schools of the State of Illinois award by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools Area 2 in 2024. Mr. Camplain, a retired principal from Ogle County Education Cooperative, most recently served at Chana Education Center. The award was presented by Mrs. Kalnins, CEC principal, Mrs. Henkel, OCEC assistant director, and Mr. Zilm, OCEC director. (Courtesy photo)

## DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

### Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

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

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

### Low Income Housing

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

### Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

### Mental Health

Family Counseling Services **962-5585**  
 Smississippi 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**



(COURTESY PHOTO) Two local youth organizations collaborated for a successful winter gear drive. Pictured from left to right: Izzy Burke (Avalanche), Raiden Zimmerman (4-H), Allissa Martin (4-H), Anna Marquardt (4-H), Immanuel Arrellano (4-H), and Gabby Burke (Avalanche).

## Community donations make Winter Gear Drive a success

**OREGON** – Thanks to generous donations, the “Spread the Warmth - Winter Gear Drive” was successful. Ogle County 4-H and the Oregon Avalanche Softball Organization thoughtfully collaborated throughout the last month to help keep the community warm this winter. All donations benefitted Lifeline Food Pantry and Self-Help. Donations were accepted for new or gently used winter gear of all sizes. Area businesses also contributed to the drive. For the second year, Compeer Financial donated over

\$1,000 of new socks, hats, and gloves, to benefit the pantry. The pantry is inside Conover Square Mall in Oregon and donations of food and clothing can always be made.

4-H is an informal youth education program conducted by University of Illinois Extension. U of I Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in 4-H, contact the Ogle County Extension staff at 815-732-2191.

ABOUT EXTENSION:

Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities.

**OREGON AVA-LANCHE:** Oregon Avalanche is a fastpitch nonprofit supporting 8-14-year-old girls. The program is part of the all-Oregon Community Unit School District and helps players reach their athletic and personal best.

## FSB announces promotion of Janssen to relationship banking manager

**SHANNON** — Robin Wilhelms Saar, president and CEO of First State Bank Shannon-Polo-Lake Carroll, has announced the promotion of Julie Janssen to relationship banking manager. In her new role, Julie will continue as Lake Carroll Branch manager, overseeing the Lake Carroll Customer Service Representatives

(CSRs) and leading our efforts in Lending Compliance. Julie has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and team-building abilities, and we're confident she will excel in this new role. Julie brings a wealth of experience, a commitment to excellence, and exceptional leadership and team-building skills to this position.



Julie Janssen

# LOCAL NEWS

## HARVEST: Ogle County's Kern discusses farm preparations for 2025

From page 1

Growing season locally saw good rain levels and timely rain, which Kern said was the most ideal the county has seen in a while. However, after a dry fall, there is some concern locally about moisture levels ahead of spring planting in 2025.

"We're starting to show up on the drought index due to recent low moisture," Kern said. "But there's still some months ahead of us before the spring. Overall I think this year went well. We still continue to see very low commodity prices. But I don't think there were any complaints about the growing."

Farmers in the region did not encounter the issue of having to spend money on gas to dry down crops this fall, as most crops dried down in the fields with the weather. After rain did come in recent weeks, farmers were able to do some fall tillage after picking their crops, along with nitrogen application.

The dry harvest time brought with it a number of field fires in the county in recent months. "Whenever you have a

dry harvest season, farmers have to be extra cautious with buildup around the engine compartments of tractors and combines," Kern said. "This year lent itself to more field and combine fires. Sometimes it's preventable, sometimes it's something you can't anticipate. It's unfortunate when those things happen. You just have to hope for no injuries and that the fire can be contained within a certain area and move on from there."

With high anticipated yields due to good weather conditions earlier in the year, some farmers in the industry encountered or feared a shortage of bin space. Kern said local farmers did not encounter that issue, and that farmers have expanded on-farm storage more in the past 30 years to handle crops better and more efficiently.

Dry weather also caused lower levels of the Mississippi River, which is used by the agriculture industry to ship crops.

"The Mississippi River issue depends on where farmers ship to and out of," Kern said. "When you get to a point where barges are having trouble getting up



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Growing season locally saw good rain levels and timely rain, which Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said was the most ideal the county has seen in a while.

and down the Mississippi, that is going to start to play into prices people receive back on the farm. I don't know if the river level is critical right now, but it definitely could use an influx of water."

Kern said that two large-scale issues facing farmers

right now are trade and the need for a new federal farm bill. A new farm bill comes about every five years, and the most recent one was extended a year.

"Our foreign trade numbers aren't looking all that good," Kern said. "That weighs heavily on the

commodity prices. I think domestic use is holding steady and we seem to be hanging in there. We really need to get more aggressive in the trade market and some of these trade agreements if we're going to try to prop these commodity prices up. And we

need congress to get going on crafting a new farm bill and getting it passed and in place to protect things like crop insurance for farmers and those types of things so farmers have the risk management tools they need to continue to try to move forward and profit."

## DACHSIES: Steward nonprofit operates as dog rescue facility

From page 1

"It's just hard to see any of them hurting or in need," Lyle Ranken said. "Nowadays the situation with dogs is just worse than ever. The need is just non-stop. There's thousands of dogs that need homes. It's sort of like that story about the guy walking along the beach and throwing starfish back into the water and someone asks him why he's doing it and says he can't save them all. The guy replies and says, 'No, but it makes a difference to

the ones I do save."

The Ranken's rescue is typically contacted by CBRR when there's a shortage of foster homes. If Dachsies to Danes has the available space, the Rankens take the dog. The rescue has worked with people all across the country. The largest number of dogs in need come from Minnesota and down south. The rescue has also done some local work and recently helped a pregnant mother dog and five dogs that came from a puppy mill in the area after a re-

quest from the Department of Agriculture. Each of those dogs was spayed or neutered and adopted out.

"We've continued to do the rescue part of it for so many years because there's more need and we're always here," Sally Ranken said. "We don't go on fancy vacations or anything. We just love the dogs. And they don't deserve the life some of them have been given."

The Rankens believe the biggest problems in the dog industry are too many breeders and spaying and neutering not being done

enough. They'd like to see mandatory spaying and neutering.

Every 11 seconds, a shelter dog is euthanized in America. The Rankens want people to adopt dogs from shelters and rescues rather than buying them from breeders or puppy mills.

"You can get just as many purebred dogs through a shelter and you're saving their life," Sally Ranken said. "Sometimes they're work. I would say most dogs that come in are between the

ages of seven months to three years because that's when they're in their teenage years and they're going to test you. People don't know how to deal with it. Once you get through that, you have a darn good dog. But there's just as many that give up and get rid of the dog."

The rescue operation at Dachsies to Danes can be contacted at 815-453-2843. Appointments are available to people to meet dogs for potential adoption. The rescue currently has 30 dogs that need

homes, including a litter of Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and their mother.

Sally Ranken said it can sometimes be difficult to let go of dogs when she finds them a new home. Lyle Ranken said he's usually glad to see those happy endings.

"If you know they're going to a good home, it's not bad at all," Lyle Ranken said. "You know the dog is going to be loved and taken care of. We try to take every step to make sure they are going to a good home."

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Dec. 14:** On Saturday, Dec. 14 the Leaf River Lions Club will be serving breakfast 7-10 a.m. at the Bertolet Memorial Building, 103 W. Second St., Leaf River. The menu includes pancakes, waffles, french toast, scrambled eggs, Eickman's Break-

fast Sausage, applesauce, orange juice, milk and coffee. Santa will arrive at 9 a.m. so don't forget your camera to get some pictures with Santa. For more details see our Facebook page - leafriverlionsclub or send an email to leafriverlionsclub@yahoo.com. Merry

Christmas!

**Dec. 27:** Illinois House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) is hosting an upcoming blood drive event with the City of Savanna and the Savanna Fire Department. The Savanna Community Blood Drive will be held

on Dec. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Savanna Fire Department Truck Bay, 101 Main St., Savanna. "Every blood donation can help save a life, and this holiday season, I encourage anyone who is able to give back in this way. The gift of life is the best gift you can give,"

said Leader McCombie. The community blood drive has helped boost local blood supply in the past, and Leader McCombie expects this year to be no different. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are available. To make an appointment to donate blood, please call

the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcross-blood.org. To streamline your donation and save up to 15 minutes, you can visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and questionnaire on the day of your appointment.

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**OGLE COUNTY LIFE**  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Ogle County 4-H Achievement Day winners named

**OREGON** — Ogle County 4-H'ers were recognized for excellence in 4-H project work at the recent county 4-H Achievement Celebration. Held Nov. 17 at the Byron Junior High School Theatre, the program featured the presentation of numerous awards, including the "County Project Honor Award."

An unlimited number of awards are given to all 4-H'ers who obtain a score of 30 or greater on the County Project Honor Award Application (20 or greater for the 8-11-year-old). 4-H'ers may only be recognized in one project area annually. The award consists of a plaque and silver/gold discs. (\* indicates a first-time winner) This year's winners were as follows:

**Gold**  
Kaitlyn Adams, Food & Nutrition. Nolan Adams, Beef. Immanuel Arellano, Visual Arts. David Bagwell, Robotics. Hayden Capes, Shooting Sports. Nicholas Cassens, Horticulture. Bristol Clark, Goats. Harmony Coy, Family Heritage. Aylivia Danekas, Rabbits. Alayna Doane, Food Decorating. Kamryn Feltz, Woodworking. Bruce Gehrke, Beef. Colton Gehrke, Geology. Luke Gehrke, Visual Arts. Shelby Harbaugh, Dairy Cattle. Andrew Hickman, Cats. Jacob Hickman, Photography. \*Lauren

Hickman, Clothing & Textiles. Kenzie Hongsermeier, Horse & Pony. \*Kodi Hubbard, Wildlife. Elizabeth Kennedy, Intercultural. \*Kaylee King, Food & Nutrition. Mallory King, Clothing & Textiles. Aubrey Kusnierz, Rabbits. Kaden Lingbeck, Poultry. Haven Marks, Rabbits. Anna Marquardt, Rabbits. Allissa Martin, Beef. Alyse Rogers, Horse & Pony. Braden Rogers, Goats. Lydia Sherburne, Food & Nutrition. Kathryn Snow, Food & Nutrition. David Wehler, Food & Nutrition. \*Heidi Westfall, Clothing & Textiles. \*Addison Yordy, Horse & Pony.

**Silver**  
Kayden Barndt, Food & Nutrition. Kerrigan Becker, Food & Nutrition. Adrien Booker, Food & Nutrition. Delaney Byers, Sheep. \*Gregory Dorwaldt, Entomology/Beekeeping. Trinity Feltz, Woodworking. Olivia Grobe, Woodworking. Tylar Groth, Child Development. \*Ashley Harbaugh, Quilting. Emily Harbaugh, Dairy Cattle. Jenna Heller, Food & Nutrition. Lily Hongsermeier, Food & Nutrition. Grant Johnson, Poultry. \*Leo Koziol, Small Pets. Madeline Kusnierz, Rabbits. Hunter Kreams, Dogs. Savannah Marks, Family Heritage. Kaeden Motszko, College & Career Readiness. \*Sophia Palmer, Clothing & Textiles. \*Noah Richardson,

Visual Arts. James Runte, Entomology. Owen Smarndo, Woodworking. Joshua Snow, Food & Nutrition. \*Zeb Yocum, Robotics.

**Project Recognition**  
Alex Booker, Natural Resources. Aleeya Dykstra, Clothing & Textiles. Alex Grygiel, Beef. Cian Grygiel, Beef. Hayden Harvey, Poultry. Annaliese Koziol, Visual Arts. Edward Koziol, Electricity. Nicolette Koziol, Visual Arts. Kailee Miller, Visual Arts. Katelyn Rockwood, Beef. Isaac Williams, Horse & Pony.

**Cloverbud County Honor Winners**  
Ogle County 4-H'ers between the ages of five and seven are known as Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds who obtain a score of 40 or above on the Cloverbud County Project Honor Award Application are recipients of the Cloverbud Project Honor Award. This year's Cloverbud winners were as follows:

Camila Bonne, Ogle Jolly. Jordan Collins, Ogle Jolly. William Dorwaldt, Ogle County Clovers. Rowan Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly. Briella Franks, By-Y-Badgers. Declan Franks, By-Y-Badgers. Paisley Harbaugh, Carefree. Remington Harvey, Summerhill Huskies. Stella Hauch, Ogle Jolly. Macklin Hubbard, Carefree. Emilia Janoski, Ogle Jolly. Zeke Janoski, Ogle Jolly. Ty Johnson, Ogle

Jolly. Emma Rasmussen, Ogle Jolly. Natalya Ruthe, Mighty Clovers. William Safranek, By-Y-Badgers. Alana Smith, Summerhill Huskies. Allan Smith, Summerhill Huskies. Hewyt Westfall, Blackhawk Crossing.

**Top 30 award winners**  
A percentage of 4-H'ers were selected from among the silver and gold County Project Honor winners to receive the Top 30 Award. This award is given to 4-H'ers for thoroughness of records, comprehensiveness of project coverage, appropriateness of goals set, learning documented, overall size and scope of 4-H experience, educational experiences, community service efforts, and leadership efforts in project areas, involvement in club and beyond; and record book organization and appearance enhancements.

Kaitlyn Adams, Food & Nutrition. Nolan Adams, Beef. David Bagwell, Robotics. Kerrigan Becker, Food & Nutrition. Adrien Booker, Food & Nutrition. Nicholas Cassens, Horticulture. Harmony Coy, Family Heritage. Aylivia Danekas, Rabbits. Alayna Doane, Food Decorating. Gregory Dorwaldt, Entomology/Beekeeping. Bruce Gehrke, Beef. Colton Gehrke, Geology. Luke Gehrke, Visual Arts. Tylar Groth, Child Development. Jenna Heller, Food & Nutrition. Andrew Hick-



(COURTESY PHOTO) Carefree 4-H Club member Kodi Hubbard received the Project Honor Award for Excellence in 4-H Project Work.

man, Cats. Jacob Hickman, Photography. Lauren Hickman, Clothing & Textiles. Kenzie Hongsermeier, Horse & Pony. Kodi Hubbard, Wildlife. Grant Johnson, Poultry. Kaylee King, Food & Nutrition. Mallory King, Clothing & Textiles. Allissa Martin, Beef. Alyse Rogers, Horse & Pony. Braden Rogers, Goats. Lydia Sherburne, Food & Nutrition. David Wehler, Food & Nutrition. Heidi Westfall, Clothing & Textiles. Addison Yordy, Horse & Pony. 4-H is an informal youth education program conducted by University of Illinois Extension. U of I Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in 4-H, contact the Ogle County Extension staff at 815-732-2191.

## Successful Ag Career Exploration Fair was held on Nov. 21

**OREGON** — Over 175 high school and middle school students attended the Ag Career Exploration Fair on Nov. 21 in Oregon. Students met with and asked questions to college recruiters and business representatives who focused on studies and careers in the agricultural field. Colleges shared information on the many majors in agriculture and what it takes to get a degree. Agriculture-related employers had representatives there to offer career knowledge and discuss the skills needed to perform specific jobs.

High schools that participated were from Oregon, Ashton-Franklin Center, and Fulton. Colleges, universities, and businesses that were

on hand for the students were Blackhawk College East Campus, Iowa State, Joliet Junior College, Southern Illinois University, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Western Illinois University, Bayer, CHS, Etnyre, Nachusa Grasslands, and Vita Plus. There were also U of I Extension staff to talk about food science and careers in Extension. John Heisner from FCAE visited with students about ag education as a career path.

Melinda Colbert, University of Illinois Extension Ag in the Classroom Program coordinator, said, "The target audience is high school students, and sometimes ag teachers or guidance counselors bring the students. The

home school population that attends continues to grow, along with students that come with their parents." The event was free and open to the public.

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension in partnership with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water.

**ABOUT EXTENSION:** Illinois Extension leads public outreach for the University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities.



(COURTESY PHOTO) Business representatives from Bayer were available to answer participants questions.

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# CHRISTMAS SERVICES



*St. Mary  
Catholic Church*

### Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve Mass:**  
5:00PM  
at Oregon & Polo

**Midnight Mass:**  
12 Midnight  
at Oregon

**Christmas Mass:**  
9:00AM  
at Oregon & Polo

**Mary, Mother of God Vigil:**  
December 31, 2024  
6:30PM  
at Polo

**Mary, Mother of God Mass:**  
January 1, 2025  
8:30AM & 6:30PM  
at Oregon

### Two Locations

301 N 4th St  
Oregon

211 N Franklin  
Polo

12092024

## Disciples United Methodist Church

### Christmas Eve Service

4:30 pm



**102 Maple Ave. | Mt. Morris**  
815-734-4853  
[www.disciplesumc.org](http://www.disciplesumc.org)



12092024



**December 24 ~ 5 PM**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
Candlelight, Carols & Special Music

**United Church of Byron**  
701 W. 2nd St.  
Byron, IL

**Pastor:** Rev. Tyler Spellious  
 **United Church of Byron, Illinois**  
**Website:** [unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://unitedchurchofbyron.org)

### Christmas at RiverStone!

All are welcome to join us for Christmas at RiverStone! Nearly 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophet Micah promised that a shepherd would arrive to provide security and serenity for the lost and hopeless. We need these promises to remind us that we have a God who longs to protect us and give us peace.

Our God always fulfills His promises!

**We will celebrate Christmas with two identical Candlelight services on Dec. 22nd and Dec. 23rd, both beginning at 6 PM.**

**No Service the following Sunday, Dec. 29th!**

*Merry Christmas!*



RiverStone Christian Church  
609 S. Tenth St. Oregon, IL

12092024

## THE PROMISES OF CHRISTMAS



## ADVENT AT KISHWAUKEE

COME HEAR ABOUT THE PROMISES OF SCRIPTURE AS WE LOOK AT HOW JESUS HAS ALREADY FULFILLED PROPHECY AND LOOK FORWARD TO ALL THAT IS STILL TO COME

**15 DEC CHRIST BRINGS JOY 10 AM**

**22 DEC CHRIST BRINGS LOVE 10 AM**

**24 DEC FAMILY SERVICE 4 PM**

**TRADITIONAL SERVICE 10 PM**

Kishwaukee Community Church  
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## St. Paul Lutheran Church

Join us on  
Christmas Eve!

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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6:30PM

\* Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service at 7PM



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12092024



2024 Advent Sermon Series: *The Time of Arrival*  
Sunday morning Worship at 10:15 am

Dec. 1 - Hope | Dec. 8 - Peace | Dec. 15 - Love  
Dec. 22 - Joy

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 5 pm: *Meaning of the Light*



Valley Evangelical Covenant Church  
103 S. Maple St., Stillman Valley, IL  
[www.valleycov.org](http://www.valleycov.org)

**Pastor Barry Norris**

12092024



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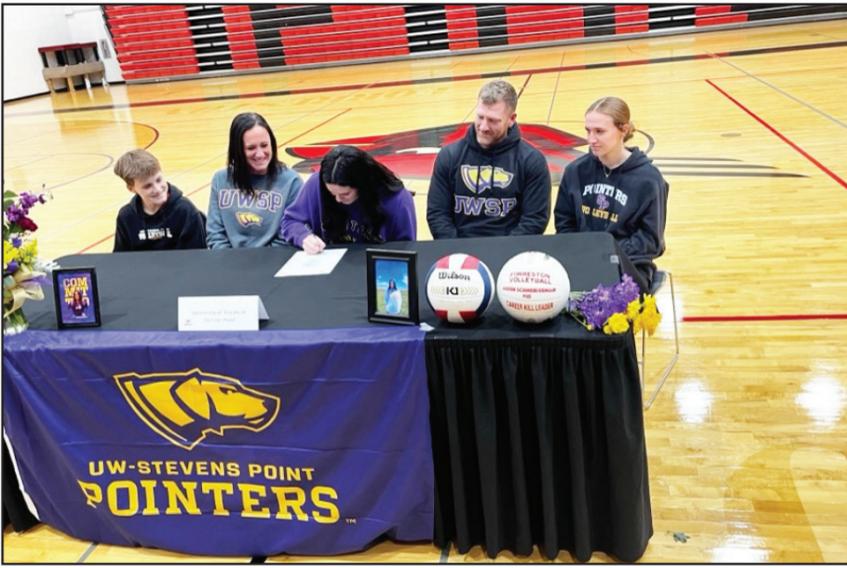
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### Forreston's Schneiderman signs letter of intent with University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Jaiden Schneiderman, daughter of Nick and Andrea Schneiderman, signed a letter of intent to participate on the volleyball team at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Jaiden has been a four year varsity starter on the volleyball team at Forreston High School. She earned team offensive player of the year all four years. Jaiden has earned All-Conference volleyball honors in 2021 (2nd team) 1st team (Unanimous) in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Jaiden set the single game records this year with most kills (28). She had the single season kill percentage (47.9%) this year. Her career records include Most Career Kills (1,655), Career Kill Percentage (43.8%), Career Aces (147). Her career record kill (1655) places her 10th in the IHSA Volleyball All-Time records. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreston Jr/Sr High School wish Jaiden congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. (Courtesy photos)

### OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Oregon boys basketball team takes seventh at home tournament

Oregon continued tournament action on Wednesday, Nov. 27 with a 66-46 victory against Marengo. Kade Girton scored 15 points, while Keaton Salisbury added 13 points and Benny Olalde chipped in 12 points. Cooper Johnson and Tucker O'Brien each recorded 10 points.

Oregon played two games on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Hawks defeated North Boone 55-48 behind 23 points from Kade Girton. Oregon closed out the tournament with a 62-57 victory against Genoa-Kingston in the seventh-place game. Kade Girton earned All-Tournament Team honors for the Hawks. Girton scored 15 points against the Cogs,

while Nole Campos added 12 points and Keaton Salisbury recorded nine points.

#### Polo girls basketball team falls against Amboy

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team suffered a 45-25 loss against Amboy on Monday, Dec. 2. Cam Jones led the Lady Marcos with 11 points, while Carlee Grobe added nine points

and Leah Tobin chipped in four points on offense.

#### Oregon boys basketball team blows out Ashton-Franklin Center

The Oregon High School varsity boys basketball team dominated Ashton-Franklin Center for an 85-39 win on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Kade Girton led the Hawks with 21 points, while Jackson Caspary added 19 points and

Cooper Johnson scored 14 points. Benny Olalde totaled 11 points to aid the Oregon offense in the win.

#### Polo wrestling team faces Dakota and Freeport

The Polo High School varsity wrestling team took down Dakota 36-30 on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Winners on the Polo side included Zandra Vock (120), Lucas Nelson

(157), Kaelyn McCarren (157), Micah Stringini (165), Jaidyn McKinney (175) and Ethan Dewey (175).

Polo conceded a 39-27 loss against Freeport that same day. Winners on the Polo side included Zandra Vock (120), Lucas Nelson (138), Jaidyn McKinney (144), Christian Ryia (150) and Micah Stringini (165).

**NEW LISTING**

**604 Madison Street Oregon \$160,000 Call Rebecca**

Charming 3-bedroom home in the heart of Oregon, ideally located near schools and the Nash Recreation Center—perfect for those who love an active lifestyle! This beautifully maintained home boasts stunning hardwood floors and intricate woodwork throughout the main floor, adding warmth and character to every room. The formal dining room is perfect for entertaining, while the convenient main-floor laundry adds ease and practicality to everyday living. Upstairs you'll find 3 bedrooms, including a spacious master with a large full bath featuring a roomy walk-in closet. The vintage charm of this home shines through with its classic design, offering timeless appeal while being move-in ready. Enjoy the convenience of a two-car garage and plenty of space for storage. This gem is brimming with potential and will not last long on the market. Schedule your tour today and experience all the charm this home has to offer!

**NEW LISTING**

**4940 E Ashelford Drive Byron \$439,000 Call Rebecca**

Welcome to this stunning home in the highly sought-after Byron School District, offering incredible potential and endless possibilities! This spacious 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom, 2-story home sits on a generous half-acre lot, providing plenty of space indoors and out. With a finished lower level featuring a game room, exercise room, additional potential bedroom, and wine bar, this home is perfect for entertaining and everyday living. As you enter, you're greeted by a dramatic foyer with soaring ceilings and an elegant staircase that sets the tone for the entire home. The open kitchen seamlessly flows into the inviting family room, creating a perfect space for gathering and relaxation. Upstairs, you'll find 4 large bedrooms, including a luxurious master suite with ample space to unwind. Enjoy the convenience of a spacious 3-car garage and make the most of the warm weather with your very own 27' above-ground pool—ideal for summer fun and relaxation. Added bonus are the newly updated siding, gutters and roof. This home truly offers it all—style, comfort, and room to grow. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity!

**NEW PRICE**

**206 Smith Drive Oregon NOW \$279,900 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 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.

**NEW PRICE**

**29319 Fremont Road Milledgeville NOW \$250,000 Call Carrie**

Endless country views from your welcoming 3.66 acre parcel featuring a 2 Story home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths & detached 2+ car garage! Spacious kitchen with custom built center island, ample cabinetry, newly updated counters, sink & newer refrigerator. Enter the spacious dining room leading to the living room & den/office with the added convenience with the main floor bath & laundry. Upstairs you will find 3 bedrooms & recently remodeled bathroom with Onyx walk in shower & new vanity with Onyx countertop. Partial basement with built in shelving & ample storage. Step outside to your back patio & private back yard with playset that stays. Home updates include siding, furnace, C/A, GHW & washer/dryer that stay. Call today to view this great home!

**4510 Lincliff Drive Rockford \$187,000 Call Boone**

Welcome to 4510 Lincliff Dr in Rockford! This charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers comfort and convenience in every detail. Step into the inviting eat-in kitchen, perfect for family meals and gatherings. The home boasts an attached 2-car garage with basement access, leading to a partially exposed basement ready for your personal touch. The property has been thoroughly maintained, with a roof only 5 years old and a newly rebuilt chimney. Recent updates include a brand-new well pump, water softener, and a modernized bathroom. Additional upgrades include an insulated crawlspace, a 3-year-old furnace, and a 2-year-old air conditioning unit for year-round comfort. This home is move-in ready and ideal for anyone seeking a well-maintained space with thoughtful improvements. Don't miss out—schedule your showing today! Home being sold AS IS

**5496 S Poplar Drive Oregon \$285,000 Call Taylor**

Welcome to 5496 S Poplar Dr, a beautifully updated home in the peaceful countryside just outside Oregon, IL. This 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom property offers the perfect blend of rural serenity and convenient access to the nearby towns of Oregon and Dixon for shopping and dining. Recent updates include flooring and refinished cabinets in 2024, a new roof in 2023, windows replaced in 2017, a furnace in 2020, and an upgraded air conditioner in 2017, ensuring comfort and efficiency. The spacious yard provides a quiet retreat to enjoy nature, making this home a perfect escape from the busyness of life while remaining close to modern conveniences. Don't miss your chance to experience this ideal balance of comfort and location!

**000 S Andrew Drive Oregon \$45,000 Call Jenny Kirchner**

Look no further! This beautiful 1.5 acre lot is the perfect building site for your new home. It has a country feel, yet is conveniently located just outside of Oregon off of Daysville and Lowden roads. The Sinnissippi Point Subdivision has large lots providing ample distance from neighbors. The covenants allow for swimming pools, fences, and out buildings. Private well and septic required. Plat and covenant information available upon request. Get your house plans ready and build your new home this year!

**4311 Lincolnway Unit K Sterling Call JD for lease pricing**

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**00 River Road (106.3 Acres) Oregon \$999,000 Call Carla**

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**502 Franklin Street Oregon \$184,900 Call Becky**

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**7913 Oak Street Dixon NOW \$119,900 Call Carla**

Seller is ready for an offer! New Listing in the quaint community of Grand Detour! This adorable 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home offers hardwood flooring on the main level, newer furnace. Loads of potential! There's a separate building that is ideal for office, mancave, shop opportunities. Sitting on a corner lot. Don't delay, call today!

**402 E III Route 64 Mt Morris \$200,000 Call Lori**

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# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## NIU football wins regular season finale to finish 7-5 Hammock: 'What I liked this year was we were resilient and stayed the course'

BY ANDY COLBERT  
CORRESPONDENT

**DEKALB** – In its regular season finale, the Northern Illinois University football team started fast and defeated Central Michigan 24-16 to finish with a winning record (7-5).

Behind rushing touchdowns by Gavin Williams, Ethan Hampton and Telly Johnson, the Huskies grabbed an 19-0 lead in the first quarter

and managed to hang on the rest of the way. Each of those scores were set up by three and outs.

In a scoring rarity, JaVaughn Byrd returned a blocked CMU (4-8) extra point for a two-point conversion, giving NIU a 21-6 lead. The only other points came on a second-half field goal by Kanon Woodill.

However, special teams hurt the Huskies with a missed fake field goal and missed fake

punt, besides a missed field goal.

"I was going to be aggressive with the punt and field goal and didn't get it," NIU coach Thomas Hammock said.

Using a short field, the Chippewas closed to within 21-16 late in the second quarter on touchdown following the fake punt. Led by Santana Banner with six solo tackles, NIU held CMU scoreless the rest of the way. Only 51 total

yards were allowed in the second half.

After an up-and-down season, highlighted by a shocking upset win over Notre Dame, Hammock looked relaxed in the press conference afterwards, knowing his team was headed to a bowl and a school-record 30 seniors stayed loyal to the program.

"I was desperate for a victory for our seniors because of how much they put into the pro-

gram," Hammock said. "What I liked this year was we were resilient and stayed the course. The Notre Dame win was great, but I'm proud of how we fought the rest of the year."

Much to his delight, part of Hammock's Thanksgiving weekend was spent watching the televised version of the Notre Dame game for the first time.

The Huskies will find out on Dec. 8 who they



will play and what location their bowl game will be. Last year, they beat Arkansas State in the Salute To Veterans Bowl in Montgomery, Alabama.

## For anyone's heart to change, discipline is needed

THERE has been much hoopla in the IHSA offices in Bloomington this fall over the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of its prized possessions – the football playoffs.

However, with private schools dominating seven of the eight championship games, it became more about outrage than celebration for fans of high school football. Social media in all corners of the state was abuzz with heated dialogue on the competitive advantage private schools have over the publics.

Yes, it been a long-running debate and the so-called "golden anniversary" of the playoffs became the perfect kindle for it to explode into an emotional firestorm.

It all started in Belleville Althoff's 57-14 win over Lena-Winslow in the 1A title game. Althoff's offensive line averaged 6-foot-4 and 300 pounds. Its star running back, recruited by the top team in college football, scored seven touchdowns, rushed for 438 yards and had an 80-yard pass reception.

If these classes were set up to allow small schools to have equitable competition, how is it that such size and overwhelming talent are found on a 1A team? Althoff in 1A is a mockery.

The competitive mastery continued in 2A, a 47-0 win by Chicago Christian over Maroa-Forsyth. Going into this year, CC had a losing record in the playoffs and even lost 42-6 in the first round to Maroa in 2023.

It seems odd that they were able to get so much better in one year after decades of futility.

Class 3A has already been discussed at length with Montini and Byron playing the "championship" game in round two.

After losing to Montini 49-8, Monticello may have wished the IHSA had cancelled the remaining 3A games after Byron and Montini met.

Like 2A, the champion of 4A was a relative unknown. Chicago DePaul had never had a winning team in five years of playing football. All of sud-

den, they exploded onto the scene and crushed Mt. Zion 40-6. How does a team make such a turnaround in one year?

Maybe because you can draw kids within a wide swath of the Chicago area. They also have back-to-back titles in boys basketball with former University of DePaul star Tom Kleinschmidt as their coach.

The only close game was in 5A, a 29-27 win by LaGrange Nazareth over Joliet Catholic. And, that was only because it was two privates going at it.

As expected, traditional big school powers Mt. Carmel (7A) and Loyola Academy (8A) continued the private school clean sweep with decisive wins. The only non-private to claim a state championship was 6A East St. Louis, an anomaly in that they can beat anyone in the state.

Another thing that East St. Louis and the private school have in uncommon is a propensity for penalties, be it taunting, unsportsmanlike or late hits. ESL led the way with 14-for-151 yards. Close behind was Althoff with 13-125, Mt. Carmel 12-120, DePaul 11-110 and Montini 8-85.

On sidenote, one reason the 8A game started almost two hours late because of all of penalties earlier in the day. It was close to midnight before it wrapped up.

That lack of discipline starts at the top and is a reflection of what it being played out at the college and pro levels. That same weekend, fights broke out at the finish of several college games because of taunting and retaliation. It got so bad between Michigan and Ohio State that the police used pepper spray on players.

In recent years, it has been stated that people are full of anger in this country because of political issues and polarizing individuals. That's a lie.

The real problem is the condition of one's heart. That's what needs to be changed and society's message of the blaming others is making the sit-

uation worse.

Many of the post-game college skirmishes came after a winner tried to plant his team's flag on the opponent's home field. That's ego and pride.

Instead of rubbing it in someone's face, how about simply shaking hands afterwards and being content as the winner?

Coaches appear to have lost control of their players at the college level. But, if you've reached a point where you are begging and financially enticing them to play for you, that's to be expected.

For anyone's heart to change, discipline is needed.

At the high school level, is there more leniency towards players because they have allegedly been recruited to play for you? Also, does an attitude of superiority lend itself toward on-field bullying in the form of penalties?

The combination of a competitive advantage and poor sportsmanship by the privates has rankled people in Illinois to perhaps its most extreme level, a truly seething cauldron that will carry over into next fall.

Much of the blame is directed at the IHSA, but that is being a bit harsh. They are in

the unenviable position of finding a solution for something there might not be a solution for.

After a semifinal win over a very good Lincoln-Way East team, quarterback Ryan Fitzgerald of Loyola said Lincoln-Way was hampered by playing a weaker schedule than Loyola sees in the Catholic League. If the state playoffs are a step down by the Catholic League, maybe they should have their own state tournament and leave the publics alone.

Other states have done this and after what transpired at the 2024 state finals, it could be the time for the IHSA to institute such a separation.

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



Andy Colbert

### BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**Winter Book Sale**  
December 2nd - 21st.  
It's time again for our winter book sale! Books, puzzles and DVDs will be available for purchase (by donation) during regular business hours the first few weeks of December. We have a large selection of new and gently used items for all ages and interests. Help support the

library and take care of some of your Christmas shopping with us!

**Toddler/Preschool Storytime**  
Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Join us every Wednesday, when school is in session, at 10:00 am for stories, games, and crafts. This program is a great opportunity for children and caregivers to discover

the joy of sharing stories and making new friends in a relaxed setting.

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

### BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**White Christmas: Double the Fun!**

Wednesday, December 11th 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!

**Drop-In Winter Craft Night**

Monday, December 16th from 5-7PM: Our annual winter craft night is back! Kids & Teens: Drop in to the library to make seasonal crafts to take home.

**Take-A-Break BIN-GO**

Monday, December 23rd at 2:00PM: Need a break from wrapping presents? Join us for a fun-filled time of free game play and fun prizes. You can even

### 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.

**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.

**Cricut Lab: Nail De-**

regift your prize if you forgot about getting Great Aunt Susan's 3rd Cousin Twice Removed a gift. Wrapping not included ;)

**Stories With Stacey**

Thursdays at 10:00AM. Miss Stacey continues your journey learning about a variety of animals as we lead up to the end of the year.

**December Book of the Month**

In Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan, venture back to Edinburgh to Carmen and her bookshop. Christmas is fast approaching and she's been kicked out of her sister's house, boyfriend is thousands of miles away, and a film crew has overrun the store. On top of that, the store owner has an impossible Christmas wish and Carmen must figure out a way to save the shop. Pick up your copy today at the circulation desk.

**December Craft**

Welcome in winter with this adorable snowman that can hang anywhere in your house the whole season. Stop by the circulation desk and pick up your kit today.

**A to Z Reading Challenge**

X,Y,Z are all we have left in our A to Z Reading

**Julia Hull District Library**

**Are your nails holiday party ready?** Learn how to make your own festive nail decals in this class for experienced Cricut users. BYO Cricut Explore or Maker, mat, cords and device with Cricut app installed. Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m. Adults only. 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.

**Toddler Time: Winter Sensory Bins**

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join

Challenge. Are you feeling challenged finding an "X" title? Stop in for suggestions and browse our display or X,Y,Z titles to get you through the end of the year and through your Reading Challenge list!

**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**

To Die For by David Baldacci

Now or Never by Janet Evanovich

Christmas in Bethel by Richard Paul Evans

**Picture Book**

Mine! by Candace Fleming

us for some tactile play using a variety of sensory bins with a wintery twist! Friday, January 3, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. 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.

**Tween Scene: Taste Test: Chip Challenge**

How many flavors of potato chips can you identify? We'll quiz your expertise in this blind test to see whose taste buds reign supreme...before we vote on our favorite. Ages 10-13. Tuesday, January 7, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

## Dec. 19 County Regional Planning Commission meeting canceled

**OREGON** — Due to a lack of business, the regular monthly meeting of the Ogle County Regional Planning Commission scheduled

for Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Regional Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday,

Jan. 23, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Old Ogle County Court House, First Floor Conference Room #100, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL.

## Dec. 26 County Zoning Board of Appeals meeting canceled

**OREGON** — Due to lack of business, the regular monthly meeting of the Ogle County Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled for

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024 has been cancelled.

The next meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30,

2025 at 6 p.m. at the Old Ogle County Court House, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Special Hours**  
In observance of the Christmas holiday, the Byron Public Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Wednesday, December 25. We will be open for our regular hours on Thursday, Dec. 26. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy holiday!

**Did you know**  
That you can now order 3D print projects from the Byron Library? 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**  
Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so

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

am – 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

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

library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

**Curbside Delivery**  
The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at [byronlibrary.org](http://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](http://byronlibrary.org), to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

## ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

**Rummikub**  
Mondays – 12:15 – 3:15 p.m.  
**Wood Carvers**

Tuesdays - 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Mexican Train Dominoes**  
Wednesdays - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Michigan Rummy**  
Wednesdays - 12:30 – 3:15 p.m.

**DENNY DIAMOND CHRISTMAS**  
DATE: Monday, December 16. TIME: 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. COST: \$6.00 Suggested Donation, payable at the door. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Requested by Thur. Dec.

12, so we can be prepared. **Activities with Mary** Tues., December 17. Amish Xmas Tea Party: 1:00 – 1:45. Drumming: 1:45 – 2:30. Advanced Registration requested.

**OJH BAND AND CHOIR CHRISTMAS DATE:** Wed., December 18. TIME: 10:30 – 11:15 A.M. Registration requested by Dec. 16.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets: 4 t h Wednesday in February, May, August & November.

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. 24 Hour Advance Registration Required.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets: 3 R D Tuesday of month. Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets: 1 s t Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**LOW VISION GROUP**  
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month.

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

**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 lo-

cations throughout Ogle County. Assistance at these locations is available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Byron - Jarrett Prairie Center Dec 9 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forreston - 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.

## Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department to launch Christmas tree recycling

**OGLE COUNTY** — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will once again partner with units of local government and certain high school Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters to conduct the annual Christmas tree collection and recycling program. Since the program began in 1999, there have

been over 17,100 trees collected, with trees averaging around 50 pounds each, that equates to approximately 428 tons of trees which were all turned into usable mulch.

Starting on Dec. 26, 2024, the cities and villages that will have drop-off points include:

Oregon: Park District Maintenance Dept., 507 Hill St.

Byron: Byron boat launch lot, E. Blackhawk Drive (Illinois Route 2)

Forreston: 407 N. Locust St.

Leaf River: 208 Railroad St.

Rochelle: Atwood Park, 10th Avenue and 20th Street.

Monroe Center: Lichty's Landscaping, 309 Pacific St.

Polo: Southwest corner

of East Colden Street and South Green Avenue.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, local FFA chapters will provide curbside pick-up for trees. Remove all decorations, lights, plastic bags, and place your tree at your curb by 8 a.m.

This pick-up service will be offered in Byron, Forreston, Leaf River, Mount Morris, Oregon, and Polo.

For Rochelle residents, the Rochelle Street Department will mulch trees at the curb during the first two weeks of January, weather permitting. Drop-off locations will open until Friday, Jan. 17, 2025.

All trees should be free of light strands, garland, and other decorations, no wreaths or other designs with wire backings, no

artificial trees.

If you have any questions regarding this program, including specific drop-off points for trees or the FFA collection service, please contact the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, visit the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept. on Facebook, or go to the county website: [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov).

## 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](http://cornerstonefamilychurch.org)  
Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls  
Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dadd  
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](http://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](mailto:ucb@comcast.net)  
Website: [unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://unitedchurchofbyron.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious  
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson  
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:  
Service of Meditation & Prayer: 8:15am - 8:45am  
Adult Sunday School Hour: 9am  
Kids Sunday School: (for ages 3 thru 5th grade) during the 10:30 worship  
Coffee & Fellowship time: 10:00am - 10:30am  
Main Worship: 10:30am  
Spark Youth Group (for ages 6th grade thru 12th grade) - Sundays, 5pm-7pm  
For complete ministry schedule and other activities, please check our website or Facebook page or contact the church office.  
Whoever you are or wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

#### BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

"Building Faith for Life"  
6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - [beaconhillbyron.org](http://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: [chanaum@gmail.com](mailto:chanaum@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.

### 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](http://www.lostlakechurch.org)  
Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

### ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### LEAF RIVER

#### ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

### LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Billy Hardy  
Live Sermon Streaming: Sundays at 10:00 am [www.facebook.com/LEAFRIVERBC/](http://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](mailto:leafriverbc@gmail.com)

### LINDENWOOD

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

[immanuel-lindenwood.org](http://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 Rosebrook  
[pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org](mailto:pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org)

#### LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

### KINGS

#### ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Marv Jacobs  
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.goelimchurch.org](http://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](http://www.disciplesumc.org)  
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

#### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

#### MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

#### MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### MOUNT MORRIS

#### OREGON

#### EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God  
The Sharing is Caring Church  
EOC@COministries@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.EBENEZERREFORMED.com](http://www.EBENEZERREFORMED.com) • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

#### LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

#### 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](http://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](http://Riverstonecc.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch](http://facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch)

#### ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongon Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon 97321-7211 - Office: Rev. Eldred George  
Webpage: [saintbrides.org](http://saintbrides.org) • E-mail: [saint.bride.church@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://PoloOpenBible.org)

### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH - POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service  
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255  
[polo@crossroadscn.com](mailto:polo@crossroadscn.com)  
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service  
Grave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.  
Visit our website: [www.crossroadscn.com](http://www.crossroadscn.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, IL 61545-2526 | [www.theredbrickchurch.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.valleycov.org)  
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at [facebook.com/VECCSV](http://facebook.com/VECCSV)  
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber  
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry  
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

#### GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DAVIS JUNCTION

Pastor Brad Pittman [www.graceforyou.com](http://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](mailto:middlecreekchurch@gmail.com)



# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Charcuterie Board Make-N-Take Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**  
Come to the Mount Morris Library to learn basics about creating your own charcuterie board just in time for those holiday parties! Participants will create a charcuterie board to take home! Sign-up on our Facebook with the link in our events!

**Lego Night! Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**  
Bring the family out for some awesome brick building! We will pull out #AlltheLegos for this night and kids can build whatever they can imagine. Then, they can put a name to their creation and keep it on our display for all to enjoy until the next Lego night!

**Christmas Decoration Exchange until Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Come in the library if you need some decorations this year! We will have a table set up as a donation and pick-up for any and all holiday decorations. Donations of trinkets, baubles, ornaments, tchotchkes, knickknacks, etc. will be

accepted or exchanged for new homes. Donations should be in good shape and working order. Thank You!  
**Holiday Take-N-Make Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Need a little something extra to keep those kids busy while home for the holiday break? Stop by the library to grab kits to go and create crafts at home. Holiday kits will be available starting Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and New Year's kits will be available starting Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Kits are free and available to everyone in the community!

**Cookbook Club Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Ink with a Friend Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to

take home. Stop by to see the samples, \$5 fee when you register. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before January 6<sup>th</sup>!

**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 have Christmas in our cases! Stop by to see our beautiful nativity set and the lovely American Girl dolls who are all ready for Santa! 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

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Waterloo" group
  - 5 Financial pro
  - 8 Sci-fi vehicles
  - 12 Starring role
  - 13 - Royal Highness
  - 14 Worn-down pencils
  - 15 Nose and mouth covering
  - 17 Move like a butterfly
  - 18 Short sock
  - 19 Curved fasteners
  - 21 Shoe width
  - 22 Tropical tree
  - 23 Santa's helper
  - 26 Highland hat
  - 28 Prettify
  - 31 Painter Joan Lipinski
  - 33 Coffee vessel
  - 35 A few
  - 36 Glasses, slangily
  - 38 Bro's kin
  - 40 Compass dir.
  - 41 And others (Lat.)
  - 43 Goal
  - 45 Filmed anew
  - 47 Lubricate
  - 51 Mountain ht.
  - 52 Gathering organized via social media
  - 54 Jai -
  - 55 Sailor
  - 56 Skater
  - 57 Chorus syllables
  - 58 Govt. lender
  - 59 ABA member
- DOWN**
- 1 - Romeo
  - 2 Legume
  - 3 Support
  - 4 "Skyfall" singer
  - 5 French vineyard estate
  - 6 Math ratios
  - 7 Invite to one's loft
  - 8 Develops
  - 9 Spectacular lunar phase
  - 10 Last write-up
  - 11 Bygone fliers
  - 16 Bump into
  - 20 Sheepish remark
  - 23 German river
  - 24 Sass
  - 25 Comp for a foodie
  - 27 " - Miniver"
  - 29 LBJ's successor
  - 30 Formerly known as
  - 32 Spencer of "Hidden Figures"
  - 34 - Falls
  - 37 Blue
  - 39 Round Table titles
  - 42 Certain jobs
  - 44 Maestro Zubin -
  - 45 Genuine
  - 46 Big name in scat
  - 48 Latin 101 word
  - 49 Type
  - 50 Online auction site
  - 53 Science room

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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51					52	53				
54					55			56		
57					58			59		

### MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: AN INK DESIGN ON THE SKIN

- |          |            |         |          |
|----------|------------|---------|----------|
| Ballyhoo | Cuckoo     | Shampoo | Wahoo    |
| Bamboo   | Hullabaloo | Skidoo  | Waterloo |
| Buckaroo | Kangaroo   | Taboo   | Yahoo    |
| Bugaboo  | Kazoo      | Voodoo  |          |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is larger. 2. Picture on wall is moved. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Necklace is added. 5. Apron is different. 6. Wristwatch is added.

**Answers**  
 King Crossword  
 Solution time: 24 mins.

**Answers**  
 "OO" WORDS

**Answers**  
 Weekly SUDOKU

# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101  
LEGAL NOTICE

**ORDINANCE # 24-4**

THE COMBINED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2025 AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Byron Forest Preserve District, Ogle County, Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, and the Secretary of the Board has made the same conveniently available to public inspection for at least thirty days prior to final action thereon, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Budget and Appropriation Ordinance on the 18th day of November, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That the amounts herein set forth, or so much thereof as may be authorized by law and as may be needed, are hereby budgeted and appropriated for the corporate purposes of the Byron Forest Preserve District, Ogle County, Illinois to defray all necessary expenses of said Forest Preserve District, as specified in Section 2 for the year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

SECTION 2: The amounts budgeted and appropriated for each object or purpose are as follows:

<b>I. CORPORATE FUND</b>			
BEGINNING CASH/FUND EQUITY		\$	388,500
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>			
Property taxes	410,000		
Gift Shop Income	1,400		
Concessions	1,100		
Interest	14,000		
Bar Service	26,000		
Education Programs Fees	165,900		
Property Rental/Lease	155,150		
Blaze Sponsors	-		
Other Income	25,625		
Total Estimated Revenue		799,175	
Total Estimated Funds Available			1,187,675
<b>Administrative</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	120,100		
Wages - Part Time	25,000		
Wages - Seasonal	22,000		
Health Insurance	26,100		
Total Personnel			193,200
Supplies			
Janitorial Supplies	1,200		
Office	4,000		
Motor Fuel & Lubrication	1,700		
Hardware and Small Tools	150		
Safety Supplies	750		
Gift Shop	400		
Concession	750		
Bar Service Supplies	11,000		
Volunteer Supplies	1,200		
Total Supplies			21,150
Contractual Services			
Public Notices	2,500		
Legal	7,500		
Other Professional	1,500		
Communications	26,000		
Postage	1,750		
Training & Travel	10,000		
Printing	500		
Advertising	15,000		
Natural Gas	5,000		
Electrical	14,000		
Building Repair & Maint.	12,000		
Equipment Repair & Maint.	2,500		
Dues & Memberships	5,000		
Uniforms	1,500		
Computer Support & Repairs	17,000		
Total Contractual Services			121,750
Planned Fund Reduction	-		
Miscellaneous	15,000		
Total Administrative			351,100
<b>Board of Commissioners</b>			
Personnel			
Supplemental Compensation	10,000		
Contractual Services			
Training and Travel	2,500		
Dues and Membership	4,000		
Miscellaneous	22,000		
Total Contractual Services			28,500
Total Board of Commissioners			38,500
<b>Education</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	111,225		
Wages - Part Time	62,900		
Wages - Seasonal	32,000		
Health Insurance	11,850		
Total Personnel			217,975
Supplies			
Office	500		
Printing	500		
Building & Construction	750		
Grain, Feed, & Game	750		
Nature Preschool	5,000		
Adventure Club	4,000		
Earthkeepers	750		
Children's Concert	425		
Birthday Parties	-		
Field Trips	100		
Halloween on the Prairie	2,000		
Summer Concerts	1,500		
Summer Camp	23,000		
Outdoor Adventure	5,000		
Total Supplies			44,275
Contractual Services			
Professional Services	2,250		
Postage	100		
Training and Travel	4,250		
Equipment Repair & Maint.	3,450		
Natural Gas	-		
Electric	550		
Dues and Membership	1,150		
Uniforms	1,200		
Heritage Farm Operating	400		
Advertising	1,200		
Computer Repair & Support	9,000		
Museum Displays	5,000		
Total Contractual Services			28,550
Total Education			290,800
<b>Restoration/Land Management</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	42,200		
Wages - Full Time Hourly	-		
Wages - Seasonal	7,500		
Health Insurance	9,500		
Total Personnel			59,200
Supplies			
Janitorial Spplies	750		
Office	1,000		
Motor Fuel and Lubrication	8,000		

Building and Construction	1,500		
Hardware and Small Tools	1,000		
Equipment Parts	3,000		
Grain, Feed and Game	-		
Safety	1,000		
Total Supplies			16,250
<b>Contractual</b>			
Other Professional Services	7,000		
Postage	-		
Training and Travel	1,000		
Advertising	-		
Natural Gas	5,000		
Electrical	11,000		
Building Repair and Maintenance	5,500		
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	2,500		
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	2,000		
Dues and Memberships	500		
Uniforms	500		
Computer Support	3,000		
Total Contractual			38,000
Total Restoration/Land Management			113,450
Total Corporate Expenditures			793,850
ENDING CASH/FUND EQUITY		\$	393,825

<b>II. PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE</b>			
BEGINNING CASH/FUND EQUITY		\$	365,000
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>			
Golf interest income	8,000		
Pro Shop	125,000		
Green fees	420,000		
Playday green fees	135,000		
Assoc. golf fees	500		
Rental fees (carts, clubs)	10,000		
Golf lessons	16,000		
Concessions	305,000		
Playday concessions	75,000		
Cart rental	240,000		
Driving range	20,000		
Bay Rental - PrairieFire	550,000		
Club Rental - PrairieFire	10,000		
Concessions - PrairieFire	750,000		
Merchandise - PrairieFire	7,000		
League Fees - PrairieFire	5,000		
Other Income	52,000		
Total Estimated Revenue			2,728,500
Total Estimated Funds Available			3,093,500
<b>Golf Clubhouse Expenses</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	212,600		
Seasonal - PV concessions	83,000		
Seasonal - PV cart attendant	45,000		
Seasonal - PV shop cashier	23,500		
Health Insurance	34,250		
Total Personnel			398,350
Supplies			
Janitorial Supplies	6,000		
Office	2,500		
Motor Fuel & Lubrication	-		
Building & Small Tools	2,000		
Hardware and Small Tools	250		
Equipment parts	500		
Golf supplies	4,500		
Safety Supplies	500		
Gift Shop	100,000		
Concession supplies	200,000		
Concession equipment/small wares	5,000		
Tournament expenses	5,000		
Driving range	1,500		
Total Supplies			327,750
Contractual Services			
Other Professional	4,000		
Communications	9,000		
Postage	500		
Training & Travel	5,000		
Printing	1,000		
Advertising	16,000		
Natural Gas	7,000		
Electrical	18,000		
Building Repair & Maint.	20,000		
Equipment Repair & Maint.	17,000		
Lease / Equipment Rental	-		
Dues & Memberships	3,500		
Taxes & license fees	2,500		
Computer Support & Repairs	6,000		
Uniforms	3,000		
Miscellaneous/other	27,000		
Total Contractual Services			139,500
Total Clubhouse Expenses			865,600
<b>Golf Administrative Expenses</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	115,100		
Health Insurance	43,425		
Total Golf Administration			158,525
Board of Comm.			
Supplemental Compensation	15,000		
Total Board Expenses			15,000
Total Golf Administrative Expenses			173,525
<b>Golf Maintenance Expenses</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	194,350		
Wages - Part Time	-		
Wages - seasonal	75,000		
Health Insurance	40,525		
Total Personnel			309,875
Supplies			
Chemicals	55,000		
Janitorial	800		
Office	2,000		
Motor fuel & lubricant	20,000		
Grass & landscaping	10,000		
Golf supplies	6,000		
Safety supplies	500		
Top dressing / bunker sand	9,000		
Total Supplies			103,300
Contractual Services			
Lift Table	10,000		
Other Professional	800		
Range Tee Renovation	20,000		
Training & Travel	8,000		
Natural Gas	3,000		
Electrical	14,000		
Building Repair & Maint.	10,000		
Equipment Repair & Maint.	40,000		
Equipment Rental	1,500		
Dues & Memberships	1,500		
Computer Support & Repairs	5,000		
Uniforms	3,000		
Total Contractual Services			116,800
Total Golf Maintenance Expenses			529,975
<b>PrairieFire Expenses</b>			
Personnel			
Wages - Salary	120,450		
Wages - Part-Time	65,000		
Wages - Seasonal	190,000		



# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



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**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Ogle County Educational Cooperative (OCEC) maintains temporary student records on students with disabilities who have received special education services while attending the public schools in Ogle County. These records are maintained at the OCEC central office in Byron. This notice is intended only for those individuals having birth dates during the period of 2000, 2001, and 2002 who have received special education services. OCEC advises as follows: Any temporary student records maintained regarding your special education services will be destroyed effective January 31, 2025. These records may be of assistance to former students and they may request the actual student records, rather than the records being destroyed. Individuals wishing to obtain their temporary records must request such no later than January 15, 2025 at the OCEC offices at 417 N. Colfax St., Byron, IL 61010. The OCEC will continue to maintain electronic permanent records of former students. By Matt Zilm, Director  
No. 1204  
(Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

Board meetings will move from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. beginning January 1, 2025 and continuing until further notice. This notice is given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Dated this 2nd day of December, 2024. Sandie Maahs, Village Clerk  
Village of Davis Junction  
No. 1213  
(December 9, 2024)

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Byron Township regular monthly meeting for December has been changed to Wednesday December 11, 2024, at 7:00pm. No. 1214  
(December 9, 2024)

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113 FINANCIAL**

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

**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

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**

**1 Bedroom Upper Apartment for Rent**  
Stillman Valley, IL  
\$800/Month & NO PETS  
815-988-5831

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

**511 STORAGE UNITS**

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

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**New Milford Refrigeration**  
6331 11th Street | Rockford

**New, Used, Scratch & Dent**  
Refrigerators  
Freezers  
Washers/Dryers  
Stoves  
Air Conditioners  
Dehumidifiers  
**815-262-3900**

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

**409 LOTS AND ACREAGE**

**Land For Sale**

**4.89 Acres of wooded hunting ground**  
Just north of Freeport  
**Not Buildable**  
Lots of deer, turkey, and squirrels  
2 elevated wooden stands  
Next to Jane Adams bike trail and Canoe launch on Pecatonica River  
**\$35,000**  
Call John for more details at 815-277-6642  
PIA#51

**Targeted Local Advertising**

Reach an engaged and affluent local audience when you promote your business here. This is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood guide to local shopping, dining, events and more, making it a highly effective place for your business to advertise directly to the consumer.

To learn more about advertising, contact one of our helpful ad consultants today. **815-732-2156**



Not sure why business is slow?

**OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...**

is not just a saying in business.

**Advertise today and let your business be in sight and in the minds of your customers.**

**203 HELP WANTED**

The Byron Chamber of Commerce is hiring the position of Executive Director.

**The Executive Director shall ensure the effective operation of the Chamber while coordinating all organization's activities including membership, fundraising and fiscal responsibilities. Monday-Friday 9-4 plus present at all events and meetings outside of business hours. Public relation skills & relevant education is desired.**

**Pay range \$36,000-\$42,000**  
Please send your resume to [office@byronchamber.com](mailto:office@byronchamber.com)

**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**

**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**

**Six out of 10 Americans rely on a local newspaper for advertising information about local businesses.\***  
\*Source: America's Newspapers

Ask us about the best ways to promote your business to more local homeowners!

**Your First & Foremost Local Advertising Solution**

**62%** of consumers plan to shop more at local businesses according to Intuit Inc.

**It's Cost-Effective.** Newspaper advertising reaches a large number of potential consumers.  
**It Has Staying Power.** A print newspaper ad doesn't disappear, meaning your audience will see it when they have time to focus.  
**It Reaches the Right Audience.** Newspapers reach an affluent and engaged local audience.  
**It Gets Results.** Newspaper ads increase marketing ROI by three times on average, according to a study from Newsworks.

**It's Flexible.** With a variety of ad shapes, sizes, and niche sections, choose from several options to meet your goals and budget!  
**It's Trusted.** Newspapers still rank highest among all media for consumer engagement and trust.

**Let us help you promote your business.**  
Call 815.561.2125 or email [cgrimm@oglecountylife.com](mailto:cgrimm@oglecountylife.com)!



**103 AUCTIONS**

**CHANA 64 AUCTION**  
Go to AuctionZip.com for Pictures.  
**Saturday, December 14th 10:00 a.m.**  
3102 Chicago Rd, Paw Paw, IL I-39 Exit 82 Follow Signs  
(weather permitting: items will be sold from enclosed barn - also items to be sold from inside the home: keep warm)  
94 Skidsteer GEHL 453 hrs (great condition)  
M/T Backhoe, Allis Chamber Tractors (needs work), 22 Gage Shotgun, 22 Rifle, Red Wing Asst. Sizes Crocks, Vintage Furniture, Dressers, Beds, Beautiful Hi-Boy, Lazy Boy, Outdoor Furniture (great condition), Handicap Lift (like new), DeWalt Tools, Craftsmen, Ryobi, Housewares, Scaffolding, Angle Iron (welding stock), Scrap Piles, Motor Lift, Asst. Shop Tools, Vintage, Collectible Items, Still unboxing and sorting items. Don't miss this auction, items are in good/clean condition.  
**Cash or good check. No credit cards, 10% buyers premium. Not responsible for accidents or articles after sold. Announcements made day of auction take precedence over all printed matter. All items sold as is where is.**

**For more information, Call 815-830-3898**  
**CHANA AUCTION**  
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, IL 61015  
815-830-3898  
12092024

[oglecountylife.com](http://oglecountylife.com)

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**Lenny Bryson**  
Sales Of All Kinds  
**815-946-4120**

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[Hacksauction.com](http://Hacksauction.com)

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

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

# HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

## 8 ways to avoid holiday weight gain

A popular, familiar holiday song insists the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is "the most wonderful time of the year." But for people who are mindful of eating and trying to maintain a healthy weight, the holiday season can very well turn into the "most compromising time of the year."

Weight gain during the holiday season is quite common, although the amount gained can vary and it may not be as high as people think. According to research published in the *Journal of Obesity*, the average weight gain during the holidays is anywhere from 0.8 pounds to just under 2 pounds. Although that doesn't sound like a lot, that extra weight stays on, says Dr. Donald Hensrud, a Mayo Clinic physician specializing in nutrition. Cumulative holiday weight gain can add up over the years. Dr. Hensrud says studies also show that people who weigh more to begin with may also gain more weight during the holiday season.

Though the holiday season can be food-centric, it is possible to avoid gaining weight between late November and the start of a new year.

1. Eat protein in the morning. A high-pro-



tein breakfast can keep blood sugar more stable throughout the day and help control appetite. This can curb snacking as well as over-indulgence later in the day during holiday meals.

2. Keep a consistent schedule. Just because it's the holiday season doesn't mean schedules should go out the window. Stick to structured mealtimes and your usual exercise routine even amid all the celebrating.

3. Use smaller plates.

It's possible to fool yourself into thinking you ate more if you fill up a small plate rather than a large one. This can keep your portion sizes more within reason.

4. Curtail the cocktails. Many people enjoy more alcoholic drinks during the holiday season than they do at other times of the year. But alcoholic beverages can be high in calories, especially mixed drinks and traditional egg nog. If you choose to drink, Columbia Uni-

versity Irvington Medical Center suggests sticking to clear liquors with club soda in moderation, and limiting consumption of beer, wine and mixed drinks.

5. Load up on a protein-laden snack. An hour before heading out for a holiday party or meal, enjoy a protein-rich shake or yogurt to allow for more self-control later on.

6. Eat strategically. Fill up on vegetables, whole grains and other less calorie-dense foods. Go

sparingly with the foods you know are historically less healthy, including fried offerings or cream-based dishes.

7. Manage stress effectively. Although the holiday season is a festive time of year, it also can be stressful. Many people cope with stress by eating comfort foods, which can contribute to weight gain. Alleviate stress through exercise, meditation, talking with friends or a therapist, or taking other measures

that do not involve food or drinks.

8. Take the focus off food. Whenever possible, build holiday-related activities around something other than food. For example, replace family baking sessions with some homemade wreath-making.

Weight gain doesn't have to be a part of the holiday season. By being mindful of behaviors, it's possible to enjoy the season and still maintain health.

## 5 New Year's resolutions to benefit the brain

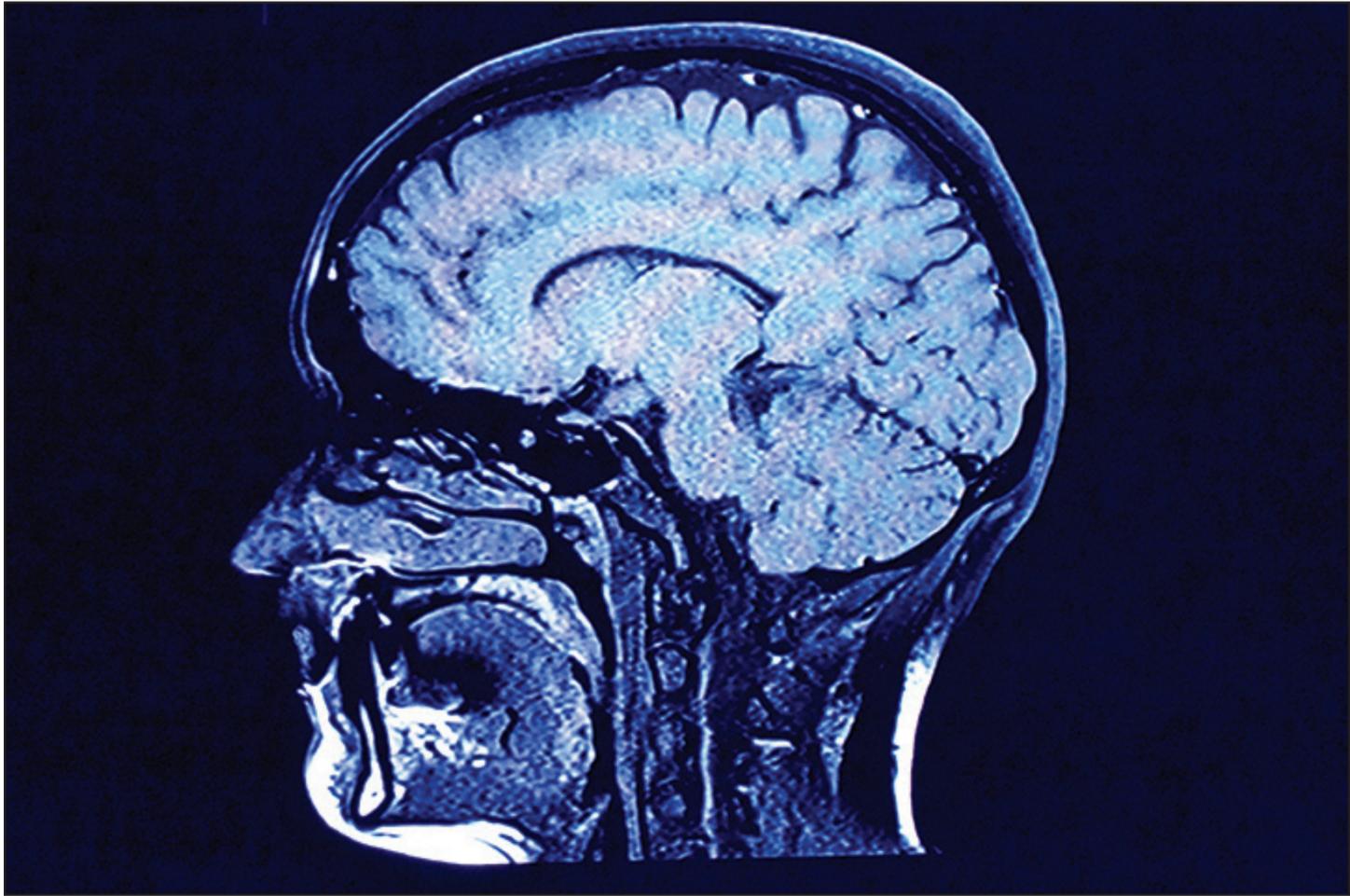
RESOLUTIONS made at the start of a new year often focus on personal improvement. Health and wellness certainly dominates the resolution landscape. Improvement-minded individuals interested in gaining long-term benefits from their resolutions this year may want to consider ways to improve brain health and function. Here are five ideas to consider.

1. Get moving: Exercise does the body good and even positively affects the brain. The American Academy of Neurology has found aerobic exercise may play a significant role in reversing and preventing cognitive decline. Researchers have found that even a little exercise each day can result in improved brain function in less than six months. Andrew E. Budson, M.D., a professor of neurology at Boston University, also says aerobic exercise releases growth factors in the brain, which can help grow new brain cells.

2. Start a new hobby. When doing the same activities over and over, you eventually learn how to do those activities better. But doctors can't confirm this is actually helping the brain in a meaningful way. Rather, there is evidence that doing new things can be beneficial to the brain.

3. Make more time for fun. Repeated stress can have detrimental effects on the body and mind. Harvard Health says stress has been linked to cognitive problems and a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

4. Practice mindfulness more often. Mindfulness is an exercise in paying attention to one's surroundings, senses and more. Too often people are multi-tasking and never fully devoting their attention to one thing. Mindfulness gives the brain a break and brings



a person into the present.

5. Eat a better diet. The benefit of eating healthy foods extends beyond the waistline. Many of the foods that are good for the heart are important for preventing cognitive

decline and dementias. A 2015 systemic review found strong evidence for a protective effect of the Mediterranean diet, according to researchers at Deakin University School of Medicine in Australia.

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# HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

## 7 fitness resolutions that are easy to keep

**R**ESOLUTIONS to get in shape, exercise more and eat healthier foods are popular each January. Optimism reigns when making resolutions, but for many, the difficulty lies in keeping them. Individuals looking to get healthier in the year ahead can try these strategies to stay the course.

- **Wake up earlier.** Waking up a half hour earlier each day can have a substantial impact. That small amount of extra time can be devoted to meditation, deep breathing exercises or even some yoga stretches.
- **Move around more frequently.** Many people with office jobs spend hours sitting in front of computers. A sedentary lifestyle can have an adverse effect on overall health. Set a timer or use a reminder on a fitness tracker to remind you to

get up and move around for a little bit every hour.

- **Eat more vegetables.** Vague goals like “eating better” are difficult to maintain because there is no specific goal to achieve. Rather, a resolution like eating a fruit or vegetable each day at every meal is something measurable. Vegetables can be hidden in favorite foods, such as desserts. Swap pasta noodles for spiralized zucchini as another easy fix.
- **Stand straighter.** Posture tends to decline with age, advises AARP. This can cause the spine to lose flexibility. Stretches to maintain posture can help anyone stand straighter and improve long-term health.
- **Add “bursts” to your walk.** Researchers at the Mayo Clinic tout the benefits of interval training. While high-impact workouts may not be

appropriate for everyone, adding little speed bursts to a daily walk can provide significant health benefits. Aim for 30 to 60 seconds of rapid walking at regular intervals to shake up the workout.

- **Drink more water.** Increasing water intake can help you feel fuller, thus reducing the likelihood that you will overeat. Gradually increase your water intake by adding a few ounces each day until drinking water becomes rote.
- **Take a workout outside.** Switch up your normal routine by making use of the great outdoors to exercise. Instead of three miles on the treadmill or elliptical machine at the gym, opt for three miles on a local hiking trail.

Healthy resolutions are easier to keep when you have firm ideas and choose reasonable goals.



## Simple ways to make a diet more nutritious

**N**UTRITIOUS foods are a cornerstone of a healthy lifestyle. The World Health Organization says a healthy diet protects a person against many chronic noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Nutritious foods also help a person get to or maintain a healthy weight, promote stronger bones and teeth, and positively affect long-term mental health.

People often wonder how they can improve their daily diets. Here are some ways to make meals more nutritious.

- **Eat an array of fruits and vegetables.** Healthline notes a diet rich in fruits and vegetables has been proven to offer many health benefits. Incorporating a variety of fruits and vegetables into the meals eaten each day will provide fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Vegetables also are low in calories and fat, which aligns with diets designed for weight management. Health experts suggest eating greens and other vegetables first so that you fill up and are

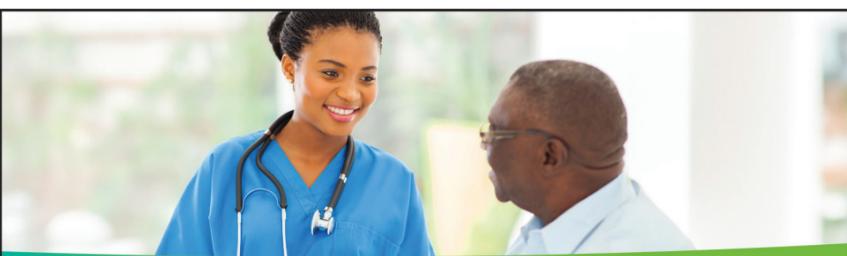
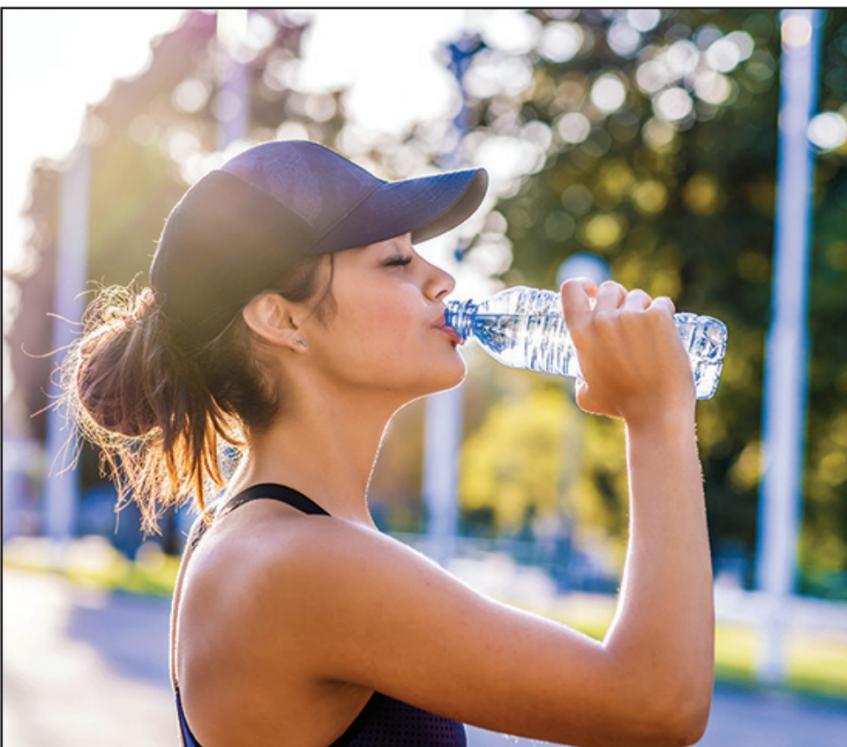
therefore less likely to eat fewer, less nutritious foods during each meal.

- **Consume sufficient healthy sources of protein.** Protein is important for managing hunger and sustaining energy and maintaining muscle. Lean sources of protein are best, and can include skinless poultry, unprocessed lean meats, seafood and fish, legumes, and nuts. Eggs also are excellent sources of protein. Fish tends to be low in calories for the amount of protein it provides. Try to incorporate oily fish like salmon into your culinary repertoire since it’s a source of heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.
- **Choose whole grain carbohydrates.** When selecting breads, cereals, rice, and other carbohydrates, select higher fiber or whole grain varieties. Whole grains contain more fiber than white or refined starches and will help you feel fuller longer.
- **Cut down on saturated fats and sugars.** Be mindful of food labels when selecting ingredients for meals. Opt for foods that are low in saturated fats, which tend to contribute to

an increase in the amount of cholesterol in the blood. Also, regularly consuming high in sugar increases a person’s risk for obesity and tooth decay, says the National Health Service of the United Kingdom.

- **Practice additional smart eating tips.** In addition to the foods eaten, there are ways to eat in a more healthy manner. Slow down when eating and savor the foods. Gauge whether you feel full before going back for another portion. Eating foods off a smaller plate can trick the brain into thinking you ate more, a tactic that can help to reduce portion sizes. Cook and prepare more foods at home where you can control ingredients.

Eating healthy, nutritious foods is a key to long-term well-being. Savor the foods. Gauge whether you feel full before going back for another portion. Eating foods off a smaller plate can trick the brain into thinking you ate more, a tactic that can help to reduce portion sizes. Cook and prepare more foods at home where you can control ingredients.



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# HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

## 7 ways to enjoy a healthy holiday

**C**ERTAIN words are synonymous with the holiday season, and “festive,” “family,” “friends,” and “food” are certainly among them. Celebrants focus on being a little more indulgent with their time and habits as the year comes to a close, and health and fitness may be set to simmer on the back burner.

According to a research review published in the journal *Obesity*, the average person gains between 0.8 and 2 pounds during the holiday season. Food represents more than just nutrition this time of year, as family gatherings around the dinner table are about tradition and fellowship. While no one wants to feel deprived when holiday celebrations arrive, it is important to make smart choices and continue to prioritize health as much as possible. These seven tips can help.

1. Plan your daily eating. Scale back meals accordingly if a large family feast is on the docket at dinnertime. While you shouldn't skip meals altogether, a light breakfast or lunch may enable you to save more calories for dinner and treats to come

later in the evening.  
2. Aim for mostly healthy foods. Buttery rolls, fatty roasts, candied yams, and pies come out in full force during the holidays. Try to make the majority of your plate full of lean protein, low-fat dairy and plenty of vegetables and whole grains. Then you can splurge on one or two foods like pumpkin pie.

3. Remain physically active. It may be tempting to hibernate inside watching heartfelt holiday movies on television, but resist the urge to be sedentary. Keep up normal fitness routines, aiming for the recommended 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise. Take the stairs at malls and park further away from stores when shopping for the holidays to add a little extra movement to your day.

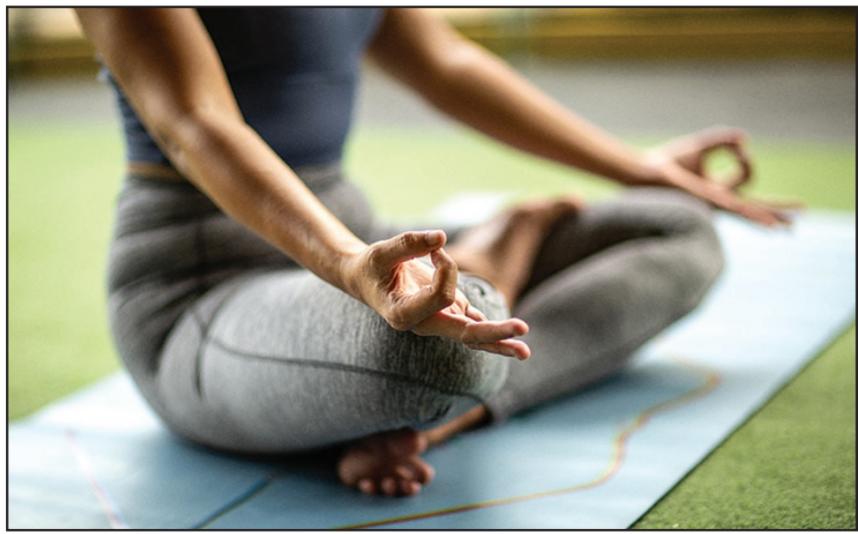
4. Get enough sleep. It may seem your schedule is packed with everything from parties to holiday preparation, but it is important to get adequate rest. Without enough sleep, you may feel sluggish and your immune system may not be as strong.

5. Lay off the alcohol. Holiday toasts are replete with delicious cocktails. However, moderation is key whenever alcohol is being served. Popular drinks often are calorie-dense, and health experts warn that consuming too much alcohol is linked to a higher risk of developing certain conditions, like liver issues, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, says WebMD. Opt for non-alcoholic beverages. Water and unsweetened drinks are healthy options.

6. Position yourself away from the buffet. When you are close to food, you might engage in mindless nibbling. Find a seat away from the dinner table or buffet during holiday gatherings.

7. Slow down and be aware. The holiday season is a busy time of year, and that means people may be racing around distracted or in a rush. Take special care to be alert while driving to avoid accidents that can lead to injuries or even fatalities.

Although nutrition often isn't top of mind during the holiday season, healthy behaviors shouldn't be completely forgotten during this festive time of year.



## A guide to gifting fitness fans

**P**HYSICAL activity is an important component of a healthy lifestyle. Exercise guidelines supported by the medical community indicate most adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, or at least 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity each week.

Individuals can take several steps to be more active in their daily lives. Some become gym enthusiasts, while others congregate to yoga studios or other activities. Some still prefer to exercise at home or outdoors. When it comes time to shop for people with a fondness for fitness, gift givers can consider these ideas.

Upgrade a membership Do some research to learn where your fitness lover spends most time working out. If it is a traditional gym, a kick-boxing studio or a H.I.I.T establishment, speak with the staff to see if you can upgrade the member's plan to receive more perks. For example, a base gym membership may only include use of the floor

machines and weights, but another may include all that as well as access to massage chairs, spa services and more.

Massager or massage package Working out muscles can lead to soreness each time a new milestone is reached. Help soothe those tired muscles with the gift of a neck, back and shoulder massager. Or go a step further and purchase a few sessions at a massage therapy location near the recipient's home.

Insulated water bottle or tumbler Staying hydrated is important when working out. An insulated water bottle ensures that fitness fans can enjoy cold water or a sports drink throughout their exercise sessions. There's even a water bottle that self-cleans using UV light to kill bacteria in the bottle.

Treadmill or stationary bike If you know a loved one has had eyes on improving a home gym, a treadmill or stationary bike can bring the space to the next level. There is home equipment for every budget.

New kicks Comfortable, supportive athletic shoes ensure workouts aren't hindered by sore feet. Since shoe fit and style is a personal choice, it might be a safer bet to give a gift card to a popular athletic store or online retailer rather than purchasing the footwear yourself.

Fitness monitor or smart watch It seems like everyone now has some sort of smart device, but if the person on your list still hasn't made the switch to a watch that tracks various health data, then that can make for a perfect gift. Smart watches and fitness trackers monitor steps and various health markers such as pulse, elevation climbed and distance, and can even detect if a user has a burgeoning health problem. When pairing the watch with popular fitness apps, users can log daily activities and their diets to get a bigger picture of their overall health.

Those who prioritize fitness can benefit from any number of health- and fitness-minded gifts this season.



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