



LOCAL NEWS

FEMA seeks leaders for Youth Preparedness Council

CHICAGO — FEMA is now accepting applications for the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) until March 3. YPC is a program that brings teens together from across the nation who are interested and engaged in community preparedness.

Council members are selected based on their dedication to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities and their potential to expand their impact as national leaders for emergency preparedness. Students in grades eight through 11 are eli-

gible to apply.

During their one-year term, council members collaborate virtually with each other to develop projects that promote preparedness on a local and national scale. Members also engage with leaders within FEMA, the federal government, and national non-profit organizations.

Julia Surzykiewicz, 2023-2024 YPC member from Illinois, appreciates the impact of her time on the YPC:

“Serving on FEMA’s National Youth Preparedness Council has been an extraordinary and deeply

rewarding experience. Through this role, I have grown as a leader, developed my leadership and gained a deeper understanding of what it means to contribute meaningfully to my community. I have been able to meet with other teens, with similar passions, and collaborate in order to create a project that I am extremely proud of. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this Council, I have truly grown so much, and I know that the Council has grown both my professionalism and my confidence, allowing me to create both

lasting professional and personal relationships.”

Students from Region 5 — Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin — who apply for the National YPC will also be considered for a place on the Region 5 Youth Preparedness Council (Region 5 YPC). The Region 5 YPC is an additional service and leadership opportunity for high school students living in these states.

Youth interested in applying must submit a completed application form and provide two letters of recommenda-

tion. All applications and supporting materials must be submitted no later than March 3, 2025. New council members will be announced by June 2025.

To access the application materials, read about the current council

members, and for more information about the Youth Preparedness Council visit the Youth Preparedness Council page on FEMA.gov.

FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.

Locals named to dean’s list at UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year. They include: Byron’s Ashley Dunham (School of Phar-

macy, Honor Roll), and Oregon’s Megan Thompson (School of Human Ecology, Dean’s Honor List). Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the

Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor “dean’s list”,

but some grant the “Dean’s Honor List” and “Dean’s High Honor List.”

To view an online listing, visit <https://registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist/>. For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

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LOCAL NEWS

Kish College announces Fall 2024 graduates

MALTA — Kishwaukee College is proud to announce the graduates for the Fall 2024 semester. Graduation honors are divided into three categories based on final cumulative grade-point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale: summa cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.75-4.0; magna cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.5-3.749; and cum laude indicates a cumulative GPA between 3.25-3.499. Students who fulfill the requirements for a Certificate and have a

final cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher are awarded a Certificate with Distinction. Members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society are recognized as PTK.

The graduate total for the Fall 2024 semester is 191 students who completed a total of 197 degrees and certificates.

The following students completed the requirements for graduation from Kishwaukee College:

Byron — Alyssa Nelson, AAS, Registered Nursing.

Chana — Josef Aben Gelande, Associate in

Arts; Sarah Elizabeth Lowery, AAS, Registered Nursing.

Davis Junction — Autumn Lea Kittoe, Associate in Science.

Holcomb — Jessica Nicole Lechner, Associate in Arts.

Lindenwood — Jacob L. Hackbarth, CERT, Diesel Power/Equipment Repair.

Oregon — Ashley N. Cadie, Associate in Science, Summa Cum Laude; Mason M. Handel, CERT, Basic Nurse Assisting; Candace C. Reynolds, Associate in Arts.

Kish College announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

MALTA — Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List. To be eligible for Dean's List honors, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours (at the 100/200 level) during an academic term at Kishwaukee College with a semester grade-point average of 3.50 or higher

on a 4.0 scale.

The following local Kishwaukee College students have been named to the official Fall 2024 Dean's List:

Byron — Macey Stoddard.

Chana — Kennedy Adamski, Jack Anderson, Jade Brewington, Mallory Henert, Lauren Ponto.

Davis Junction — Jonathan Avendano, Lillie

Gebel, Autumn Kittoe.

Esmond — Gabriella Roschi.

Lindenwood — Rachel Lemay, Erica Prange, Austin Raleigh.

Mount Morris — Samuel Garnicarz, Carson Sweeney.

Oregon — Alayna Benton, Sirena Benton, Ashley Cadie, Mariah Drake, Orianna Graham, Avery Salisbury, Reilee Suter.

Kish College announces Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List

MALTA — Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of six (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses

at Kish with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students have been named to the Kishwaukee College Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List:

Chana — John Jarrett, Samuel Merrick.

Esmond — Cody Grzywa.

Holcomb — Katie Toczykowski.

Kings — Michelle McCandless.

Lindenwood — Noah Garrelts.

Mount Morris — Nickolas Hoffman.

Oregon — Brent Gross, Allissa Martin, Candace Reynolds, Laura Torres.

Nominations being accepted for OCSWCD Board

OREGON — Nominations are being accepted for Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Nominations are being accepted for two, two-year terms as directors of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District. Nominations can be made at the district's office, 1213 Pines Road, Suite 3, Oregon, IL 61061, during the normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the district.

Interested persons must respond by 4 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2025.



Leaf River Busy Beavers hold annual potluck

In December, the Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H club held their annual potluck. After every meeting, the club will have a game and snacks. Meetings usually get over around 7:30 p.m. Club members helped the Leaf River Lions club at the Lions annual Breakfast with Santa. Club members served drinks and helped clean up plates and tables. (Courtesy photo)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Shown is Landon Welchels of Amboy High School, the 2024 recipient of the IL State Scholarship, who was nominated by the Rochelle Chapter.

Rochelle DAR seeking scholarship applicants

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is again seeking entries for scholarship contests. Entries can be submitted from regional public, private, parochial, or home-schooled students. No DAR affiliation is required. The Rochelle Chapter has been able to sponsor a successful candidate for each of the past three years. A very important part of the DAR is promoting education. Each year, Illinois Daughters award college scholarships. These are limited to students who are U.S. citizens, graduating seniors from high school,

and those who will attend colleges or universities in Illinois (two-year junior colleges and four-year institutions). To qualify for the Illinois State Scholarships, a student's financial need and academic consideration are both factors. The Rochelle Chapter will sponsor one high school senior for a \$1,000 general scholarship competition, as well as one high school senior for the General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship at the state level. The General Henry Dearborn History Scholarship has no financial need component but is for a student interested in pursuing

a career in some phase of history. Details about the Illinois scholarships and application requirements, can be found at: <https://ildar.org/assets/pages/education.html>. The deadline to submit entries to Rochelle Chapter is Feb. 1, 2025; and no entries postmarked after that date will be considered. All entries should be submitted in one mailing and incomplete entries will not be considered. Entries should be mailed to: Rochelle Chapter, NS-DAR, Attn: Scholarships, PO Box 104, Rochelle, IL 61068. Questions can be emailed to: laurieannperry@hotmail.com.

UW-Whitewater announces Dean's List

WHITEWATER, Wis. — The following local students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2024 fall semester:

Davis Junction: Payge Barger. Byron: Joshua Bianchi, Carson Buser, Emma Wrede and Jacob Ross. Leaf River: Jacob Fiorello. Stillman Valley: Grace Costello, Norah DeRosso and Hailey Smith. Oregon:

Evan Vache. Polo: Laura Wright and Courtney Grobe.

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John Chenoweth, who serves as UW-White-

water's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

The Registrar's Office reports 3,775 students were selected for the Dean's List for the fall semester. More than 11,700 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Darlene Elizabeth Butterbaugh

MT. MORRIS—Darlene Elizabeth Butterbaugh, 98, of Mount Morris, IL, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at her home in Mount Morris.

Darlene was born on April 12, 1926 in rural Polo, IL, the daughter of Harvey and Orpha (Gilbert) Butterbaugh. She was baptized at the Dixon Church of the Brethren, where she was a member, and graduated from Dixon High School. She married Dean Butterbaugh on August 28, 1946. Dean and Darlene had three children, Susan, Edward, and Jean. Before the children were born, Darlene worked for Illinois Northern Utilities (now ComEd), then stayed home to raise the children. Later she returned to work as secretary to the Martha Hall Home for Girls, then as secretary to the administrator of Sennissippi Mental Health Center. She retired in 1991.

Darlene enjoyed reading, and had a huge collection of painted eggs, which she displayed every Easter. Her collection grew to over 400 eggs of all sizes. She was choir director for a time at the Dixon Church of the Brethren while her kids were growing up. She enjoyed volunteer-

ing for many years at the Leydig Center in Dixon, in the book room. In her later years she became a crossword puzzle master.

Dean and Darlene enjoyed traveling, twice to Europe, then Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Mexico, Canada, and the Panama Canal. For several years they hosted summer exchange students from Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, and visited most of them in their homelands. They also enjoyed dinner theatre at the Pines and Timberlake Playhouse, as well as going on many "Mystery Tours" to fun and interesting places all over the country.

Darlene loved her family first above everything. She was always there to encourage, support, and at times, correct and admonish all of us of every generation, with love that was demonstrated by her faithful phone calls, care packages with homemade goodies, lunches, and gifts. She had a wicked sense of humor, and was always ready for a pizza party!

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Harold Butterbaugh, Velda Block, Lois Kesselring, Viola

Holtz, and Marian Miller; husband, Dean; daughter, Sue Weiser; son-in-law Michael Payne; and son, Edward Butterbaugh.

She is survived by her daughter, Jean Payne; grandchildren, Jennifer (Chris) Bergstrom, Erin (Tim) Godbold, and Josh (Jessica) Halter; and by great-grandchildren, Emma and John Godbold, Brady Wheeler, Melany (Ethan) Staley, Kylee and Haylee Halter, and Isabella Bergstrom; and a good number of nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 18, 2025, preceded by a lunch for all who wish to join at 11:30 am, at the Dixon Church of the Brethren, with Bishop Michael Cole and Rev. Rodney Caldwell, co-officiating. A private family burial will follow the service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

Memorials may be given to the Sennissippi Foundation Good Samaritan Fund, or Loaves and Fish Food Pantry in Mt. Morris, IL. Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Hilda May Reeder

POLO — Hilda May Reeder, 99, of Polo, passed away Thursday, January 09, 2025, at Dixon Health Care Center in Dixon, IL.

Hilda was born, April 17, 1925, in Sandusky, OH. She worked at Borg Warner for many years retiring in 1997. Hilda married Harry Reeder in 1942 and together they shared 38 years of marriage. She enjoyed doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles, going on long walks or going out with friends and family. Hilda loved to bake, and made

the best apple pies, along with planting and working in her large garden every year.

Survivors include daughter Bonnie Bradshaw of Mt. Morris, IL; son Brian (Tracy) Reeder of Polo, IL; grandchildren Stacy Bradshaw, Austin (Lilly) Reeder, Alli (Juan) Munoz; great-granddaughter Rylan Bradshaw; special friend Pat Doyle of Rochelle, IL.

She was preceded in death by, husband Harry; son Glenn Reeder; grandson Tracy E. Reeder; daughter-in-law Leona



Reeder.

A graveside service will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 16, 2025 at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo.

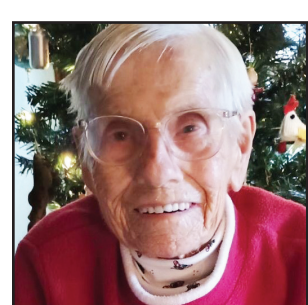
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice.

Patricia 'Pat' A. Jones

OREGON — Patricia "Pat" A. Jones, 89, longtime area resident, passed away in her home in Oregon, IL, on Friday, January 10, 2025. She was born on July 20, 1935, in Franklin Grove, IL, the daughter of Lee & Amy (Beard) Mon. She graduated from Byron High School of Byron, IL. She married the love of her life George "Charlie" D. Jones on July 4, 1958, in Byron, IL. The two spent the next 63 year building a life and family together, until his passing in 2021. Throughout her life she enjoyed many simple things like gardening, flowers and bowling in her younger years. Pat is preceded in death by her parents Lee & Amy, husband Charlie, 1 brother, 4 sisters, 3 half-brothers,

1 half-sister. She is survived and missed dearly by her loving son Duane (Sharon Thunberg) Jones of Oregon, IL; daughter Tina (Stuart) Typer of Byron, IL; grandchildren; Rebecca (Aaron) Wilson, LeAnne (Ryan) Kessler, Justine (Brian) Stenzel; Christen (Alex) Styche, Matt (Ashely) Farrey; step-grandchildren Kyle Thunberg & Jena Williams; great-grandchildren; Rylee Farrey, Jett Stenzel, Jake Wilson, Sydney Styche; step-great-grandchildren; Ethan & Allison Kessler, Harper Wilson, Jaxon Slomian; her amazing caregiver Pamela Edwards; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services in Pat's honor will take place on Friday, January 17,



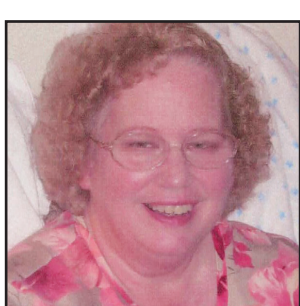
2025, at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL, at 11:00 AM, with Pastor Luke Schier presiding. A visitation will take place immediately prior beginning at 10:00 AM. Pat will then be laid to rest alongside her husband, Charlie, at Grand Detour Cemetery, of Grand Detour, IL, following the services at the funeral home. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit, www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Janice Marie Maas

CHANA—Janice Marie Maas, 77, passed away peacefully at Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon, Illinois, on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Jan was born on August 1, 1947 at the U.S. Navy Hospital in Bremerton, Washington. She was the daughter of Louis Remmers, a veteran of WWII on the U.S.S. Alabama and Dagmar (Kesti) Remmers, who during WWII, worked during Boeing, building the dorsals fin of the Boeing B-17 and B-29 planes. Her parents returned to northern Illinois and she attended Rochelle Township High School, where she met the love of her life, Robert P. Maas. She graduated 1965, and on December 28, 1966, at the Elim Reformed Church of Kings, Illinois, during a snowstorm, they were married. She remained a member of Elim Reformed Church for the rest of her life.

she loved to garden with flowers, watch birds, cook for her family and the farm crew. Her specialties were Swiss steak with mashed potatoes, spritz cookies, chocolate chip cookies and a chocolate birthday cake with whipped cream filling and buttercream chocolate frosting. She devoted the time in her life to others, by raising her children, and to the farmer's way of life, feeding men and children. She hosted many family dinners, as well as in the days of threshing corn, feeding the farm crew dinner at noon.

Jan is preceded in death by her parents, and her son, Michael S. Maas. She is survived and missed dearly by her husband; daughter Deb (Gary Nefstead) Maas; sisters Carol (Olie) Warning of Rochelle, Illinois, Sharon (Mike) Crase of Kirkland, Illinois; grandchildren Ada and Henry; and several nieces and nephews.



A visitation will take place on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Elim Reformed Church of Kings, Illinois. Immediately following the visitation, a funeral service in her honor will take place at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at the church with Pastor Marvin Jacobs presiding. She will be laid to rest alongside her son, Michael, at White Rock Cemetery of Kings, Illinois. Memorials may be made to the Stillman Valley Fire Association for their service to our village.

To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in her memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Jacquelyn Petitt

MT. MORRIS—Jacquelyn Petitt passed away peacefully December 12, 2024.

Jackie was born March 14, 1931 in Melrose Park, IL to Vernon V. And Marguerite (Jorgensen) Smith. Graduated from Proviso High School Maywood, IL and attended Maryville College, Maryville, TN. Married Dick Petitt May 15, 1956 in Maywood, IL.

In late May of 1956 Jackie accompanied Dick seeing the USA courtesy of the USAF.

She with her husband owned and operated Mt. Morris Farm Supply Feed Mill And Elevators.

Jackie and Dick liked

entertaining and held a large Kentucky Derby party yearly. They also enjoyed golfing and fishing at Lost Lake.

Jackie belonged to P.E.O. and was a volunteer at KSB for many years.

Survived by a son Rick Petitt, Franklin Grove, IL; Daughter Kim (Bob) Macklin, Mt. Morris, IL; Daughter in law Cindy Petitt, Trophy Club, TX; Grandchildren Jordan Petitt and Cara Petitt, North Carolina and Molly (Eric) Towle, Oregon, IL; Great grandson Ezra Towle.

Predeceased by spouse, parents, brother V. Richard Smith and son Bradley V. Petitt.



Memorials to Mt. Morris Fire Foundation and Serenity Home And Hospice, Oregon, IL.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date.

Cremation rites were handled through Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL.

Local students named to Marquette University's fall 2024 Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Oregon: Sarah Tunink, Bachelor of Science

in Exercise Physiology. Stillman Valley: Ruby Mulvaney, Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2024 semester and have no disqualifying

grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Sheriff announces results of holiday enforcement campaign

OREGON — This holiday season, The Ogle County Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement agencies statewide for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, targeting impaired drivers from Dec. 13 through Jan. 2. The result? A safer holiday season with Deputies issuing 176 total citations and making several criminal arrests during the campaign. Citations and offenses included: 12 DUI arrests, five felony drug offense arrests, four misdemeanor drug offense arrests, 15 arrests for revoked, suspended or no valid DL, 45 citations for speed-related offenses,

33 citations for no valid insurance, 40 citations for registration violations, 9 citations for various lane violations, two citations for reckless driving and 14 citations for other traffic offenses.

"We can't stress it enough: Impaired driving is a deadly gamble," said Sheriff Brian VanVickle. "It's illegal, it's irresponsible and it puts lives at risk — yours, your passengers' and everyone else's on the road. Campaigns like 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' empower us to address this issue directly and send a clear message. If you're under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or anything else, don't drive."

During the campaign, The Ogle County Sheriff's Department intensified its enforcement efforts by deploying additional patrol units to deter risky behaviors and catch offenders.

The enforcement initiative, administered by IDOT and funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, underscores the collective commitment to safer roadways, particularly during high-risk times like the holidays.

"This effort isn't just about enforcement," said Sheriff VanVickle. "It's about protecting lives and ensuring every celebration ends safely for everyone."

Local bank sponsoring agricultural business conference Jan. 23

MENDOTA — First State Bank announces a special conference for area farmers. The 25th Annual First State Bank Ag Conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Mendota Civic Center.

Starting the program will be Kelly Jackson Hardy, principal, Clifton Larson Allen. Kelly serves client needs related to tax consulting, planning and compliance. She serves primarily the agribusiness industry and cooperatives. She comes from a farm background and understands the nuances of agriculture. Her talk will focus on the areas of ag taxation and farm succession planning.

Following Kelly will be Kurtis Wujek. Kurtis is the trading director for export corn at Archer Daniels Midland Company. His main responsibilities include the execution and risk management of ADM's North American export program thru New Orleans.

Our keynote speaker, Delaney Howell, will take a deep dive into the issues impacting the business of agriculture. Howell grew up on a

grain and livestock farm in Southeast Iowa and has been involved in agriculture from a very young age. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences and minors in Broadcasting and International Studies from Northwest Missouri State University and a Master's in Agricultural Communications through Texas Tech University. Howell strives to bring the most up to date information on the latest "news cycle" in DC politics, commodity markets, and the international agricultural scene through her travels to 23 countries. You may recognize Delaney from her role as former host of the 45-year-old agribusiness show "Market to Market" or from her daily podcast she launched in 2017, Ag New Daily. Day to day, she is the face of an ag marketing company out of Des Moines, Iowa called Trader PhD offering advisory services to farmers and ranchers across the U.S.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and our first speaker will begin at 10 a.m. First State Insurance will be supplying

coffee and donuts. ADM Grain Company and Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance are generously sponsoring the noon luncheon. Clifton Larson Allen is sponsoring the soda. Door prizes are being provided by several area businesses including: Beck Oil Co., Cantlin Law Firm, Chris Eller — the Retirement Specialists, Dinges Fire Company, Earlville Farmers Coop, Guilfoyle & Stevenson Law Firm, Hornung Tiling, Inc., Foster's Tax & Accounting, LLC., Leffelman & Associates, Leone Grain & Supply, Maplehurst Farms, Mendota Mutual Insurance, Meriden Grain-Pioneer Seed, Northern Partners Cooperative, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Prescott Brothers Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Schimmer Automotive Group, Sublette Farmers Elevator Co., Sublette Mechanical, Troy Grove Coop, Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Vaessen Implement & Repair, & West Brooklyn Farmers Coop.

Contact First State Bank Ag Department by calling 815.539.3834, to reserve your seat.

Sign up open for statewide in-person pesticide applicator training clinics

OREGON — Get ahead of an expired pesticide license by signing up for one of the in-person training and testing clinics happening in Oregon and Sycamore in February and March. The University of Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program understands that putting experience, safety, awareness, and knowledge to the test helps ensure a safer application.

Those interested in attending an in-person training clinic should register early, as seating is limited with some locations already close to full. Find the 2025 training schedule and options at go.illinois.edu/PSEP. In-person testing for all exams will occur at the Ogle County Farm Bureau, 421 W Pines

Rd in Oregon, on Feb. 19 and 26 and March 5 and 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Private Applicator Exam sessions will occur at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 W Prairie Dr in Sycamore on Feb. 12 and March 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. The pricing is \$45 for General Standards or Private Applicator and \$25 for each category, including Field Crops, Rights of Way, Mosquito, Turfgrass, and Ornamentals.

Registration and payment are required before attending a clinic and can be completed at go.illinois.edu/PSEP or by calling (800) 644-2123.

Training manuals and workbooks are available for self-study. Several publications were recently updated in October 2024. Check to see

if you have the most up-to-date versions by visiting go.illinois.edu/PSEP-Study. Official publications should only be purchased from the official Illinois Extension Distribution Services website or at the Ogle County and DeKalb County Extension offices with an inventory available. These materials may be purchased online at go.illinois.edu/Pesticide-SafetyPublications or by calling (217) 333-2007.

For questions or if a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in this program, contact PSEP Program Facilitator Jean Miles at jmiles1@illinois.edu or (217) 265-0670. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet access needs.

McKanna named to fall 2024 Dean's List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Students at Cedarville University have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a

3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours. Included on the Dean's List was Jack McKanna of Mt. Morris.

Cedarville University,

a Baptist institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences, and professional fields.



Polo PEO donates to Polo Centennial School

Mackenzie Martz (left) and Emily Ditzler (right) of P.E.O., Chapter DW, Polo are pictured with the Polo Schools district nurse, Brenda Rhodes (center) making the chapter's second recent donation of hats and water-proof gloves to Polo Centennial School. P.E.O. stands for Philanthropic Education Organization. Its mission statement is: Where women motivate, educate and celebrate women. (Courtesy photo)

Six \$1,500 scholarships now open to Midwest high school seniors

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — High school seniors from Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin now have a chance to receive one of six college scholarships worth \$1,500. Registration is open now through April 30, 2025. Parents are also able to register their student.

High school seniors or their parents may register for the ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Midwest. ISL Education Lending will award \$1,500 scholarships to six students whose names are randomly drawn after the registration period. There are no financial need, grade point average or class rank requirements.

The ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship can be used at any eligible institution in the United States. Registered participants also receive emails highlighting financial literacy tips, such as the importance of early career and college planning and ways to reduce student loan indebtedness.

"Student loan debt is a huge concern for new college students," said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of ISL Education Lending. "As a nonprofit, we provide tools and resources to help high school seniors plan so they can reduce the amount of debt they need to take on while achieving their education goals. Students sign up for a chance at a \$1,500 scholarship, and we take that opportunity to share information with them about our free resources."

The ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship is open to legal U.S. citizens who are seniors at a high school in one of the qualifying states during the 2025-2026 school year and who

intend to attend college, either virtually or physically, in fall 2025. It is a no-purchase-required program, and full rules and details are available at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Midwest. Additional Resources Available: In addition to offering student loans, ISL Education Lending has other resources for families planning for college and for students who intend to pursue advanced degrees.

The Parent Handbook consists of valuable tips to help families of students in sixth through 12th grades prepare for success in college and other postsecondary options. Parents of students in eighth through 12th grades can also sign up to receive twice-monthly emailed tips on academic, college and career planning through the Student Planning Pointers for Parents program. The College Funding Forecaster helps families understand the total cost of four years of college

based on a freshman-year financial aid offer.

Information about these resources is available at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/SmartBorrowing.

About ISL Education Lending: Established in 1979 as Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation, a private, nonprofit organization, ISL Education Lending helps students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. ISL has helped nearly 400,000 students pay for college, offering student loans and other products under the name ISL Education Lending.

The organization, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, also provides an array of borrower benefits, financial literacy tools and community reinvestment programs, including support for free college planning services for students and their families. For more information, visit www.IowaStudentLoan.org.

It's tax time!!!



Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA



Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

See us for Income Taxes, Payroll and Bookkeeping

WALTERS
Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley
815.645.8979

www.WALTERSTAX.com

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Feb. 3, 1953, French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau published a memoir co-written with Frederic Dumas, "The Silent World," about his time exploring the oceans. It was made into an Oscar-winning documentary directed by Louis Malle three years later, the success of which allowed Cousteau to retire from the navy and devote himself full time to oceanography.

* On Feb. 4, 1913, Rosa Louise McCauley, better known to us today by her married name of Rosa Parks, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The lifelong civil rights activist's refusal to give up her seat on a segregated bus to a white man in 1955 remains a defining moment of America's civil rights movement.

* On Feb. 5, 2012, 36-year-old Josh Powell, who had been labeled a person of interest in the 2009 disappearance of his 28-year-old wife, Susan, locked out a social worker before killing himself and his two young sons, Braden and Charlie, by setting fire to his Graham, Washington, home. Susan Powell's remains have still not been found.

Managing your persistent fears and anxieties

ARE you looking for all of the answers on how to reduce your persistent fears and anxieties? Fear and anxiety can ruin your life if you do not know how to overcome it.

As a result, here is a brief list of techniques that a person can use to help manage their everyday anxieties, stressors, and fears.

1. Take your fears apart: When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one step at a time. Completing these smaller activities will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.
2. Take a break: Sometimes we get stressed out whenever everything happens all at once. When this happens, take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get your mind off of the problem. A person can get some fresh air, listen to some music, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.
3. Get all of the facts of the situation: Gathering the facts of a certain event can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not. This is a great way to take control of your mental health.
4. Use Self-Visualization: Sometimes, we can get anxious over a task that we will have to perform in the near future. When this happens, visualize yourself doing the task in your mind. For instance, you have to play in the championship volleyball game in front of

a large group of people in the next few days. Before the big day comes, imagine yourself playing the game in your mind. By doing this, you will be better prepared when the time comes.

5. You can't predict the future: While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

6. Think of a red stop sign: At times, a person might encounter a fearful thought that may be difficult to manage. When this happens, visualize a red stop sign, which can serve as a reminder to stop thinking about that thought. Regardless of how scary the thought may be, do not dwell on it. This technique is great in dealing with your negative thinking and will help reduce your fears.

7. Get some help: Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about your stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem. Overcoming fear and anxiety takes practice. In time, you will become better able to deal with your stressful problems.

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

Letter: Thanks for your generosity

DEAR editor, The staff at our Rochelle ALDI have been meeting the special needs of their customers for years by purchasing gift cards to "help" customers when times are difficult.

In recent years, you, the community, have joined in providing cards for those in need. Your response this year has been amazing. There are many stories of those who have been helped and the families assisted by the extra "help." On behalf of those assisted, and the staff that find joy

in relieving their burdens because of your generosity, thank you!

There is no better way to celebrate the beautiful season of Christmas than to "Feed the Hungry". You have beautifully helped many meet the needs of their families. Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you", and you have wonderfully met their needs. May you know God's amazing blessings because of your generosity.

Thank you.

Lorrie Bearrows
Chana



New law on business ownership

A FEDERAL court has ordered a nationwide preliminary injunction halting enforcement of a law requiring the filing of private business ownership information with the federal government.

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) requires certain entities, including many farming operations and other small businesses, to report information about ownership to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The CTA was originally passed to combat money laundering and organized crime funding, through numerous actions, including Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing to FinCEN.

The filing requirement is expected to impact nearly 800,000 Illinois businesses, including over 5,000 farming operations in Illinois.

This will allow Congress and the Treasury Department time to adjust the implementation of this law to remove the unfortunate impact on honest citizens and their businesses. The added time will give these decision-making authorities time to fix the negative impacts on an estimated 5,000 Illinois farms and address the original intent of the law to combat money laundering and organized crime funding.

This also helps prevent thousands of innocent people being impacted by the potential civil

penalties and criminal penalties for simply not complying because of the confusion caused by the requirements.

The preliminary injunction was ordered by the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas. The court's decision was based on its assessment that the CTA and the Reporting Rule likely violate constitutional protections and are likely "outside of Congress's power."

All companies subject to the CTA's reporting requirements are now exempt from filing beneficial ownership reports until further notice. However, FinCEN is likely to appeal the decision, which could change requirements. Those that meet FinCEN's requirements are encouraged to continue to monitor developments and seek guidance from trusted advisers to determine compliance.

Prior to the injunction, those who didn't report BOI to FinCEN by the Jan. 1, 2025, deadline or who failed to update information in the future could face civil (\$591 per day of violation) and criminal penalties (up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000).

The law has been clouded with uncertainty from farmers since it was passed, specifically concerning who is required

to file and who will have access to the confidential data.

According to the legislation, any small business that files an incorporating document with their state business authority, including corporations, limited partnerships or limited liability companies (LLCs) are required to report. Specifically, "small entities" are any company with less than 20 employees and under \$5 million in cash receipts.

Trade deficit

As the U.S. closes out fiscal year 2024 and looks toward 2025, farmers and ranchers are facing another year with an agricultural trade deficit.

The recent USDA Trade Outlook has U.S. ag trade running in the red for 2024 and 2025 and the



Ron Kern

updated forecast doesn't give us much better news.

Last week's USDA trade outlook confirmed once again, that both fiscal years 2024 and 2025 are going to be record trade deficits in agricultural products. The fiscal year '24 deficit ended up being \$31.8 billion. And fiscal year '25, which started on October 1, is now forecasted at \$45.5 billion. Mexico and Canada are leading the charge as the top destinations for US export markets.

Currently there are multiple factors driving

Chuck Roberts: The Trump effect

IT is unusual for a president-elect to have many world leaders and industry leaders posture intensely, trying to get on his good side before he becomes president. It is unprecedented how many have shifted their policies to a track nearly parallel that of the president-elect. Billionaire Masayoshi Son from the Japanese Softbank Group met with the president-elect and announced a \$100 billion investment in the U.S. Hussain Sajani of the U.A.E. met with the president-elect, was happy to see the U.S. transitioning to a more business-oriented administration, and pledged \$20 billion to build data centers.

Mark Zuckerberg of Meta (Facebook) met with the president-elect and announced that he would no longer censor conservatives. Many CEOs have traveled to Mar-a-Lago and have cut checks for \$1 million, resulting in a total tally of over \$170 million committed for the inaugural to cover expenses for parades, inaugural balls, and other activities.

The president-elect suggested that Canada should be the 51st state and that Cana-

dians would be much better off. After a recent meeting with the president-elect, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, often considered a devout leftist, announced his intent to step down, which leaves the door open for a more conservative government that will control illegal immigration.

Thule Air Base (now called Pituffik) has been operated by the U.S. at the northern end of Greenland since World War II. Greenland has been considered a vital security interest in defense against attacks from the Russians and others. The president-elect has signaled interest in the purchase of Greenland, which is owned by Denmark, to become a territory of the U.S. Denmark has not paid the five percent of the GNP obligation to support NATO. This has set off a firestorm among the liberal foreign allies in Europe who also have not paid the required five percent GNP to support NATO. This could be an encouragement to our allies to pay up.

The fact that the Chinese are buying up control of the Panama Canal came into focus when the president-elect indicated that these purchases violate the initial treaty agreement between the US and Panama. Chinese control of both ends of the canal could have serious implications for U.S. commerce and security.

The president-elect is the most popular politician in Israel. He said that if the hostages are not released, "by the time I get in office, all hell will break out in the Middle East," suggesting that the shackles will be taken off the Israeli military's efforts to eliminate Hamas. This has resulted in renewed



Chuck Roberts

negotiations between Hamas and the Israelis.

The news media, which has been afflicted with "Trump derangement syndrome," has been making some overtures to the president-elect. The outgoing administration has promised a smooth transition. However, everything is not rosy. Sections of border wall materials are being quickly

the negative forecast. Fiscal year 2025, the USDA currently projects the third year in a row of declining exports by value, which combined with continuously climbing imports, exacerbates the ag trade deficit. Declining exports by value are mostly still on sliding commodity prices with volumes of bulk commodities projected to stay steady year over year. Of course, any projections made now are still educated guesses, as we'll have to wait and see how the next administration's trade agenda shakes out.

A new report from the Department of Commerce shows the larger U.S. economy at a deficit as well.

The October trade data was published, and overall, the U.S. economy has a smaller trade deficit than forecasted in October, mostly on falling imports. Now, while overall exports fell in October, agricultural exports have had a year-to-date peak, which is pretty typical this time of year with large after-harvest exports.

"As history has repeatedly proven, one trade tariff begets another, then another - until you've got a full-blown trade war. No one ever wins, and consumers always get screwed." -Mark McKinnon

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

sold for pennies on the dollar, a ban on offshore oil drilling was instated, an intent to ban gas water heaters was proposed, and significant last-minute spending has occurred to counter the president-elect's stated policy plans - so much for a smooth transition.

Some say the Democrats hate the president-elect more than they love the country. The president-elect has a tough road to hoe because of the significant damage inflicted on the country over the past four years that the new administration may be unable to rectify during his term. Having a GOP House and Senate is helpful, but his policies are not guaranteed to prevail, just as some were not enacted during his first term. As evidenced by the outcome of the 2024 election, many believe the Trump effect will prevail, and the country will be better off. Pundits say that the Democrats are softening their opposition to the president-elect and are starting to work across the aisle on specific issues. For those who play bridge, watch your back if you bid no-Trump.

LIFE letters' policy

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

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

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

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

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

For his January 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream in Morrison. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owners with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

Rep. Fritts honors Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream

DIXON — For his January 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream in Morrison. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owners with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

"This month, I chose to honor Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream because they provide an excellent, family-friendly dining establishment and remain incredibly involved in our community," said Rep. Fritts. "They support local

schools and sports teams and will offer a helping hand whenever someone needs it."

Originally opened in 1987, Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream in Morrison is a franchised location owned and operated by Lynn and Kevin Kenady. Both of their daughters worked at the restaurant while growing up.

Rep. Fritts continued, "Kevin and Lynn are both incredibly involved in our community, both in their capacity as business owners and private citizens. We are lucky to have such dedicated members of our

community who work to build a better future for everyone."

Happy Joe's Pizza and Ice Cream is located at 109 W. Main St. in Morrison. For more information, click here or visit their website at HappyJoes.com and select the Morrison location.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources. For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.

Chesney launches 2nd Annual "Valentines for Seniors" Card Drive

FREEPORT — With the arrival of the new year in Illinois, State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is once again sponsoring a "Valentines for Seniors" card drive. To brighten the days of seniors and ensure they know they are a valued part of the community, Senator Chesney is asking students from public and private schools, church groups, scouting organizations, and other groups to create homemade cards and drawings that will be delivered to assisted living centers, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities across the 45th Senate

District during the week of Valentine's Day.

"The response to this program last year exceeded all expectations and we were able to drop off thousands of well-wishes at locations across the seven counties that comprise the 45th District," said Chesney. "The smiles on the seniors' faces were priceless and the cards made them feel appreciated."

Cards and drawings can be dropped off or mailed between now and Feb. 7 to the Senator's Freeport office from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through

Friday, or dropped off in a marked mailbox located outside of the office after hours.

S e n a t o r
C h e s n e y ' s O f f i c e
50 West Douglas St., Suite 1001
Freeport, IL 61032

"Loneliness can be a real issue for the elderly, so it's nice to bring them some joy so they know we're thinking of them," said Chesney.

For additional information about this program, please contact Lori at lyates@sgop.ilga.gov, or call Senator Chesney's office at (815) 232-0774.

Locals named to Fall 2024 Dean's List at ONU

BOURBONNAIS — To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale.

Local students to make the list include Leo Cardenas of Mt. Morris, Shawn Clinton of Byron, Alaina Haas of Byron, and Grant Ogden of Stillman Valley. Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet's 275-acre

park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. Additionally, Olivet offers Graduate and Continuing Studies via online education. From Oxford to

Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

I would like to thank my family and friends for the wonderful celebration for my 95th birthday. Many thanks to everyone that attended. The cards, gifts and wishes were all appreciated.

THANK EVERYONE
SO MUCH!

~ Sam Morrison, Byron

Encore! Mt. Morris art classes open for registration

MT. MORRIS — Encore! Mt. Morris and Highland Community College's Lifelong Learning division have partnered up to offer four art classes in Mt. Morris this spring. Registration begins Jan. 6 (through March). Go to encoremtnorris.com (click HCC Art Classes button) to see additional information (locations, photos of projects, etc.). Local classes include:

Rug Hooking Basics, March 10 and 17 (two-session class), 6-8 p.m., \$29. Description: Discover basic rug hooking techniques while creating coasters! Explore samples of vibrant fiber art projects that use the same techniques. Materials include a 12 x 12" frame, hook, linen burlap, and wool strips. Instructions for building your own wool stash and additional supplies will also be provided

at no charge. Perfect for beginners!

Thinking Outside the Watercolor Box, March 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$65. Description: Explore a creative blend of watercolor painting and embroidery! Start by painting spring tulips and daffodils, then embroider your artwork expressing your personal style. Your finished piece will fit an 8x10 frame. Materials provided; bring watercolor brushes or borrow from the instructor. Bring lunch and a friend.

Mosaic Masterpieces, March 22, 9:30-4:30 p.m., \$135. Description: Join us for a mosaic workshop where you'll create a fish or school of fish on a small panel using glass, beads, china, and found objects. Learn basic design, cutting techniques, and how to use cement mortar as adhesive. Bring your own

found objects if desired. Beginners welcome.

Felted Blooms, April 2 and 9 (two-session class), 6-8 p.m., \$65. Description: Experience the magic of wet felting, where water and friction bind dyed wool into beautiful creations! In the first week, create a bud vase; in the second a 3-D flower. All supplies are included. Please bring a cookie sheet with sides or a boot tray, plus two old bath towels.

Join us for some creative fun!! Questions? mollyb@encoremtnorris.com or text 309-255-1096

Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris, IL into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in northwest Illinois. Learn more at EncoreMtMorris.com.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

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

Low Income Housing

Ogle County Housing Authority
1001 Pines Rd, Suite A, Oregon 732-1301

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

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

Senior Citizens Services

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

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

Ogle County Veteran's Assistance 815-255-9181
Veteran's Crisis Line 988 then press 1
Rock River Center 732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499
Medical Transportation 677-6515

Wellness Services

Ogle County Health Dept
907 Pines Rd, Oregon 562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499

LOCAL NEWS

NUCLEAR PLANT: Constellation planning \$355 million investment in turbines

From page 1

Constellation Manager of Local Government Affairs Ryan Tozer appeared at the public hearing to support the amendment.

"The Byron Clean Energy Center produces 2,347 megawatts of electricity, employs over 600 full-time employees and supports the local community with over \$40,000 in local contributions every year," Tozer said. "Constellation has a planned major investment to increase power output. Upgrades to the station include six low-pressure turbines, two high-pressure turbines, and electrical system improvements. These improvements retain jobs, increase the plant's lifespan and stimulate local economies through housing accommodations, food and transportation."

The capacity expansion project is slated to start in spring 2026, Dempsey said.

The Ogle County Board voted back in August to rezone 524 acres of land owned by Constellation around the Byron Nuclear Plant from agricultural to industrial as Constellation considers attracting indus-

trial development such as data centers. Increased capacity would aid in development, as data centers use large amounts of power and seek to locate near power sources.

Other projects

Shaw also presented an amendment that would see 17.21 acres of land added into the LOEZ for a project at HA International in rural Ogle County west of Oregon on Devils Back Bone Road south of Pines Road. HA International has proposed an expansion at its existing plant, bringing to Oregon an improved production line from a company site in Ohio.

"The new building to be constructed at the east end of the property will be used to manufacture a product called feeders, which like their existing resin-coated sands produced there, will be used by the metal casting industry in North America," Shaw said. "This is an anticipated \$10 million project that will create 17 new manufacturing jobs in the short term with a hope for 56 new jobs over about 10 years. Due to this impact, the LOEZ board wishes to offer use of the tax incentives for this project."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone (LOEZ) is designed to stimulate economic growth and businesses located or expanding in the zone may be eligible for certain state and local tax incentives, such as sales tax exemptions and property tax abatements. The expansion of the LOEZ to include the land for the three projects will be considered by many boards and councils within the zone over the next several weeks, LOEZ Administrator Andy Shaw said Jan. 9.

Another expansion amendment discussed Jan. 9 involves a project called Fun on 52 and Pub & Patio in rural Lee County on sites between Amboy and Sublette totaling around 10.61 acres. The same ownership is developing the separate entertainment sites in an

area of Lee County with heavy visitor traffic including Woodhaven Lakes and many campgrounds in that area.

"The site on U.S. 52 is a family-oriented amusement complex with golf activities and go karting to be called Fun on 52," Shaw said. "While the site

near the gate to Woodhaven Resort is a bar and grill restaurant called Pub & Patio. The timeline for the completion is late 2025 for Pub & Patio and late 2027 for Fun on 52 with about 20 jobs at each location. The enterprise zone wishes to incentivize this project with tax benefits to

see it be most successful."

The LOEZ currently has 1,516.67 acres of unused space available for expansion amendments. If the three expansion amendments are approved, 1,316.93 acres will remain available in the LOEZ for future amendments.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan. 23: Loaves & Fish Food Pantry alongside Northern Illinois Food Bank is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 10-11:30 a.m. The truck will be located at Mt. Morris Moose Family Center, 101 Moose Drive, Mt. Morris. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. In case of bad weather, please check Loaves & Fish Facebook page or call the pantry phone at 815-613-8776.

Mobile pantries will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month through June. January, February and March mobiles are held at the Mt. Morris Moose. April, May and

June are held at Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris.

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry is located on the lower level of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, and is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, no proof of income or residency required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message.

Jan. 27: The Ogle County Historical Society resumes its monthly meetings with the Monday, Jan. 27 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the carriage house annex behind the Nash

House Museum at 111 N. 6th St. All are welcome to attend. We are seeking new members and have many opportunities for volunteers in 2025.

Feb. 5-March 12: Serenity Hospice and Home will host a free six-week class entitled "Understanding Your Grief." This class, filled with compassion and hope and based on the book "Understanding Your Grief" by Dr. Alan Wolfelt is built around ten touchstones, basic principles that can help engage with grief and create momentum toward healing. Each participant will receive a book. This class will be held on Wednesdays from Feb. 5 through March 12 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Serenity Hospice & Home, located in Oregon at 1658 S. Illi-

nois Route 2. Please call Dana or Cathy at 815-732-4111 to register.

Feb. 18: Serenity Hospice and Home will be offering a new support group in the evenings for anyone in the community grieving the loss of a loved one. This support group is free of charge to attend and will meet on the third Tuesday of each month. This first group will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 5-6 p.m. at Serenity Hospice & Home, located in Oregon at 1658 S. Illinois Route 2. Please call Dana or Cathy at 815-732-4111 to register.

Feb. 25, 28: Serenity Hospice and Home is sponsoring an upcoming volunteer training class on Tuesday, Feb. 25, and Friday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the

Serenity Home at 1658 S. Illinois Route 2 in Oregon. Volunteers with Serenity are essential to helping provide quality hospice and palliative care to patients throughout the nine northern Illinois counties Serenity serves. Volunteers provide both direct patient care in addition to many non-patient-related service opportunities. Dedicated volunteers provide office work, receptionist duties, gardening, errands, baking, help at fundraising events, and more. Those interested in any area of volunteering are encouraged to attend. Work together to provide overflowing comfort, dignity, and respect at the end of life. Serenity is a five-star rated nonprofit hospice and palliative care organization that

has been serving the area for over 40 years. For more information or to register for the class, please contact Stephanie at 815-732-2499 or email at volunteer@serenity-hospiceandhome.org.

March 22-23: Oregon, IL, Women's Club supports the local community with its 73rd Annual Antique and Vintage Show with over 40 dealers from the Midwest Saturday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ample free parking, homemade concessions, handicap accessible. Antique appraisals on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - \$5 per item. Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., Oregon. Entry \$8 per person.

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OGLE COUNTY LIFE

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LOCAL NEWS



Philip Earl 'MooNiE' Johnson said the standup comedy performance he'll put on Jan. 25 will be different from his silent MooNiE performance. 'Get Me a Viking!' will adhere to traditional standup comedy norms and will focus on ideas and situations from Johnson's life as an actor and comedian.

'GET ME A VIKING': Actor, comedian Johnson has 35 years of professional work

From page 1

He has guest starred on Chicago Med, Chicago Fire, Mind Games, Early Edition, The Untouchables, Kindred: The Embraced, and Underemployed as well as the film The Out of Towners.

Johnson said the standup comedy performance he'll put on Jan. 25 will be different from his silent MooNiE performance. 'Get Me a Viking!' will adhere to traditional standup comedy norms and will focus on ideas and situations from Johnson's life as an actor and comedian. Johnson said that the comedy act will be for

ages of teens and up and won't be for all ages like MooNiE is.

"The show will be just stand-up comedy," Johnson said. "I haven't really lived a regular life. Performing for so many years as a nonverbal European-style clown act, I've had a different experience with my life."

The Lincoln Arts Center, which opened in recent years at the former site of Lincoln Elementary School, is the permanent home of the Vince Carney Community Theatre and a venue for community events. VCCT members have been attending Johnson's shows for a long

time and it will be his third performance in Rochelle.

Johnson formed a bond with VCCT during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, I posted on Facebook when they postponed the Bristol Renaissance Fair," Johnson said. "I told people if they couldn't come to me, I'd come to them. I booked over 60 shows in three months in the tri-state area of Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. I did the shows for people in places like backyards. I did two of those for VCCT. I'd help them build the theater and return the favor. This will be my third show with VCCT."



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Before getting into comedy, Johnson's main goal was to be an actor. In college, someone asked him to do a comedy show and he enjoyed it and began to write his own show. He found enjoyment in the craft and performed as MooNiE before also creating a normal standup routine.

Being a comedian for 35 years has led Johnson to interesting places.

"I was once hired to pretend to be a crazy patient at a dental surgeon's office as a prank by the doctor's friends," Johnson said. "It turned out to be very fun, and very funny. Comedy isn't just shows.

It's just for whoever has a need for comedy. And everyone does. It's like a common denominator. It's a medium that requires work from an audience. You have to draw people out and make it happen. It creates endorphins and makes people feel good. Some people like to see comedy that is safe and that they have experience with. I've been performing for 35 years, so people come back and see me."

Johnson said he chose to return to Rochelle and the Lincoln Arts Center because VCCT helped him during the pandemic and he did a show in town last year that sold out. He said he

considers the VCCT group friends and is a fan of what they do, along with the Lincoln Arts Center venue.

After 35 years of work, Johnson hasn't lost his desire to bring good comedy to audiences.

"I get up every day and write for hours," Johnson said. "I love doing that. I never feel like it's a chore. I want to find and write funny material for people. I love acting and MooNiE. MooNiE gets to go in front of different audiences, and I have to keep it fresh and stay motivated. I've done over 11,000 performances as that character and I have to make sure I never take a show off."



The Byron Schools Food Pantry has had a great holiday season of donations that started before Thanksgiving. The BHS National Honor Society collected money from donut sales to purchase their annual Turkey dinners for all of the food pantry families.

Multiple donations made to Byron School Food Pantry

BYRON — The Byron Schools Food Pantry has had a great holiday season of donations that started before Thanksgiving. The BHS National Honor Society collected money from donut sales to purchase their annual Turkey dinners for all of the food pantry families. Nikki Yerly pointed out, "This is a yearly event for NHS and they never let us

down."

The K-Kids led by Mrs. Brittany Stavnem organized a huge collection of non-perishables and delivered them at the beginning of December to help with the Christmas Grocery bags. The kids delivered the food and met with Mrs. Susan Freyer who explained the pantry and gave them a tour. "These kids were so proud of

what they accomplished, and we are so grateful that they filled our shelves!" Freyer stated.

"Every year, wonderful community members also donate money for the purchase of groceries and to fund our voucher system and this year was no different," Caryn Hoover said. Prairie Fire Invitational Winners Trent Brown, Davis Baker and Gregg

DeVries donated their winnings to the Byron School Food Pantry. The Brinx and Kroger families (regular donors) gave their generous donations and "...many other families donated after the 'Roar' article and we are so, so glad that Byron is such a generous community!" the three explained. "It has been a really great few months for the pantry!"

The Byron Schools Food Pantry was started by Freyer, Hoover and Yerly in July of 2018 and they have been fortunate enough to be the recipient of so many efforts like this to help Byron School District's families in need. The Byron Schools Food Pantry is intended for Byron students and their families who are experiencing hardships and food insecurities with 100% of

all donations going to the students and their families.

If interested in making a donation, monetary donations can be mailed to: BHS Food Pantry, 696 N. Colfax St., Byron, IL 61010. Collection bins for food and hygiene supplies are located in each of the school's offices, Byron Park District and several other locations throughout Byron.

VOP Foundation Scholarship applications now open

OREGON — The Village of Progress Foundation will offer two scholarships in 2025.

The first scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through a joint effort between The Larry Young & Friends Charities and The Village of Progress Foundation. Larry Young & Friends

Charities partner with The Village of Progress Foundation every year to help make our annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the foundation's board of directors.

Our second scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through the generosity of the

Cacciatore Family. The Cacciatore's have been long time supporters of the Village. Wanda served on the Village of Progress Board of Directors for 10 years beginning in 1988. She has served on the foundation's board for almost 30 years.

The scholarship honors her husband, Pete, who

was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Village. Pete passed away in the fall of 2014, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to the Village and its mission.

To be eligible for either scholarship, the student must: Be a resident of Ogle County, and be either a high school senior who is disabled or is planning on

attending college and majoring in an area related to the disabled, or a full-time undergraduate college student who is disabled or is majoring in an area related to the disabled.

Applications must be received by March 15, 2025, be completed on the foundation application form, and include at least

two written references. The financial status of the applicant is not a consideration. Those wishing an application are encouraged to call the Village of Progress at 815-732-2126 or go to our website at www.villageofprogress.org and download a High School or College application.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

LOCAL NEWS

MUSICIANS: Bail, Brandt, Oltmanns selected as ILMEA all-state honorees

From page 1

Emi also have a huge passion for animals and would also like to work with them. While in high school Emi is actively involved in the Illinois Music Educators Music Honor Society, Byron High School Art Club, National Honors Society, and volunteering for service hours around Byron Community. Emi went to Ireland last year with the Byron Choir and is currently preparing to be on the Ambassadors of Music European Tour the summer of 2025. Emi was shocked to have scored high enough to make the All-State choir, but very grateful for all the classmates, friends, and family who helped them gain the confidence to use their voice in such a positive way, especially Mrs. Harn. Emi cannot wait to represent Byron High School at All-State this year! Emi's best advice that they can give to all future or current musicians is to, "Be patient with your career and have confidence in yourself to be the best you can be. Learn to gain love and respect for yourself that nobody else could give you, and most importantly, be respectful and love those around you. Music is all about

peace, love, and passion and people need to feel that when they perform. The happiness and love of making music can take you around the world."

Emi's best memory of choir is coming in for rehearsals with the Chamber Choir for the Madrigal Dinner and getting to perform this dinner with all my people. All the students I have come across I consider my family, and nothing short of an enjoyable time.

For the first time in the history of ILMEA, there has been the creation of a Junior High All State Choir. This choir is selected the same way the high school ensembles are chosen, based on their fall District audition scores. Byron Middle School is pleased to announce that Gwen Brandt is the first Byron singer selected to be part of this ensemble. Gwen's parents are Ann and Jake Brandt. She is involved in choir, band, basketball, volleyball, track, Builder's Club, and Cheerleading. Gwen is so excited to go to All-State and take the opportunity to sing with some of the best people in the State of Illinois. Gwen's words of wisdom to future musicians are, "Even if you don't think you are a good singer, you can sing to your greatest abilities."

Gwen's favorite choir memory has been going to District ILMEA choir festivals and making friends with so many people.

The first level of the All State Choir experience begins with 4-6th grade students. This year Byron has a sixth grade student who was nominated, and selected, for the sixth grade Elementary All State Choir. Kali Oltmanns, parents Alexis and Kole Oltmanns, has future plans of becoming a comic book author. She is involved in Art Club and Girls Scouts at Byron Middle School. Kali is very excited to be attending this event and thinks it will be very fun. She is looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. Kali's words of wisdom for future musicians are to, "Have fun and always work towards your goals." Her favorite memory from middle school choir is singing karaoke with a group of her friends.

Students in the performing ensembles represent the best student musicians in Illinois that will come together to present a series of All-State Concerts. On Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, Jazz Night Concert will feature a night of music performed by the student vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Emi Bail was one of three Byron School District students recognized with all-state musician honors.

The All-State Elementary Chorus Concert, the All-State Junior High Chorus Concert, the All-State Concert and the Honors Concerts will be presented on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025. Each of these ensembles will be led by distinguished conductors and educators from across the country.

The All-State Student Programs run concurrently with the Illinois Music Education Conference, the premier professional development opportunity for music educators in Illinois. This event brings over 12,000 students, educators, parents and music education industry vendors to the Peoria Civic Center to celebrate and promote music education in Illinois.

Bergstrom named December 2024 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

POLO — Isabella Bergstrom was recently named the December Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. She is the daughter of Janette and Phil Krontz and Chris and Jennifer Bergstrom.

Bergstrom's extracurricular activities include cheerleading, track & field, FCCLA, Student Council, National Honor Society, FFA, Spanish Club, and Varsity Club. After high school, she plans to pursue a career in the medical field. Upon winning the award, Bergstrom filled out a list of questions about her school experience.

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

-Do all homework and assignments on time and do not procrastinate. Also stay involved in activities and clubs inside and outside of school. It is important to keep an appropriate school/life balance to avoid getting burnt out.

What class do you find really engaging and why?

-The class I find most

engaging is Advanced Biology taught by Gina Cole. I feel that it really challenges me academically and the material is very interesting. We perform many hands-on labs that allow us to observe and study different kinds of cells.

What are your career and post-graduation plans?

-I am going to Iowa State University to major in biology. I plan to have a career in the medical field, but I am still unsure about what expertise. In the summer months after graduation I am working at Subway to save up for college.

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

-One of my favorite extracurricular activities is track and field. Polo is coed with Forresteron for track and I enjoy being able to meet new people, both on the team and at track meets. Meredith Wolber is a great throwing coach and really makes me challenge and push myself to keep getting better. Another activity I enjoy is being involved in our school's Student



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Bella Bergstrom was recently named the December 2024 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School. Shown is Polo Schools Foundation Member Alissa Zeigler presenting Bergstrom with a \$100 scholarship.

Council. I love being able to make a difference in our community with things like the blood drive, doggy dash, and elderbuddy.

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

-Delivering the elderbuddy items to the nursing home was an amazing experience. It was so wonderful to give the residents gifts for Christmas and see them sing along to Christmas carols with us. It was such a sweet and joyful encounter that I will never forget.

What is your hope for the future?

-After college I wish to find a stable and stimulating job. I hope to have a family and children and live a long, healthy life.

United Way of Ogle County's 'Dancing Through The Decades Adult Prom' is Feb. 28

OREGON — Dust off your dancing shoes, dress to impress in your favorite decade, and get ready to make memories at the "Dancing Through The Decades Adult Prom," hosted by the United Way of Ogle County. This evening is the perfect opportunity to relive prom — or experience it for the first time — while supporting a great cause!

Event details: Date: Friday, Feb. 28. Time: 6-9 p.m. Location: Stronghold Center, 1922 Illinois Route 2 North, Oregon. Tickets: \$50 per person,

\$95 per couple, or \$350 for a table of eight.

This unforgettable evening includes: Heavy appetizers, a cash bar, a live DJ spinning your favorite hits, a photobooth with props to capture the moment, silent auction items, a dessert dash, a

50/50 raffle and more!

Whether this is your first prom ever or your first prom in decades, the event promises a fun and nostalgic celebration. Guests are encouraged to dress in formal attire from their favorite era — whether that's '70s disco, '80s glam, or

modern chic — and enjoy an evening of dancing, laughter, and community.

Reserve your spot today! Tickets are limited, so don't wait to secure your spot! Register online now at www.uwogle.org.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the United Way of Ogle County,

helping to fund programs and services that make a difference in the lives of local families and individuals.

Join us for an evening of fun, nostalgia, and giving back. We can't wait to see you on the dance floor!

Ogle County EFSP listed to receive funds, applications available

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has been listed to receive federal appropriations from EFSP National Board Program in the amount of \$25,008 for phase 42. This amount is subject to change by the

National EFSP National Board. The Ogle County EFSP Program is accepting grant letters of application from agencies in Ogle County that provide emergency food and shelter. Eligible agencies must meet the following criteria; have the capability to

provide emergency food and/or shelter services; propose to use the funds to supplement or expand an existing program and services; is a private nonprofit with a voluntary board or an agency of government; have an accounting system, and

practices non-discrimination, have FEIN# and UEI#.

How to apply: Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds can visit www.uwogle.org or contact Ashley Richter, executive director of United Way of Ogle County at (815) 284-3339 for an application. Grant request applications are due by 4 p.m., Feb. 14, 2025 mailed to Ashley Richter at PO Box 382, Dixon, IL 61021

or emailed to arichter@uwleeco.org.

The local board is to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs run by local service organizations with services in Ogle County.



9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

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- 2 High rate of return.** For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Ogle County, IL.
- 3 Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust.** Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.
- 4 Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns.** You don't have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.
- 5 No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor.** You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live
- here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?
- 6 Time is money.** It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!
- 7 Customer service after the sale is invaluable.** Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?
- 8 Keeping it local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.
- 9 One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Ogle County, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area . A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

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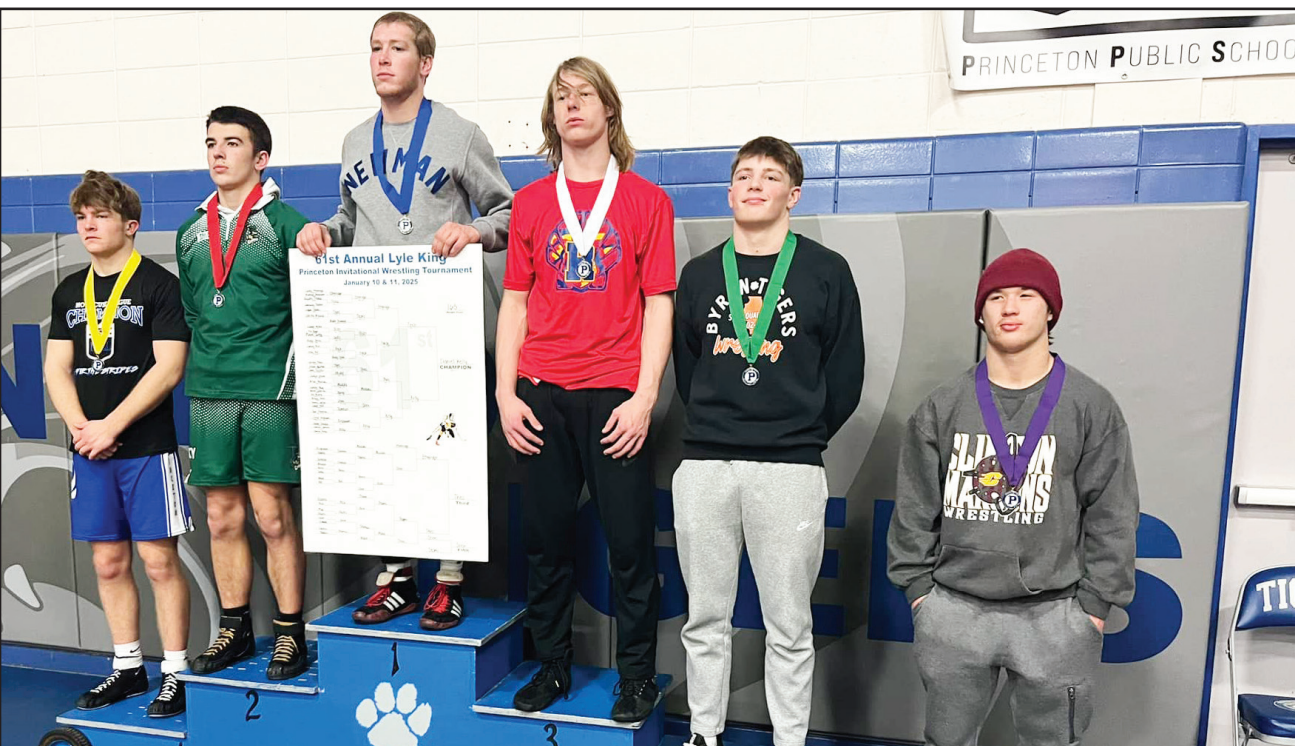
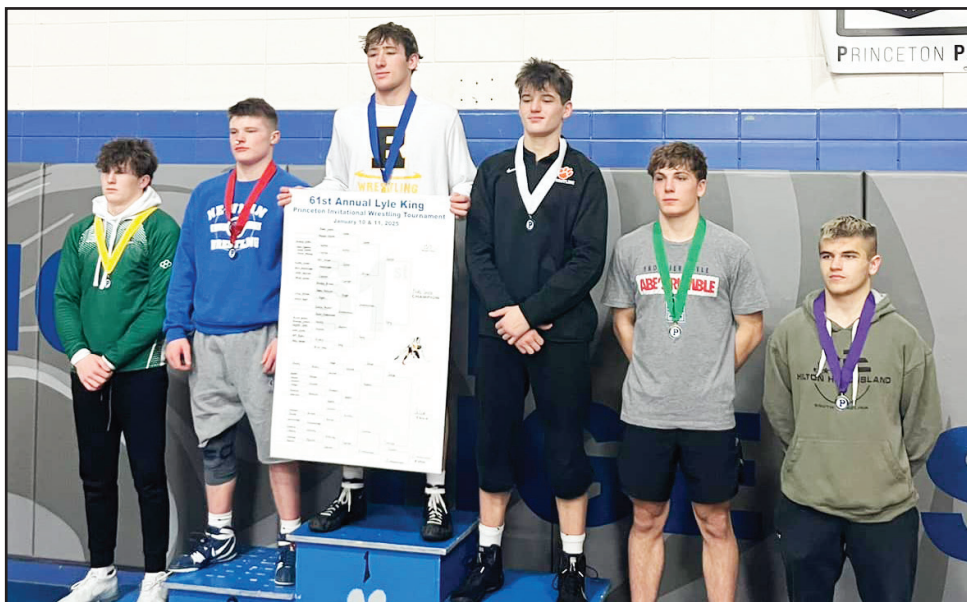
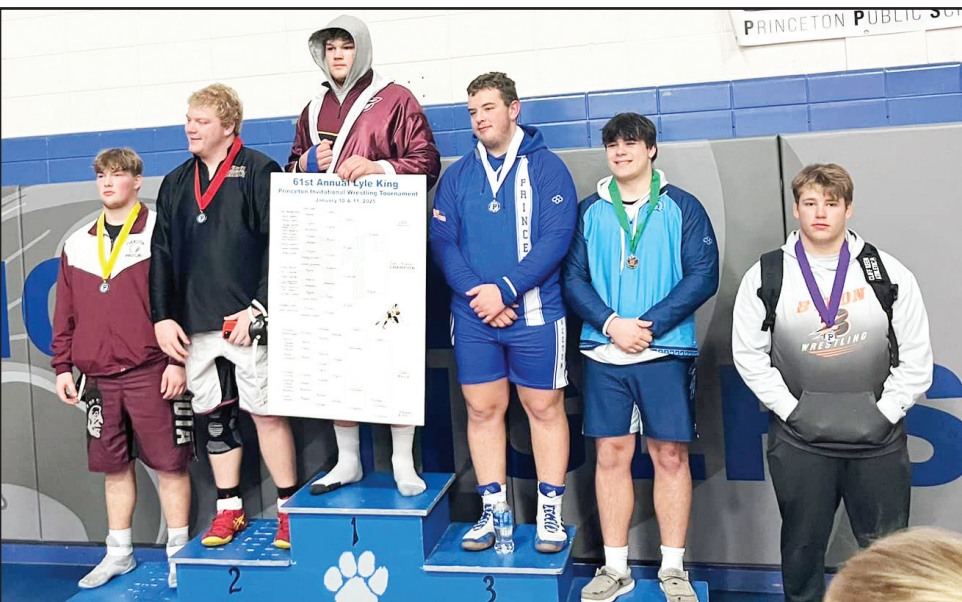


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Byron High School wrestlers medal at 61st Annual Lyle King PIT Invitational at Princeton High School on Jan. 10-11

The Byron High School varsity wrestling team went to Princeton for the 61st Annual Lyle King PIT Invitational from Jan. 10-11. Three Tigers brought home medalist honors in the tournament. Jared Claunch (9-4) placed sixth at 285 pounds and Will Julian (12-1) took third at 157 pounds. Brody Stien (11-3) finished fifth at 165 pounds. Other notable finishers for the Tigers include Isaac Alvarez (11-3), who took seventh at 175 pounds, and Damien Palacios (7-5), who took eighth at 126 pounds. Byron finished 11th out of 34 schools in the tournament. (Courtesy photos)

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NOW \$83,000 Call Jennifer Rybicki

Welcome to this spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath house located in Leaf River. This home offers 2,000 square feet of living space and a fenced yard, perfect for your pets. The main floor has an additional room that could be utilized as a bedroom/extra living area with a door leading to front porch. This home is ready for your creative vision - Don't miss the chance to make it your own. Schedule your showing today!



745 N Ottawa Avenue Dixon NOW \$111,550 Call Carla

Charming 2-Story Home on Spacious Corner Lot! This beautifully updated 3-bedroom, 2-bath home offers both comfort and convenience in a prime location! Situated on a large corner lot, the property features a newer roof, updated LVT flooring, fresh carpet, and vinyl windows, ensuring a modern and low-maintenance living experience. The well-appointed main floor includes a bright and inviting living room, a spacious bedroom, and a large kitchen perfect for family meals and gatherings. Upstairs, you'll find two additional bedrooms and a cozy family room, ideal for relaxation or entertainment. The detached 2-car garage provides ample storage and parking, while the location couldn't be more convenient. You're just minutes away from restaurants, shopping, city parks, and the scenic Rock River. Plus easy access to I-88. Whether you're enjoying time at home or exploring the surrounding area, this home is a perfect blend of functionality and style. Don't miss your chance to make this beautiful home yours!



503 N Walnut Avenue Forreston NOW \$139,000 Call Rebecca

Charming 3-Bedroom Home on a Spacious Double Lot! Listed Below Appraised Value! Discover this delightful 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom home nestled on a large double lot, offering ample space and endless potential. Recently appraised at one hundred and sixty three thousand, this property is a fantastic value with an asking price below appraisal! Home features: An open-concept kitchen flows seamlessly into the dining area and large living room, perfect for entertaining or everyday family living. The master bedroom is conveniently located off the half bathroom, and the main floor laundry room adds practicality to your daily routine. The expansive yard is adorned with a variety of fruit trees, offering both beauty and bounty. The lot's alley access provides additional parking opportunities. An oversized 2-car garage offers plenty of room for vehicles, hobbies, and storage. A newer roof and gutters ensure peace of mind and low maintenance for years to come. Basement is a poured concrete foundation and is ready to be finished! With its fantastic features and unbeatable value, this home won't last long. Schedule your showing today and make this gem yours!

NEW LISTINGS



404 E Mason Street Polo \$118,000 Call Rebecca

Charming Home with Oversized 3-Car Garage! Move-in ready and thoughtfully updated, this delightful 2+ bedroom, 2 bathroom home offers charm, functionality, and endless possibilities. The open floor plan features beautiful new laminate flooring on the main level, creating a seamless flow from the modernized kitchen through the dining area to the inviting living room-perfect for entertaining or relaxing. The main floor also boasts a spacious mudroom to keep life organized and a versatile office that could easily serve as a 3rd bedroom. Upstairs, you'll find two comfortable bedrooms and an updated bathroom featuring a gorgeous tile shower. Updates throughout the kitchen and bathrooms enhance the home's appeal, blending style and convenience. Completing the package is an oversized detached 3-car garage with alley access, providing ample storage and workspace. This move-in-ready gem is waiting for you to call it home! Don't miss the chance to make it yours.



311 W Wayne Street Polo \$146,900 Call Rebecca

Bright and Spacious 3-Bedroom Home on Expansive .57-Acre Lot! Nestled on a generous .57-acre lot in town, this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is a rare find! With loads of windows, the living space is bathed in natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The thoughtful layout includes a family room, perfect for extra living space, and a dedicated laundry room for added convenience. The attached one-car garage is both heated and cooled, making it functional year-round. Both the garage and the patio feature durable and stylish TSR coating, ensuring low maintenance and long-lasting appeal. New roof was installed in the last year. The expansive lot offers plenty of outdoor space to enjoy, whether it's for entertaining, gardening, or simply relaxing. This home combines the convenience of in-town living with the space and amenities you've been searching for. Don't miss your chance to make this beautiful property your new home!



3747 W Ill Route 64 Mt Morris Unit 162 \$43,000 Call Jennifer Goley

Spacious 5 bedroom mobile home in Mount Morris Estates. Plenty of space for family and guests. Bright and airy living areas with plenty of light. Master bath boasts a jacuzzi tub and shower. Don't miss out on this incredible 5-bedroom mobile home in a prime location. It's clean, well-maintained, and ready for you to move in today!

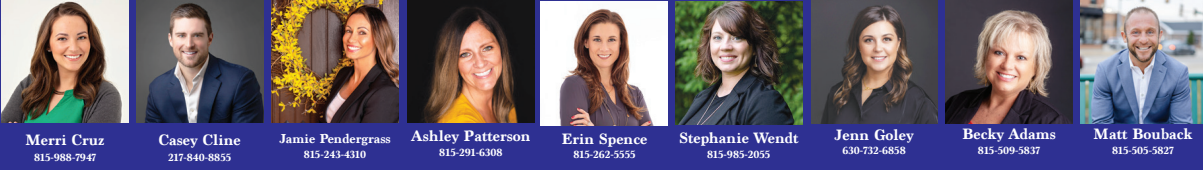


301 Graham Street Unit 301 Dixon \$1,150 Call Jessica

This spacious and well-maintained 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath duplex is now available for rent on a yearly lease. Offering comfortable living with plenty of space, this home features a cozy layout with modern amenities throughout. The duplex includes three spacious bedrooms, providing ample room for your family or guests, and one full bathroom plus an additional half bath for added convenience. The attached one-car garage offers protection from the elements and extra storage, while the covered front patio creates a welcoming entryway to the home. At the back, you'll find a private concrete patio with sliding door access - the perfect space for outdoor dining, relaxation, or enjoying the fresh air. For year-round comfort, the home comes with central air and heat, ensuring you're comfortable no matter the season. Exterior maintenance, including mowing, is included in the rent, so you can enjoy a well-kept yard without the hassle of upkeep. Animals are not preferred, but the landlord is open to negotiation, so please inquire if you have a pet. This quiet and well-maintained neighborhood is close to local amenities and offers easy access to transportation. Don't miss the chance to lease this lovely duplex - contact us today to schedule a showing and make it your new home! AGENT OWNED.



Rebecca Hazard 815-988-8432, Carla Benesh 815-985-6235, Lori Peterson 815-973-2180, JD Gieson 815-677-1873, Boone Lockard 815-970-3596, Carrie Rowland 815-677-8656, Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145, Jen 773-849-3522, Taylor Miller 815-751-4943



Merri Cruz 815-988-7947, Casey Cline 217-840-8855, Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310, Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308, Erin Spence 815-262-5555, Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2055, Jenn Goley 630-732-6858, Becky Adams 815-509-5837, Matt Bouback 815-505-5827, Jessica Lowry 815-315-2617

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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Polo girls basketball team earns win over Ashton-Franklin Center

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team earned a 53-23 win over Ashton-Franklin Center on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Cam Jones finished with 14 points and 12 assists, while Carlee Grobe scored a team-high 17 points. Laynie Mandrell totaled 12 points and three rebounds for the Marcos, who also saw Leah Tobin grab a team-high eight rebounds.

Oregon girls basketball team takes down West Carroll

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team took down West Carroll 52-28 on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Aniyah Sarver led the Hawks with 15 points, while Ella Dannhorn added 10 points and Avery Kitzmiller chipped in eight points.

Polo wrestling team splits meet with Lena-Winslow and Winnebago

The Polo High School varsity wrestling team split a triangular meet with Lena-Winslow and Winnebago on Thursday, Jan. 9. Polo beat Winnebago 44-29 before suffering a 70-8 loss against Lena-Winslow. Match winners against Winnebago were Lucas Nelson (132), Jaidyn McKinney (138), Kaelyn McCarren (150), Liam Setterstrom (157), Micah Stringini (165), Ethan Dewey (175), Shawn Patton (190) and Landyn Burnett (215). Match winners against Lena-Winslow were Lucas Nelson (132) and Kaelyn McCarren (150).

Forreston boys basketball team falls against Pecatonica

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team fell 69-57 against Pecatonica on Thursday, Jan. 9. Kendall Erdmann led the Cardinals with 23 points, while Brendan Greenfield added 13 points and 14 rebounds for a double-double.

Polo girls basketball team rolls over Morrison

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team rolled for a 65-24 win over Morrison on Friday, Jan. 10. Carlee Grobe made eight 3-pointers and scored 27 points with four rebounds, while Cam Jones added a double-double with 16 points, 14 assists and seven steals. Laynie Mandrell totaled nine points and Katelyn Rockwood recorded seven rebounds and five steals.

Ogle County schools grapple at Polo Invitational wrestling tournament

The Oregon High School varsity wrestling team finished first out of 17 schools with 217.5 points during the 2025 Polo Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 11. Polo finished eighth with 89.5 points in the tournament.

Individual champions for Oregon included Josiah Perez (113), Boone Alderks (120) and Nelson Benesh (132). Runner-up finishers included Lucas Nelson (132) for Polo and Briggs Sellers (285), Andrew Young (175) and Jackson Messenger (138) for Oregon.

Oregon boys basketball team wins against Morrison

The Oregon High School varsity boys basketball team won 60-47 against Morrison on Saturday, Jan. 11 to move to 10-8 on the season. Oregon's JV team beat Morrison 60-42. Nole Campos led the Hawks with 17 points, while Cooper Johnson added 15 points and Kade Girton scored nine points for the varsity team.

Forreston boys basketball team tops Milledgeville

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team topped Milledgeville 58-41 on Saturday, Jan. 11. Kendall Erdmann and Connor Politsch each scored 13 points, while Brendan Greenfield added 10 points and Mickey Probst took a school-record four charges in the win. The Cardinals are now 11-7 on the season. Forreston's F/S team won 36-21 to move to 7-5 overall.

Oregon girls basketball team nets win over Dakota

The Oregon High School varsity girls basketball team scored a 45-34 win over Dakota on Monday, Jan. 13. Aniyah Sarver led the Hawks with 16 points, while Ella Dannhorn added nine points and Shaylee Davis totaled six points. Sarah Eckardt chipped in five points.

Polo girls basketball team takes one-point loss from Fulton

The Polo High School varsity girls basketball team fell one point short against Fulton on Tuesday, Jan. 14, conceding a 47-46 loss. Cam Jones finished with 20 points and nine assists, while Avalyn Henry added 11 points, four rebounds and three steals. Katelyn Rockwood totaled seven points and 10 rebounds for the Marcos in the game. Laynie Mandrell had seven points and nine rebounds.

Forreston boys basketball team falls against Fulton

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team fell to Fulton 57-49 on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Kendall Erdmann led the

Cardinals with 19 points, while Connor Politsch added 13 points and Mickey Probst scored nine points.

Oregon bowling teams take on Dixon

The Oregon Boys and Girls bowling teams traveled to Plum Hollow Family Center in Dixon to take on Dixon. The 13-1 Hawks took on the undefeated Dixon Dukes and came up on the short end of a 3938-3605 NIBC decision. Dixon's score represented the highest score ever shot against an Oregon team. Dixon had 3 bowlers over 700 series with Wyatt Miller shooting nearly 800 with a 793 series. Oregon was led by Gavvin Surmo with a 716 series (256,231,229) followed by RJ Keene 651 series, Caleb Ehrler 594 series, Caleb Brooks 557 series, Ethan Smice 549 series and Matthew Stahl 538 series.

On the JV side it was a battle of Conference undefeated teams and Oregon came out on top with a 3016-2957 victory to raise their record to 13-1. The JV was led by Wyatt Dunbar with a 576 series, closely followed by Nolan Page with a 568 series.

The Oregon girls bowled with 5 girls and lost to Dixon 2900-2332 to fall to 4-3 on the season. The Lady Hawks were led by Carli Bailey with a 462 series (160,134,168) followed by Savannah Nagy 397 series, Katlyn Miller 393 series, Ahren Howey 363 and Delilia Anaya 351 series.

Oregon bowling teams host Rockford Christian

The Oregon Boys and Girls bowling teams hosted Rockford Christian at Town & Country Lanes, Mt Morris. The Oregon boys recorded their 2nd highest series of the season with a well balanced 3778-2857 victory. The Hawks were led by Gavvin Surmo with a 707 series (257,194,256) followed by Ethan Smice 658 series, Caleb Ehrler 638 series, Caleb Brooks 608 series, Matthew Stahl 605 series and RJ Keene 562 series.

The JV moved to 14-1 on the season and was led by Aiden Currier with a match high 715 series and Ivan Hernandez with a 637 series.

The Oregon girls moved their record to 5-3 with a season-high 2275-1782 victory. The Lady Hawks were led by Katlyn Miller with a 484 series (189,135,160) followed by Ahren Howey 468 series, Carli Bailey 443 series, Savannah Nagy 393 series and Delilia Anaya 354 series. Miller, Howey and Anaya all recorded season high series scores.

Polo, Forreston programs make noise

LET'S head to the western side of the county to see what's up in winter sports. Two things stand out – Polo co-op wrestler Lucas Nelson and the Forreston boys basketball team.

Nelson was recently recognized for being a 100-match winner, which is a notable achievement. For Nelson, it is even more notable in that he has accomplished this with only one arm.

There have been four wrestlers in Illinois with 200 wins, but all had the use of two arms. I wonder if anyone else with one arm has 100 wins in their career?

Nelson, from Forreston, is also a few pins away from the school record for pins.

"I'm not sure how Lucas does it," Polo wrestling coach Jesse Culbertson said. "When I try to explain a technique (based upon using both arms), he somehow is able to figure it out on his own. Once he gets you down on the mat, it's a problem for you."

It was a treat to watch Nelson wrestle in the championship match at Polo against the son of someone I used to cover 25 years ago. Nelson Benesh, son of Jeremy Benesh, defeated Lucas Nelson to claim the 132-pound title.

Another unexpected treat was seeing an old high school classmate from Rochelle honored for officiating his last meet after 44 years of service. After a couple of knee replacements, Kevin Barringer has decided to step away from the mats after the Polo tournament. He will still continue to work football games with his son Cole, Roy Snyder and Matt Martin.

"Doing wrestling meets has been a great way to give back," said Barringer, who looks forward to watching his grandsons wrestle for Oregon.

In looking over IHSA individual records, the one mark locally that stands out is 182 consecutive wins by Josh Alber of Dakota, a four-time state champ. The next best mark

is 132 straight wins.

Naysayers could claim that Alber benefitted from being in less-competitive 1A. True, but he took on all comers, including the top 132-pounder in the nation in Glenbard North's Jered Cortez, also a four-time champ.

At the elite Dvorak tournament, Cortez took an early 2-0 lead, but Alber rallied for a 5-3 overtime win in front of a jam-packed Harlem gym. Any questions about Alber's validity as one of the all-time bests in Illinois, regardless of class, was answered.

Though it is preferable to have a three-class system in wrestling for fairness and statewide participation, I miss the old days of one class where truly the King-of-the-Hill was crowned.

Looking for its first winning season in six years, the Forreston boys basketball team (11-7) under coach Jake Groom is well on its way to attaining that goal. And, they are a young team with Brendan Greenfield the only senior that regularly plays. The rest of the line-up is filled with freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

As impressive as its wins are, the losses to ranked teams even more so. They were down by double digits in the first half against Eastland and then cut it to four in the second half. Against No. 1 Pecatonica, they trailed by 16 in the early second quarter and made it to a four-point game in the fourth quarter. Mixed in was a narrow 63-57 loss to Le-Win, another team near the top of the conference standings.

The Cardinals came back from a 12-point deficit in the first half and beat a decent Kewanee squad. A bit of a surprise was a 71-37 blitzkrieg over Polo, as Kendall Erdman tallied 32 points and Greenfield adding 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"We emphasize the break and board battle

more than anything else and are showing a lot of grit," Groom said. "When good teams go on runs, we limit their runs and don't let it bother us. Our guys have taken on a next man up and just play mentality. Their level of coachability has been excellent through this stretch and it shows in our ability to run an efficient half court offense and be successful on the defensive end playing multiple defenses and holding teams under 50 a game."

The longer the season progresses, the more team

bonding occurs, creating a culture where players care for one another and rally around each other when injuries occur or other factors. That's an important facet.

Just ask someone like the Chicago Bears, whose dysfunctional culture was a factor in many close defeats. Good coaches insist on discipline and unselfishness from their players.

One final note on the Polo wrestling tournament, which is one of the longest running in Illinois at 61 years:

Besides watching the action, there is something reassuring about being in a gym with coaches, wrestlers and fans that you have known for generations. Additionally, the meet still retains a home-style, but efficient approach to it.

The same faces that have been working it for years and years are always present. You don't get that kind of familiarity at bigger schools.

Losing my spouse five years ago leads to occasional loneliness and though that void will never be filled, it sure is nice to be welcomed with open arms at a wrestling meet in Polo. Indeed, a comforting place to be on a winter day.

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



Andy Colbert

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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. We

hope you'll join us!

Community Room

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

Soft Plastic Recycling

clinging

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

PATRIOT BARBER SHOP

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"Old Fart" Tuesday Special!

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Gabriel Mack
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An Advertising Proverb

When Mark Twain was editing a newspaper in Missouri, one of his subscribers wrote in, saying that he had found a spider in his newspaper and wondered whether it was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did You Know?

When the Oregon Public Library opened in December 1908, all the materials had to be organized in an orderly fashion. Miss Emily Cartwright, Librarian and Miss Elizabeth Burnside engaged in classifying, cataloging and organizing supplies and new books. By May 1909, there were 586 registered borrowers of books.

Preschool Story Time

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

Book Clubs

Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet January 21 at 6pm at the Library to discuss *A Study in Drowning* by Ava Reid. Books on Tap Book Club will meet on January 23 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The House Maid* by Freida McFadden and *Maybe Next Time* by Cesca Major. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, February 12, at 12:30 to discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, February 19, at 1 pm to discuss *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark. Cocktails and Crimewill meet on February 16, so stop by the Library to find out what book, what time and where it will meet.

Ink with A Friend

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Calling All Dog Lovers!

Thursday, Jan. 23, 6–7:00 pm. Join Melodee Hoffman from BONAFIED (bring out natural abilities found in every dog) as she raises awareness about

rescuing, adopting and fostering dogs. During this program, you will learn the steps regarding how and where to adopt a dog of any age and breed, as well as training tips and continuing care after adoption. Baskets with dog essentials will be raffled off during this program. The grand prize giveaway is a free one on one training session for you and your pal with Melodee! Whether you are a new dog owner, or you've spent years with your furry friend, Melodee will share her doggy wisdom to enhance the relationship between you and your canine companion. Please call 815-234-5107 to register.

Did you know

That the Byron Library has a large collection of LPs available to check out? Vinyl records have grown in popularity again, and the library has a wide selection of records to choose from. If you don't have a player at home to listen to them on, don't worry! The Byron Library also has a portable turntable available for checkout in our "Library of Things"!

Creative Studio

Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for

Monthly Card Club

Monday, January 20th 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

Craft Swap

Saturday, January 25th from 10am-3pm. What is a craft swap? "It's when you gather up all the craft supplies, materials, tools, and accessories that have been hanging out in your craft room collecting dust for a while and give them away to someone who will actually use them. You know that phrase "one person's trash is another's treasure?" That definitely applies to crafting. You may have been hanging onto the same scrapbook paper and ribbons for three years, but someone might be able to use it. So, collect your items, bring them to the Library January 23, after 5 pm or anytime Friday, January 24. Then, come back and "shop" the swap on Saturday from 10am-3pm. If you'd like any items back after the swap that were not taken, please label with your name and phone number.

Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau

Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm. Join comedian, actress, and producer Michelle Buteau in conversation with Greta Johnsen. Michelle is the creator/writer/star of the Netflix series *Survival of the Thickest*, inspired by her autobiographical book of essays of the same name. She is also the host of two popular reality competition shows - *The Circle* and *Barbecue Showdown*, and hosts the popular podcast, *Adulting*. In 2024, she starred in *Babes* alongside fellow comedian/actress Ilana Glazer. Born in New Jersey to Caribbean parents, Michelle brings her unique perspective and big personality to stage and screen. Her one-hour comedy special, *Welcome to Buteaupia*, won the Critics Choice Award for Best Comedy Special. Her new special, *A Buteau-ful Mind*, drops on Netflix December 31. Greta Johnsen is an interviewer, podcast host, and book person. She is loved as co-host of HBO's *Official Game of Thrones* Podcast and hosted WBEZ's *Nerdette* podcast for eleven years. She can also be heard on podcasts like *Pop Culture Happy Hour* and *City Cast*. Greta Johnsen is an interviewer, podcast host, and book person.

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Register at: bit.ly/ILP_MichelleButeau 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. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, February 4 at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Alcohol Splattered Ink Heart Tiles. All you need is love and alcohol ink! This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Functional Fitness

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

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

Knit & Crochet

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

New Photo Printer at the library!

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

Community Seed Library

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

Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am.

The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

Passport Services

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

Find A Character Ticket!

What is a Character Ticket? A character Ticket represents an image of a character from that specific book. Character Tickets will be hidden in various books in the children/youth book collection. After you check out a book and find a character ticket in the book, you may adopt that character doll and take it home. Open to Oregon Public Library cardholders only.

OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story- *The Snow Thief* by Alice Hemming. At the StoryWalk is *Arctic Song* by Miriam Moss.

Over 20 teens participated in an All-Day D&D Extravaganza at the Byron Public Library! They journeyed through The Hidden Shrine of Tamoachan and while not all survived, they all had fun! Many thanks to the five Dungeon Masters who volunteered their time.

checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters

at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Over 20 teens participated in an All-Day D&D Extravaganza at the Byron Public Library! They journeyed through *The Hidden Shrine of Tamoachan* and while not all survived, they all had fun! Many thanks to the five Dungeon Masters who volunteered their time.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Adult crafters join Joanna, at Julia Hull District Library, to create a winter scene on wood canvas using a variety of artistic techniques and mediums.

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.

European Travel 2025 Updates

Thinking about planning a European vacation this year? The rules for European travel are about to change. Join frequent fliers, Joanna and Wayne, as they share the scoop on Europe's new ETIAS

program requiring US travelers to obtain travel visas. Plus, we'll cover other important EU travel news and trends for 2025. Monday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Community Blood Drive

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Milton and Helene, the American Red Cross is facing an urgent blood shortage. We're stepping up to help by hosting a blood drive. Be a hero in our community—donate

blood and make a difference for those in need! Your contribution can save lives. Friday, Jan. 31 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Register by calling the library at 815-645-8611 or online at <http://www.redcross-blood.org/>.

Tween Scene: Lunar New Year Celebration

Come celebrate the Year of the Snake! We'll learn about Chinese New Year through snacks, games and crafts. Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m. Ages 10-13. Registration required:

815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Jumbo Blocks

Indulge your little one's curiosity with a hands-on event just for them. Join us for some imaginative play with oversized jumbo blocks? Friday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Costume Character Storytime: Duck!

It's Monday and school's out for the day! Join us for storytime and craft featuring the popular

books from the "Click Clack" ... series by Doreen Cronin. We'll read books, sing songs and have a great time. Duck will join us for fun and photos. Monday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Introduction to Ancestry & Genealogy Basics

Are you a newbie to genealogy research? This class is intended for you. Join us for a very basic introduction to family history and using Ancestry Library Edition. Tuesday,

Feb. 25, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Trivia Night at the Library Fundraiser

Gather a team and join us at your favorite library in the Valley to help Friends of the Library raise funds to support library programs and services. Teams of 4-6 players for variety trivia rounds. Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. \$10/player. Advanced registration is required. Call the library for more details and to register: 815-645-8611.

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 a.m. A recording of each Sunday's worship service is available on our Facebook page and our website later in the day. Communion is served every Sunday. Sunday School for ages 3 through Adult is held at 10:00 am September through May. Confirmation studies for 7th and 8th grade students are held each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Monday afternoon Bible Study is held at 1:30 pm via Zoom. In person Bible Studies are held Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm and Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm. Book Club and The GATHERING meet monthly; quilters meet twice monthly. Visit our website <http://www.AllSaintsByron.org> or call the church office for further information.

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

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

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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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: chanoumc@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
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

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815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org
www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia Paddock

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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.
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308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehrlinger
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Encounter Youth Ministry for kids in 7th-12th grade meets on Sunday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for scheduled dates and times.
For complete ministry info and events, visit us online at Riverstonecc.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch

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Website: stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255
poloatcrossroadsccn.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.

Visit our website: www.crossroadsccn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Card Game Day
Monday, January 20th, 2:00PM: We've got some new (to us) card games for you, and we'd love to have you join us for a fun school-free afternoon of Piles, Uno Flip, Spot It, and Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza.

Brand New Program
Spice of the Month! Each month we will showcase a spice. Some may be common spices and others may be lesser known. A fact

sheet, recipes, and a sample of the spice will be included. January's spice is black pepper and kits are available at the circulation desk.

Stories With Stacey
T h u r s d a y s a t 10:00AM: We hope you had fun this fall at Stories With Stacey. We took a few weeks off and now look forward to seeing you beginning January 9th!

January Book of the Month

In Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman, Eleanor Oliphant is a socially awkward person who avoids contact with other people as much as possible and speaks what is on her mind. When she meets Raymond and together they help Sammy, she comes to realize that she doesn't have to be isolated from other people. A heartwarming story of rescue from isolation. Stop by the circulation desk

to pick up a copy today.

January Take & Make Craft
Kick off the new year by picking up a craft to work on at home. There is a variety to choose from this month.

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

Card Making

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

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

NEW RELEASES Adult Books

The Book Of George by Kate Greathead
Calling the Matchmaker by Jody Hedlund
Where the Creek Bends by Linda Lael Miller
Chapter Book
Violet & Jobie In the Wild by Lynne Rae Perkins
Picture Book
The Duck Never Blinks by Alex Latimer
DVD
22: The Unforgotten Soldier

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 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.
BITE - SIZE D WORLD TOUR on Jan. 20
10:00—11:00 a.m.
Activities with Mary on Tues., January 21
Laughter Yoga: 1:00—1:45. Drumming: 1:45—2:30. Advanced Regis-

tration requested.
FALL PREVENTION & BALANCE By Cora Health
January 22—10:00—11:00 a.m. Registration Requested by January 20.
SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER
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 locations 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.

Place—January—Time.
Byron - Jarrett Prairie Center Jan 13 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Forreston - Library Jan 8 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Mt. Morris Senior Center Jan 9 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Polos Senior Center Jan 23 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Rochelle - Hub City Senior Ctr. Jan 2 & 16 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

OREGON POLICE REPORT

Dec. 2
At 1:24 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Megan C. Moorehead, age 31, Oregon, for criminal trespassing to property. Moorehead was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and issued a notice to appear.

Dec. 3
At 2:41 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Robert M. Disch, age 53, Oregon, for criminal trespass to property and on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Disch was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the Corrections Officers custody.

Dec. 5
At 5:36 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Timothy P. Valdivia, Jr., age 32, Oregon, for violation of orders of protection. Valdivia was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the Corrections Officers custody.

At 9:17 p.m., Oregon Police issued Caleb M. Ward, age 17, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred at the intersection of Webster and 10th Streets.

At 10:23 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Danny E. Roos, age 68, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Roos was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the Corrections Officers.

Dec. 8
At 2:06 p.m., Oregon Police issued Alondria Barraza, age 20, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 58mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of N. 4th Street.

At 5:14 p.m., Oregon Police issued Mason A. Mattox, age 37, Byron, a citation for speeding, 46mph in a 30mph zone. This violation occurred in the 100 block of S. 5th Street involving a 2010 Ford driven by Leslie Greer, age 71, of Springfield, IL, and a parked 2023 Audi belonging to Enterprise Rent a Car, Dixon, IL. No citations

were issued.

At 2:34 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Sebastian P. Tinnes, age 29, Oregon, for driving while license suspended. Tinnes was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 400 block of W. Washington Street.

At 8:42 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Richard L. Gallagher, age 40, Oregon, for violation of orders of protection. Gallagher was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the Corrections Officers custody.

Dec. 12
At 3:15 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Terry K. Scott, age 59, Forreston, for driving while license revoked. Scott was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 100 block of S. 4th Street.

Dec. 13
At 6:19 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a domestic call in the 100 block

of Depot Street resulting in the arrest of Martha Rae Dunham, age 36, Oregon, for domestic battery, and aggravated battery. Dunham was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the Corrections Officers custody.

At 3:25 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 200 block of S. 4th Street involving a 2003 Chevrolet driven by Elizabeth J. Speers, age 16, Oregon, and a parked 2023 GMC belonging to Jeanette M. Bennett, age 56, Mt. Morris. No citations were issued.

Dec. 30
At 9:59 a.m., Oregon Police issued Maureen E. Nicolls, 48, Stillman Valley, a citation for speeding, 51 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:10 p.m., Oregon Police issued Kaylee S. Vigil, 32, of Denver, Colorado, a citation for failure to stop at a stop sign. This violation occurred at the 10th and Webster Streets.

Dec. 31

At 12:40 p.m., Oregon Police were notified of a hit and run that had occurred in the 300 block of Gale Street on the prior evening, Aug. 28, 2024, between the hours of 5:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. where a parked 2012 GMC owned by Daniel H. Head, 74, Oregon, was struck by an unknown vehicle. If anyone has any information, please contact the Oregon Police Department at 815-732-2162.

Jan. 1
At 9:50 a.m., Oregon Police responded to suspicious activity at 215 W. Washington Street resulting in the arrest of Robert D. VanDyke, 43, Oregon, for criminal damage to property and criminal trespass to property. Also arrested was Megan C. Moorehead, 31, Oregon, for criminal trespass to property. Both VanDyke and Moorehead were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were processed and released with a notice to appear.

Jan. 4
At 7 p.m., Oregon

Police issued Ashton K. Rutherford, 28, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred at the intersection of East Washington Street and North Hastings Avenue.

Jan. 5
At 7:50 a.m., Oregon Police issued Fausto Nunez-Cardenas, 58, Mt. Morris, citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 100 block of North River Road.

At 11:05 p.m., Oregon Police issued Sheri L. Possehl, 57, Mt. Morris, a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South 9th Street.

Three parking citations and seven verbal warnings were issued during Dec. 30-Jan. 5.

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

MT. MORRIS POLICE REPORT

On November 25, 2024, at approximately 7:15 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of E Lincoln St. The driver, Clinton D. Cleveland, 53, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with No Valid Driver's License. Cleveland was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On November 25, 2024, at approximately 11:00 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of E Hitt St. The driver, Bryan A. Holder, 60, Mt. Morris,

was issued a citation for Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Holder was released on scene.

On November 26, 2024, at approximately 10:30 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of E IL Rt 64. The driver, Timothy D. Rosquist, 63, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Rosquist was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On November 30, 2024, at approximately 12:20 AM, Mt. Morris

Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of S Ogle Av. The driver, Arturo Carreno Flores, 28, Mt. Morris was arrested for No Valid Driver's License. Carreno Flores was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On November 30, 2024, at approximately 7:20 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of E Hitt St. The driver, Kaimen Williams, 23, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for Operating a Motor Vehicle with Suspended Registration.

Williams was released on scene.

On November 30, 2024, at approximately 9:05 PM, Mt. Morris Police located a wanted subject in the 100 block of S Wesley Av. Armando Sotelo, 43, Mt. Morris, was arrested on an two Ogle County warrants for Failure to Appear and Contempt of Court. Sotelo was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On November 30, 2024, at approximately 10:35 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of S Mckendrie Av. The driver, Luis Perez Meyo,

24, Milwaukee, WI, was arrested and cited for No Valid Driver's License, Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and Operating a Vehicle with Suspended Registration. Perez Meyo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear.

On December 4, 2024, at approximately 11:50 PM, Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of E Center St. The passenger in the vehicle, Katie Jo Hintzsche, 37, Oregon, was arrested and charged with Unlawful Possession

of a Controlled Substance, and she was cited for Illegal Transportation of Alcohol. Hintzsche was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was given a notice to appear.

On December 9, 2024, at approximately 12:50 PM, the Mt. Morris Police Department responded to a 911 hang up call in the 100 block of S. Wesley Av. After an investigation, Andrew D. Rutherford, 30, was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Rutherford was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Jan. 10 at 1:04 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Steward Road for improper lane usage. After an investigation, Madeline Mills, 27, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was arrested for driving while her license was suspended. Mills was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 10 at 9:53 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 eastbound at mile marker 79 for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Johnny Henderson, 52, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was arrested for driving while his license was suspended.

Henderson was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 11 at approximately 5:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of West Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Ariel J. Mendoza, 37, of West Chicago for driving while license suspended. Additionally, Mendoza was cited for speeding. Mendoza was issued a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 11 at approximately 11:40 a.m. deputies responded to the intersection of North Freeport Road and West US Route 52 for a two-vehicle collision

involving injuries. After an investigation, it was learned that a gray Honda SUV, driven by Thomas G. Wood, 69, of Bettendorf, Iowa, was driving northbound on North Freeport Road when he disregarded the stop sign and was struck by a westbound on West US Route 52 blue Jeep SUV, driven by Chasity L. Carroll, 23, of Dixon. Wood was cited for disregarding an official traffic control device. Wood was released on a notice to appear and provided a future court date.

Carroll and her passenger, Michael V. Baker, 40, of Dixon, were transported to an area hospital and treated for non-life-threatening

injuries. Polo and Mount Morris Fire/EMS assisted deputies at the scene.

On Jan. 12 at approximately 11:39 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,700 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Latrina M. Hoskins, 35, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Hoskins was further issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Hoskins was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Jan. 13 at approximately 11:45 a.m. deputies

conducted a traffic stop in the McDonalds parking lot in the City of Oregon.

After investigation, deputies placed Tanya Vega, 46, of Rochelle under arrest for driving while license suspended. Tanya Vega was additionally issued citations for expired registration, suspended registration, and operating an uninsured vehicle. Tanya Vega was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date. The passenger, Felix Vega, 54, of Rochelle was also arrested for a valid Ogle County failure to appear traffic warrant. Felix Vega was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he

was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 13 at approximately 1:55 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Benjamin Hernandez Klitzka, 32, of Iowa City, Iowa under arrest for aggravated driving while license revoked (class-three felony) and driving while license revoked. Hernandez Klitzka was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Dec. 26, Deputies with the assistance of Mt. Morris and Byron Police Departments responded to the 5000 block of West Pond Road, in rural Leaf River for a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Allissa Diddens, 23, of Leaf River, was arrested for domestic battery. Diddens was transported to the Ogle County Jail and lodged waiting on a court appearance.

On Dec. 26 at approximately 2:50 p.m. deputies were dispatched to a three-vehicle accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 64. After investigation, deputies learned that a white Volvo truck tractor-trailer was traveling eastbound on Illinois Route 64 when it failed to stop at the four-way stop intersection and traveled through it at a high rate of speed. The Volvo was driven by Robertas Nenadovic-Jasinskis, 33, of Clearwater, Florida. The Volvo then struck a blue Nissan Altima on the passenger side, which was traveling northbound on Illinois Route 251 after stopping at the four-way stop intersection. The Nissan was driven by Marisol Valdez-Romero, 25, of Davis Junction. The Nissan then spun around and struck the front of a grey Freightliner box truck, driven by Jose Lopez, 41, of Joliet. The Volvo sustained disabling front-end damage, the Nissan sustained heavy damage, and the Freightliner sustained minimal front-end damage. Nenadovic-Jasinskis was issued a citation for disobeying a stop sign and Valdez-Romero was placed under arrest for no valid license. Valdez-Romero was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date. No injuries were reported and Rochelle Fire/EMS assisted with the accident.

On Dec. 26 at approximately 5:17 p.m. deputies responded to the area of East Illinois Route 64 and South White Rock Road for a check welfare. After a brief investigation, Cady E. Holland, 33, of Rochelle, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and unlawful use of a weapon. Holland was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear pending a future court date.

On Dec. 26 at 2:31 p.m. deputies checked a vehicle parked in the roadway at Hemstock Road and Skare Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Matthew Norris, 27, of Rochelle, for possession of cannabis outside of an approved container and intent to deliver cannabis 10-30 grams. Norris was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. Norris was also issued a citation for unlawful parking.

On Dec. 26 at 6:01 p.m. deputies with the assistance of Rochelle Police Department and Illinois State Police responded to the 400 block of Linda Avenue, Rochelle for a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Brittany Kallas for possession of a firearm without a FOID and possession of ammunition without a FOID.

Kallas was released with a notice to appear.

On Dec. 27 at approximately 9:17 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After further investigation, deputies arrested William Ratliff, 53, of Peoria, for driving while license suspended. Ratliff was additionally cited for speeding 15-20 miles per hour above the speed limit. Ratliff was given a notice to appear with a return court date for driving while license suspended and released on scene.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 1:46 a.m. deputies responded to the 8,300 block of North Illinois Route 2 for the report of a one-vehicle crash with injuries. Upon further investigation, it was learned that a red Nissan Rogue, driven by Alexis J. Sabadash, 28, of Pecatonica, ran off the roadway and struck a tree. Sabadash was transported to an area hospital for her injuries. Sabadash was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and cited for failure to reduce speed, improper lane usage, transporting an open alcohol container, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Sabadash was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Byron Police and Byron Fire/EMS assisted deputies at the scene.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 6:43 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of East Illinois Route 38 and County Line Road. After further investigation, deputies placed Ronald O. Newby, 62, of Sycamore, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Newby was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he subsequently charged with aggravated driving while license Revoked. Newby was released on a notice to appear at a future court date.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 11:11 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Montague Road into Winnebago County. After further investigation Jonathan Lang, 34, of Stillman Valley, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Lang was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 10:21 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Milledgeville Road into Carroll County. After further investigation Elyse Drowns, 41, of Polo, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Lee County warrant. Drowns was transferred into the custody of the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 3:02 p.m. deputies responded to the 800 block of North River Road for the report of a one vehicle crash with injuries. Upon further investigation, it was learned that a black Chevy Silverado, driven by Jon W. Duncan, 52, of Rockford, ran off the roadway. Duncan and the front seat passenger, Curtis W. Palmer, 43, of Leaf River, were transported to an area hospital for their injuries. Duncan was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and cited for improper lane usage, transporting an open alcohol container, expired and suspended

registration, and a seatbelt violation. Duncan was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. Oregon Police and Oregon Fire/EMS assisted deputies at the scene.

On Dec. 28 at 2:45 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,500 block of East Illinois Route 72. As a result, deputies arrested Carrie A Cowley, 32, of Oregon for driving while license suspended. Cowley was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with expired registration. Cowley was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 1 at approximately 12:18 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 7,000 block of Honeysuckle Lane, Rochelle, for a multi-vehicle crash. Upon investigation, it was learned that a brown Ford F150, operated by Diego Fisher-Rodriguez, 24, of Rochelle, struck several parked vehicles and mailboxes. Fisher-Rodriguez was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Fisher-Rodriguez was also cited for reckless driving. Fisher-Rodriguez was treated at an area hospital for minor injuries before being transported to the Ogle County Jail, awaiting an appearance before a judge.

On Jan. 3 at approximately 3:09 a.m. deputies responded to the 14,000 block of West Illinois Route 64 in response to a single-vehicle rollover accident with injuries. After an investigation, it was learned that a gray Mercury SUV, driven by Larry D. Parsons II, was driving eastbound when he left the roadway, entering the north ditch. Parsons was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Parsons was also cited for improper traffic lane usage and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Parsons was released on a notice to appear and provided a future court date. Parsons was transported to an area hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Polo and Mount Morris Fire/EMS assisted deputies at the scene.

On Jan. 3 at approximately 7:56 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 72 and Limestone Road. After an investigation, deputies cited Deonrda Harvey, 37, of Rockford, for driving while their license was suspended and expired registration. Harvey was released on a notice to appear at the scene and was given a future court date.

On Jan. 3 at approximately 10:14 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of 3rd Street and Franklin Street in Oregon. After further investigation, deputies placed Isaiah A. Loyd, 22 of Dixon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Loyd was also cited for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Loyd was released on scene with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 3 at 2:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Dutch Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Ethan Desforges, 22, of Rockford, for an active Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Desforges was transported to the Ogle

County Jail and held pending an appearance before a judge. Desforges was additionally issued citations for speeding, expired registration, and suspended registration.

On Jan. 3 at 6:11 p.m. deputies assisted by Rochelle Police Department conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 38 and Main Street, Creston. After a brief investigation, Carlos De Los Reyes, was arrested for driving while license suspended and an active Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. De Los Reyes was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 3 at approximately 12:24 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Interstate 39 and Illinois Route 38. After an investigation, deputies arrested Juan Cortes-Meza, 50, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for driving without a valid license and no insurance. Cortes-Meza was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was booked in and released on a notice to appear for his citations and given a future court date.

On Jan. 3 at approximately 4:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Webster Street in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Jesse T. Johnson, 37, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Johnson was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 10:27 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of East Flagg Road. After investigation, deputies placed Jennifer Messenger, 34, of Joliet under arrest for driving while license suspended. Messenger was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Messenger was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 5:47 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of South Freeport Road. After further investigation Sarah Clark, 35, of Sterling, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Lee County warrant. Clark was transferred to the custody of the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

On Jan. 4 at 6:32 p.m. deputies conducted a warrant service in the 400 block of West North Street, Polo. Jeffrey Bardell, 26, of Polo, was arrested for an active Ogle County warrant for driving under the influence. Bardell was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 9:34 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 7,000 block of South Snapdragon Lane in reference to a check welfare. During the investigation Karen Terranella, 65, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for aggravated battery to a peace officer. Terranella was released on a notice to appear bond. Deputies were assisted by Rochelle EMS.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 2:50 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Holcomb Road. After

investigation, deputies placed Duane A. Jacobson Jr., 53, of Davis Junction, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Jacobson was also cited for operating a vehicle with expired registration. Jacobson was given a notice to appear at a future court date and released on scene.

On Jan. 5 at approximately 12:33 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After further investigation James Rodriguez, 54, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for aggravated driving while license revoked. Rodriguez was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration. Rodriguez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear bond.

On Jan. 5 at approximately 9:07 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of Town Hall Road and West Grove Road in reference to a single-vehicle crash. After further investigation Daniel Wean, 49, of Oregon, was taken into custody for driving under the influence of alcohol, disobeying a stop sign, and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Wean was transported to OSF Saint Katherine Hospital by Leaf River EMS. Wean was released on a notice to appear.

On Jan. 6 at 2:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of 100 South Union Street, Byron. After a brief investigation, the driver, Erik Gugliemi, 40, of Byron, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Gugliemi was released on a notice to appear court date.

On Jan. 6 at 6:14 p.m. deputies conducted a motorist assist in the area of 10,000 East Flagg Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested the driver, Gerson Reyes-Morales, 23, of Minneapolis, for driving unlicensed. Reyes-Morales was also cited for suspended registration and was released on a notice to appear court date.

On Jan. 6 at approximately 6:24 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of West Illinois Route 64 outside of Polo. After making contact with the driver, Jered T. Vautsmeier, 21, of Pecatonica, he fled the traffic stop and a pursuit took place. The vehicle fled from deputies at a high rate of speed until the pursuit was terminated for safety concerns. The vehicle was located a short time later in Leaf River and again fled from deputies. The pursuit was again terminated a short time after it entered Winnebago County. Pecatonica Police Department later located the vehicle and Vautsmeier was taken into custody. Deputies met with Pecatonica Police Department and took custody of Vautsmeier who was placed under arrest for aggravated fleeing to elude, obstructing identification and obstructing justice. Vautsmeier was also cited for speeding 125 in a 55 miles per hour zone, fleeing attempting to elude an officer, improper lane usage, disregarding a traffic control device, driving on a suspended driver's license, improper display of registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Vautsmeier

and transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing. Vautsmeier was released on a notice to appear and provided a future court date. Deputies were assisted by Pecatonica Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, and the Illinois State Police.

On Jan. 6 at approximately 8:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Leaf River Road and West Illinois Route 64 in rural Mt. Morris. After a brief investigation, the driver, Eliezer Jose Valero-Silva, 27, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Valero-Silva was also issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Valero-Silva was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a return court date. Additionally, deputies arrested passenger, Noe Pinedo-Vazquez, 43, of Rockford, for an outstanding Rockford PD warrant. Pinedo-Vazquez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held pending a court appearance.

On Jan. 6 at approximately 10:10 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Illinois Route 251 and Mowers Road. After a brief investigation, Bahati Ufunuo, 26, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Bahati was additionally cited for no front registration. Bahati was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 7 at 2:11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of 5,000 North German Church Road. After a brief investigation, the driver, Douglas Keeling, 49, of Loves Park, was arrested for driving while license revoked. Keeling was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear. Keeling was also cited for no splash guards.

On Jan. 9 at approximately 11:36 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Tyrone Long, 47, of Dixon under arrest for driving while license suspended. Long was further issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Long was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date. The passenger in the vehicle, Nayiesha Edwards, 25, of Rochelle, was also placed under arrest for an active Lee County contempt of court warrant. Edwards was transported to the Ogle County jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 9 at approximately 3:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Edson Road. After investigation, deputies placed Cartez Tate, 24, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license revoked. Tate was further issued a citation for speeding 21-25 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Tate was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was later released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

LOCAL NEWS

Arellano sworn in as senator of Illinois' 37th District

SPRINGFIELD — Newly-elected State Senator Liandro "Li" Arellano Jr. (R-Dixon) took the oath of office on Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the newly-remodeled Illinois State Capitol Senate Chambers in Springfield. He now represents the 37th District, which comprises all or parts of Bureau, DeKalb, Henry, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Whiteside, and Woodford counties. "I am looking forward to lacing up my boots and rolling up my sleeves to get to work in Springfield and bring meaningful change to our state's residents," Arellano said. "As a former small business owner and past Mayor of Dixon, I learned invaluable skills that will be beneficial in my role as senator."

Following news that the former Dixon comptroller embezzled \$53 million of taxpayer dollars, Arellano ran for mayor hoping to clean-up city government, eventually serving two terms (2015-2023) as

Dixon mayor. During his time in office, he gained extensive experience in economic development, infrastructure investment, and long-term fiscal planning. "Every day, I saw the effects of our state's high taxes, burdensome regulations, and fiscal mismanagement," Arellano said. "I came to Springfield as a voice for my constituents, a veteran of our country, and most importantly, a dad fighting for my children's future."

Before entering public office, Senator Li opened his first restaurant at age 26, operating a local franchise and learning the intricacies of business management, development, and entrepreneurship. He attended the University of Michigan before joining the U.S. Army, where he has served in three combat deployments. He currently serves in the Army Reserves as a squad leader for the 317th Engineer Construction Company in Homewood,



Newly-elected State Senator Liandro "Li" Arellano Jr. (R-Dixon) took the oath of office on Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the newly-remodeled Illinois State Capitol Senate Chambers in Springfield.

Illinois. Arellano is married to his high school sweetheart, Jamie. Together, they have five children, ranging in age from 14 years to just three months old. To contact Arellano's office, visit www.senatorli.com for more information.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Pickle holders

5 Klutz

8 Pre-weekend yell

12 Layered cookie

13 School org.

14 Nozzle site

15 Complaint

16 Mahal pre-ceder

17 Memory method

18 Jungle trek

20 Apple product

22 "Lunch break is over!"

26 Sports bar fixture

29 "Mangia!"

30 Avril follower

31 Marsh plant

32 "Blue Bloods" airer

33 Nov. honorees

34 401(k) alternative

35 Notable time

36 Trig terms

37 Consecutive

40 Puerto —

41 Small apes

45 Help a hood

47 Fanatic

49 Aswan's river

50 Roster

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51 Compass dir.

52 Radiate

53 — -bitty

54 Carried out

55 Lushes

DOWN

1 Want-ad listings

2 Region

3 Coral formation

4 Sleeper

5 Eye-related

6 One-time link

7 Tex-Mex wraps

8 Toss

9 Favorable sign

10 Follower (Suff.)

11 Service charge

19 Squealer

21 Soup cooker

23 Skewered entree

24 Assess

25 Smooch

26 Chicago paper, briefly

27 Actress Farmiga

28 "American Idol" host Ryan

32 Sang softly

33 Minnesota footballers

35 Catchall abbr.

36 Learning ctr.

38 Poker pot

39 Played a part

42 Actor O'Shea

43 Conspiracy

44 Stitches

45 Boxing legend

46 Morsel

48 Numerical prefix

MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS THAT PILE UP

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: DIRTY — IN THE SINK

Bills

Books

Closets

Debt

Honeydew list

Laundry

Leaves

Magazines

Newspapers

Projects

Recycling

Snow

To-do list

Toys

Trash

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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. Desk leg is missing. 2. Book is missing. 3. Doorknob is higher. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Bow is missing. 6. Pencil is added on desk.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer

King Crossword

Across: 1. LAUNDRY

Down: 1. SINK

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Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS,
CIRCUIT COURT,
OGLE COUNTY
Request of Michael Jan Schmerse
Case No. 2024MR40
Filed December 12, 2024
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Michael Jan Schmerse to the new name of Michael Jon Thomas. The court date will be held on February 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, in Courtroom #304.
No. 0107
(Jan. 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 17, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:
Shortmeadow Bugs and Bones
12795 N Kennedy Hill Rd
Byron, IL 61010
Dated December 17, 2024
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0108
(Jan. 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
K & P Self Storage
1563 Kysor Dr.
Byron, IL 61010
Pursuant to the Landlord's Lien Provision, in paragraph #11 in the rental agreement between KCH Enterprises DBA K & P Self Storage, Landlord, and Denise Hamilton - unit #57. These items will be held in possession for ten (10) days, at which time they will be disposed of unless tenant pays the landlord in full, in accordance with the Self Storage Facilities Act. Must be paid in full by January 23.
No. 0110
(Jan. 13 and 20, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 8, 2025 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:
RJ's Pantry
475 S Rocky Hollow Rd
Oregon, IL 61061
Dated: January 8, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0114
(Jan. 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sealed bids will be received by the Ogle County Highway Department, Oregon, IL, until 2:00 P.M., February 7, 2025, for the following sections:
1. 25-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Spread 2025 Township MFT Aggregate
2. 25-XX000-00-GM Furnish and Apply 2025 Township MFT Calcium Chloride
3. 25-XX000-00-GM Furnish and deliver 2025 Township MFT Pipe Supply
4. 2025 County Pipe
5. 2025 County Aggregate
Proposals are available at the Ogle County Highway Department, 1989 South IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Monday - Friday. The Road and Bridge Committee reserves the right to accept or reject and or all bids.

No. 0115
(Jan. 20 and 27, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ogle County Housing Authority has developed paperwork related to its Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan "Process" and Five-year Capital Fund Program budgets for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 in compliance with current HUD regulations. They are available for review at the Authority's Office located at 1001 Pines Road, Suite A, Oregon, IL. The office is open Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM. A public hearing will be held on March 12, 2025 at the Authority's office at 12:00 PM.
No. 0116
(RNL: Jan. 19 and 26, 2025
OCL: Jan. 20 and 27, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

Class-A CDL Drivers Wanted

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

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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



103 AUCTIONS

Ogle & Carroll County, IL
FARMLAND AUCTION
Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 at 10:30 A.M
Sale online and onsite at: **Mill Wheel**
337 N Main Ave
Milledgeville, IL 61051

388.48 Surveyed Acres Selling in 4 parcels- NO COMBINATIONS
OPEN TENANCY FOR 2025
Section 22 Brookville Township, Ogle County, IL
Parcel A 25.971 Surveyed Acres
Parcel B 155.372 Surveyed Acres
Section 33 Lima Township, Carroll County, IL
Parcel C 131.089 Surveyed Acres
Parcel D 76.048 Surveyed Acres

For complete listing of survey, sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.jennybrysonauctioneer.com
Online Bidding through www.Equipmentfacts.com
Must register 2 days prior to land auction.

For Information Contact:
Lenny Bryson - Auctioneer
Ph) 815-946-4120

Owner, Carol Martz Estate
Jeff & Jerry Martz, Co-Executors

Attorney, Robert Eden
Ph) 815- 235-9749

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District #226 Job Openings

Apply:

Go to www.byron226.org

Click on the **MENU** button

On the left under the About Us tab

Click on Employment Opportunities

Positions

- HS Lunchroom Supervisor - 2.5 hours per day
- Full-time 2nd Shift Custodian
- Full-time Maintenance Worker

01132025

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

University of Illinois Extension is seeking an individual to provide educational leadership for program delivery in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties. Master's degree is required. Full-time, benefits eligible. Deadline: 6 PM Feb. 5. For more information call 815-732-2191. EEO Employer.



Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

ROCHELLE News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle. No phone calls please.

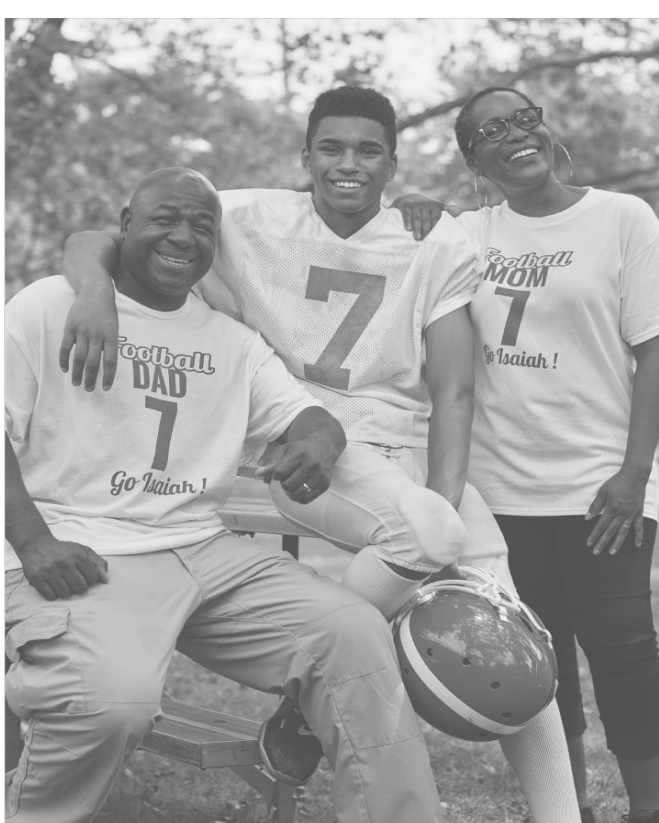
03262023

AdoptUSKids



His first football season, Isaiah told us, 'Wear a jersey with my name on it. I want everyone to know you're here for me.'

Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

GET DOWN
WITH YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE



Check it every day. Self-monitoring is power.



Visit: ManageYourBP.org

Or scan code for more.



Partnership with HHS Office of Minority Health and Health Resources and Services Administration under cooperative agreement 5U49CE001122 and CE001123.

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



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307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration
6331 11th Street | Rockford

New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
Freezers
Washers/Dryers
Stoves
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers

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

815-262-3900

oglecountylife.com

505
BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

Launch your dream business! Prime shopping center space available in Rochelle, DeKalb, Freeport. Free store build-out and free rent for qualified tenants. Limited time offer. Don't miss out!
Call Now: **305-748-9812**

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'

OPENING BID LIVE

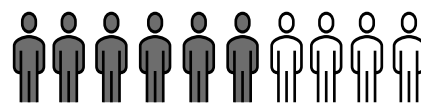
Advertise in our

AUCTION SECTION
Deadlines
Wednesday
at 5 p.m.
Call **815-732-2156**

Quitting smoking was hard.
Screening for lung cancer is easy.



If you smoked, you may still be at risk, but early detection could save your life.
Get **SavedByTheScan.org**



Six out of 10 Americans rely on a local newspaper for advertising information about local businesses.*

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

* Source: America's Newspapers

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memorials and Honors
P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142
Memphis, TN 38148-0142
1-800-873-6983
www.stjude.org/tribute

DeKalb & Ogle Counties Hometown Welcome Program



Reach an average of **332** new families per month

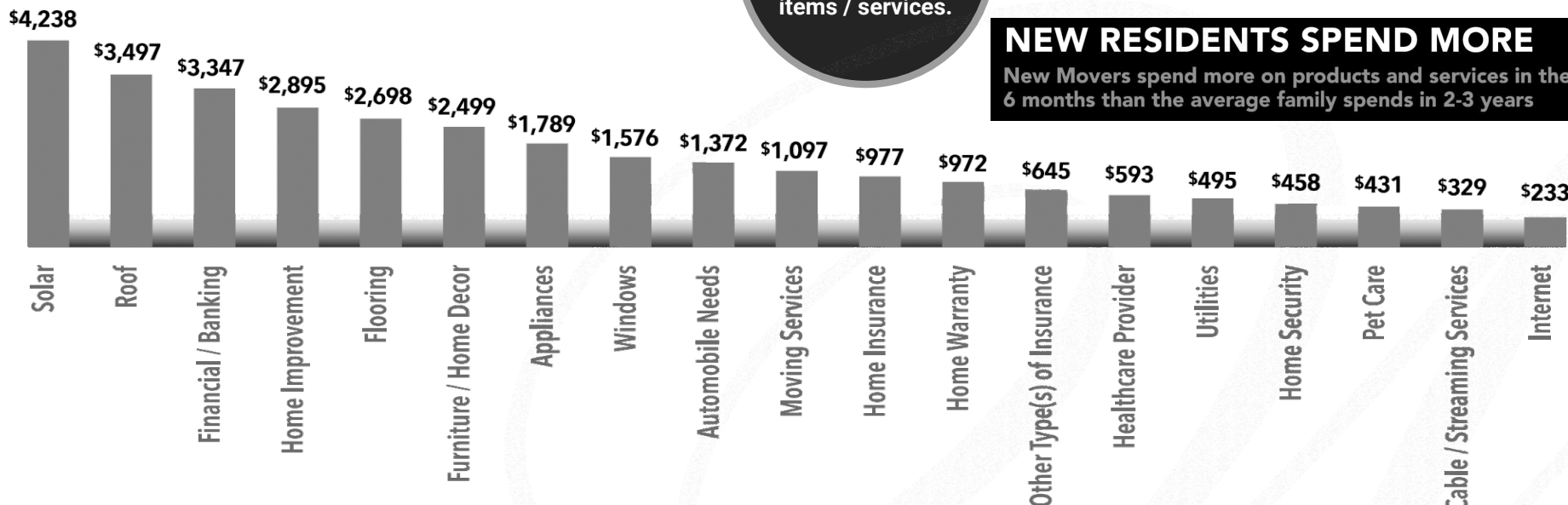


Reaching approximately **11,952** new families in and around DeKalb & Ogle Counties each year!

90% of NEW MOVERS would be likely to try a new brand of items / services.

211 Hwy 38, Rochelle • 815-562-4171

Contact your ad representative today!
Chris Ackland 815-561-2153
cackland@rochellenews-leader.com



The average new mover spends over \$11,000 in the first 6 months.

NEW RESIDENTS SPEND MORE
New Movers spend more on products and services in the first 6 months than the average family spends in 2-3 years

Want to reach thousands of customers?
Get in our upcoming Business Card Directory!

In 4 publications!
Ogle County Life,
Rochelle News-Leader,
Amboy News & Mendota Reporter

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

Contact your sales representative today!
Chris Grimm
815-561-2125
cgrimm@oglecountylife.com

2021 FREE BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY
DeKalb, LaSalle, Lee, and Ogle Counties

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON POLICE REPORT

Dec. 1
At 12:14 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Jerika S. Sanders, 26, of Rockford citations for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at the 100 block of East Blackhawk.

At 8:08 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Samuel G. Snider, 41, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 3,000 block of East Mill.

At 3:03 p.m. Byron Police Department arrested Tarrance T. Matthews, 52, of Wheaton on an in-state warrant. Matthews was transported to Ogle County Jail where he was processed and held.

At 7:35 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jayda L. Fenneman, 23, of Rockford citations for speeding-over the statutory limit and operating a motor vehicle with no valid driver's license. Fenneman was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

Dec. 2
At 2:11 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jamie M. Jarrett, 38, of Davis Junction a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at the 8,000 block of Barker Road.

At 2:46 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle crash at the 600 block of Blackhawk, involving a 2010 Chrysler driven by Jenna L. Dietrich, 35, of Leaf River and a 2017 Cadillac driven by Nicolo Venezia, 46, of Oregon. There were no injuries, and no citations issued.

Dec. 3
At 11:53 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Craig E. Senglaub, 53, of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin a citation for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended. This violation occurred at Blackhawk and Franklin.

At 4:01 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Kristina P. Richards, 48, of Oregon a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. This violation occurred at the 600 block of 3rd Street.

At 7:03 p.m. Byron Police Department issued

Anthony W. Sampson, 28, of Byron citations for operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance and operating a vehicle with suspended registration due to no insurance. This violation occurred at 3rd Street and Walnut.

At 11:46 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Cassandra S. Ferguson, 40, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration due to no insurance. This violation occurred at Dimond and Union Street.

Dec. 4
At 2:37 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Kameron D. Thrower, 28, of Byron a citation for driving while driver's license is revoked. Thrower was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released. This violation occurred at East Blackhawk and Luther Drive.

Dec. 5
At 1:23 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Isaiah A. Marcoux, 22, of Rochelle citations for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance and operating a vehicle while driver's license is revoked. Marcoux was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released. This violation occurred at Illinois Route 2 and River Drive.

At 11:52 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jacob K. Brandt, 41, of Oregon a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol. Brandt was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released. This violation occurred at North River Road and North Friday Road.

Dec. 8
At 1:05 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Destiny L. Hodge, 21, of Rock Falls a citation for speeding-over the statutory limit, 68 in a 45 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at Blackhawk Drive and Ashelford Drive.

Dec. 10
At 3:52 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 17-year-old male from Byron a citation for speeding, 55 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at 8,000 North Barker Road.

Dec. 14
At 12:33 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Andria D. Jordan, 25, of Elgin a citation for no valid proof of

insurance. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Elgin Road.

At 8:48 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Gia J. Rojas-Kimse, 26, of Rockford a citation for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred at 400 North Colfax.

Dec. 16
At 11:23, Byron Police Department issued Christopher A. Barns, 36, of Sandwich a citation for operating a motor vehicle without valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 900 block of West Blackhawk.

Dec. 17
At 7:24 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle crash at the 700 block of West Blackhawk involving a 2016 Dodge, driven by Thomas J. Allen, 23, of Mt. Morris and a 2019 Honda, driven by Jonathan D. Fraedrich, 34, of Oregon. There were no citations issued and no injuries.

At 8:01 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 17-year-old male of Stillman Valley a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of South Lafayette.

At 9:41 p.m. Byron Police Department issued John K. Green, 44, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended. This violation occurred at the 100 block of North Chestnut.

At 10:15 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Clayton D. Ferry, 39, of Byron citations for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred at North Union and 3rd Street.

Dec. 19
At 5:01 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle crash at the 600 block of North Colfax involving a 2011 Buick driven by a 17-year-old female of Byron and 2021 Buick driven by Laura L. Gura, 41, of Byron. There were no citations and no injuries.

Dec. 21
At 9:04 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Jeffery W. Corbin, 52, of Dixon citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and failure to surrender

registration. This violation occurred at Illinois Route 2 and Creekside.

Dec. 23
At 12:47 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Marvin L. Magee, 38, of Chicago citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operation of a vehicle with revoked registration. This violation occurred at the 100 block of Blackhawk.

Dec. 25
At 1:34 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Donna Hogan-Simmons, 82, of Chicago citations for operation of an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with no valid driver's license. These violations occurred at the 200 block of South Union.

Dec. 27
At 9:04 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Richard L. Brown, 69, of Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle with no proof of valid insurance. These violations occurred in the 800 block of West Blackhawk.

At 9:33 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Oscar Delgado Jr., 26, of Belvidere a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Blackhawk.

At 11:15 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Prentice C. Thompson, 33, of Berwyn a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of Blackhawk Drive.

At 4:15 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Atanacio Medina, 35, of Belvidere citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. These violations occurred in the 200 block of East Blackhawk.

Jan. 1
At 1:30 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Logan R. Hilliard, 24, of Arlington Heights, Illinois citations for improper lane usage, no lights when required, operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance, possession of adult cannabis in a vehicle, and driving under the influence of alcohol. Hilliard was transported to Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear.

At 12:21 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Laverne W. Johnson, 49, of Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle while driver's license is suspended. Johnson was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Blackhawk.

Jan. 2
At 11:27 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Lakendra V. Lilly, 34, of Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle while driver's license is suspended. Lilly was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

At 6:38 p.m. Byron Police Department arrested Staci L. Todd, 45, of Oregon, on an in-state warrant. Todd was transported to Ogle County Jail booked and held without bond.

Jan. 3
At 12:15 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at West 2nd Street and North Walnut Street involving 2008 Chrysler, driven by Beverly L. Emery, 81, of Stillman Valley, and a 2016 Jeep, driven by Ophelia Gautier, 19, of Byron. There were no injuries or citations issued.

Jan. 5
At 7:47 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Stephanie A. Bontjes, 39, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle without proof of valid insurance. This violation occurred in the 200 block of West 2nd Street.

At 10:41 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jennifer A. Alaniz, 50, of Oregon, a citation for operation of a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

Jan. 7
At 1:50 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Courtney L. Babler, 33, of Orangeville, a citation for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North Lincoln.

Jan. 8
At 8:56 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Tiffany N. Riley, 19, of Poplar Grove a citation

for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at East Blackhawk and Kysor Drive.

Jan. 10
At 8:22 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Echo M. Torres, 39, of Rockford, citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

At 8:48 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Carol J. Caldwell, 83 of Byron, a citation for passing a school bus while loading/unloading. This violation occurred in the 600 block of West 2nd Street.

At 6:35 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a single-vehicle accident involving a 2023 Nissan, driven by Mark K. Bjelland, 76, of Rockford. This accident occurred in the 7000 block of North River Road. There were no citations issued and Bjelland was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

Jan. 11
At 8:53 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Bradley R. Cantrell, 31, of DeKalb a citation for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

Jan. 12
At 2:51 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Colton A. Murphy, 18 of West Burlington, Iowa a citation for operating a motor vehicle with no proof of valid insurance. This violation occurred in the 500 block of West Blackhawk.

At 1:36 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jordan R. Willstead, 34, of Stillman Valley citations for operating a vehicle with no valid registration and operating a vehicle with expired registration. These violations occurred in the 100 block of Blackhawk.

Jan. 14
At 10:37 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Stephen C. Denton Jr., 28, of Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred at Blackhawk and Market.

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



Putnam donates paintings to Ogle County Historical Society
Recently, John Putnam, an Oregon native, returned to present two paintings to the Ogle County Historical Society from his family. One is a watercolor painting by Harry Nurmet of the four generation Gale home which is still standing at 211 N. 4th St. It was commissioned by John G. Putnam (his father) and Martha Betty Putnam Diven (his aunt) as a Christmas gift to their parents, John and Ada Gale Putnam. The other donated piece is an oil painting titled "Pine Rocks", a scene along the Rock River in 1876 by portraitist Carrie Vaughn. She was a skilled portraitist who was commissioned by many early Oregon families and lived in Oregon from 1866-1878. This 150-year-old painting demonstrates the art culture of Oregon years before the arrival of Lorado Taft and the Eagles Nest Art Colony in 1898. Accepting these paintings on behalf of the Ogle County Historical Society were Arlene Sangmeister, president, and Beth Simeone, ice president. (Courtesy photos)



LOCAL NEWS



Stillman Bank names Holiday Giveaway winners

Stillman Bank held its 60th annual Holiday Giveaway drawing on December 23. The bank had a total of 6 winners throughout its six locations. The winners received either a beef quarter or pork half. The winners of the beef quarters were Bev Bjorklund (Byron), Kathy Burright (Oregon), and Alicia Medine (Rochelle). The winners of the pork halves were Linda Sanders (Davis Junction), Karen Enke (Rockford), and Linda Rooda (Roscoe). The annual Holiday Giveaway is one of the many ways the bank gives back to the local communities it serves. For more information on the 2024 Holiday Giveaway or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please contact or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Stillman Bank announces winners of Christmas Coloring Contest

ROCHELLE – Stillman Bank recently held their annual Christmas Coloring Contest for kids up to 10 years old. This year's picture was of a gingerbread house and gingerbread Man. The winners received their very own gingerbread house kit. Congratulations to the winners!

For ages 5 and under, the winners were: Mose Snodgrass (Byron office), Abby Harbaugh (Oregon office), Nathan Drendel (Rochelle office), Cora Fitch (Rockford office), Rita Isaj (Roscoe office), and Elise Bonne (Stillman Valley office).

For ages 6 through

10, the winners were: Hadley Pasch (Byron office), Madison Armbruster (Oregon office), Yaretzi Hernandez (Rochelle office), Kaylie Wheelock (Rockford office), Brycen Hilgart (Roscoe office), and Camila Bonne (Stillman Valley office).

Thank you to everyone who stopped by Stillman Bank to enter the coloring contest. 163 entries were received and each child received a small prize for their participation.

For more information on Stillman Bank or to find out more about Stillman's products and services, please contact visit www.stillmanbank.com.



Stillman Bank recently held their annual Christmas Coloring Contest. Above are Yaretzi Hernandez (left) and Nathan Drendel (right).

Country Crossroads Quilt Guild meeting scheduled for Jan. 20

FORRESTON — For our program on Monday, Jan. 20, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild members will be introducing our 2025 Guild Officers. It's a get to know them

better as several are new to the Guild. Members are asked to bring questions for this "Get to Know You" session. It is a great opportunity for anyone interested in joining our Guild to meet

these Quilters and hear what might be in store for this next year. Our major focus in 2025 will be our upcoming Quilt Show, April 11 & 12. Please consider joining us at 7 p.m.;

a guest fee is charged for \$5. The program will be followed by a business meeting and Show 'n Tell. Guild meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church, 7246 Freeport

Road; Forreston, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. to provide ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Mem-

bership dues are \$20 per year. For more information call Program Committee Chair Kay Walker, 815-275-2904, or Guild President Jennifer Newcomer, 708-774-3279.





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HIGHLIGHTS



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2/\$3



Wonderful Helios MANDARINS
3 lb bag
3.99



Orv's Pizzeria THIN CRUST OR ULTIMATE RIZER PIZZA
Select Varieties 13.35 - 28.45 oz
2/\$10



Fritos
Select Varieties 6.5 - 13 oz
3/\$9
WHEN YOU BUY 3



Kentucky Legend SLICED BACON
Select Varieties 16 oz
3.99



US Gov't Insp BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS 5 oz
10/\$10

FRIDAY ONE DAY SALE
JANUARY 24, 2025



US Gov't Insp BABY BACK PORK RIBS
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE!



Bakery Pan o Gold SESAME SEED HAMBURGER BUNS 12 ct
1.99



HEAD LETTUCE
99¢ ea



Quaker INSTANT OATMEAL
Select Varieties 6-10 ct
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Buy 1 Get 1 FREE!



US Gov't Insp BONELESS PORK TENDERLOINS
Buy 1 Get 1 FREE!



Sullivan's Signature HALF SUPER SUB SANDWICH
2/\$5



Hot Pockets FROZEN SANDWICHES
Select Varieties 8.5-9 oz
4/\$10



Totino's PIZZA ROLLS
Select Varieties 100 ct
6.99



Crystal Farms CHUNK OR SHREDDED CHEESE
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2/\$5



Charmin BATH TISSUE
Soft or Strong 6 mega rolls
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3 lbs or More
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