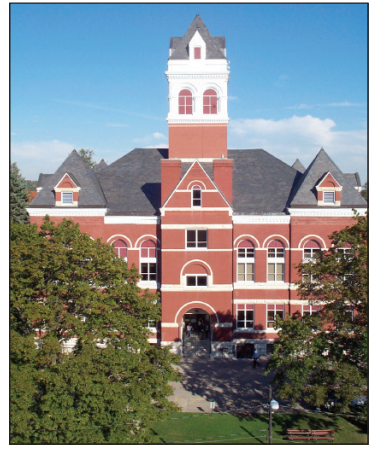



### SVHS Cardinals win sectional title

The Stillman Valley girls basketball team won the IHSA 2A Sectional at Rock Falls. **Section B**




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### Meridian CUSD receives donation


Meridian CUSD received a donation from Northern IL CPR & First Aid. **Page 3**




### Sutton named Polo SOTM

Polo's Caleb Sutton was named the PCHS Student of the Month for February. **Page 9**


### WEATHER




MONDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**60 35**




TUESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**60 44**




WEDNESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**57 44**



THURSDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**54 35**



FRIDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**56 34**



SATURDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**52 41**

### OBITUARIES

- Jesus Alvarado
- Trudy Lynn Karrow

**See page 4**


### INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Voters Guide
- Polo Foods
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings
- Snyder Pharmacy

## Palatine man pleads guilty to 1st degree murder of Rochelle woman

Devin K. Gibbons, 28, passed away Sept. 18, 2022 at 7th Avenue residence in Rochelle

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR




(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Gary C. Freeman, 29, of Palatine was then sentenced to serve 35 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.**

OREGON — In a Feb. 28 press release, Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock announced that a 29-year-old Palatine man pleaded guilty to the charge of first degree murder of a Rochelle woman in 2022. Gary C. Freeman, 29, of Palatine was then sentenced to serve 35 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. On Sept. 18, 2022 at 10:46 a.m. Rochelle Fire and Police Departments were dispatched to an apartment located at 503 7th Ave. for smoke in a residence. Upon entry into the residence, fire personnel located a deceased female. The fire was deemed suspicious, and additional investigators arrived on scene. The victim was identified as Devin K. Gibbons, 28, of Rochelle. During the

course of the investigation, Freeman was developed as a suspect. In March 2023, Freeman was arrested in Schaumburg and transported to the Ogle County Jail and charged with four counts of first degree murder, one count of residential arson and one count of concealment of a homicidal death.

**See MURDER CHARGE page 2**



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Friday, Feb. 28, Rochelle VFW Post 3878 presented a \$458,464.50 check to the winner of its Queen of Hearts contest, Lauri Hays.**


## Rochelle VFW presents \$458,464 check to Queen of Hearts winner

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Friday, Feb. 28, Rochelle VFW Post 3878 presented a \$458,464.50 check to the winner of its Queen of Hearts contest, Lauri Hays. The contest ran for 49 weeks and reached a \$705,330 total jackpot. The Queen of Hearts drawing involves 54 cards hidden under a covering to be revealed

one card per week until the Queen of Hearts is drawn. There are 52 playing deck cards with the two jokers hidden. Players at the local post can purchase tickets in increments of six for \$5 and write a number corresponding to a hidden card on the board and their information on them before placing them in a tumbling drum.

**See VFW page 12**



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

## After a dry fall, Ogle County farmers have seen lower-than-expected moisture over the winter months so far, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said Feb. 26.

## Farmers in need of moisture, seeking clarity on Farm Bill and federal changes

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — After a dry fall, Ogle County farmers have seen lower-than-expected moisture over the winter months so far, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said Feb. 26. Kern said farmers are currently finalizing input costs for the year and preparing planters to get crops into the ground likely in early April or late March depending on the weather. Fertilizer application will take place before that.


**See FARMING page 11**

## From the Heart to cease operations after 18 years

Organization has raised around \$900,000

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In a letter to the community on Feb. 24, From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said the organization would be ceasing operations after 18 years. From the Heart raises money for nine area non-profits: the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Community Action Network (CAN) and Foundation for Focus House. It most recently held its 17th annual gala on Feb. 1 and saw record attendance and




(COURTESY PHOTO)

**In a letter to the community on Feb. 24, From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said the organization would be ceasing operations after 18 years.**


tied a fundraising record of \$90,000. Each of From the Heart's member organizations will receive a final check for \$10,000 from this year's gala. "With sad but grateful

hearts, we announce that after 18 very successful years, From The Heart is ending our fabulous run," Eckhardt's letter said.

**See FTH page 2**




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# LOCAL NEWS



From the Heart raises money for nine area nonprofits: the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Community Action Network (CAN) and Foundation for Focus House.

## FTH: Rochelle organization has raised around \$900,000 over its run

From page 1

"We could not have done it without all of our generous donors. I'd also like to thank all the groups and their directors who helped make our fundraiser the success it was. I'd like to send a very special thank you out to Chuck Watkins, Sarah Flanagan, and Tonja Greenfield for all their hard work behind the scenes, they work tireless hours volunteering their time every year to raise money for these nonprofits. Thank you, Rochelle, for 18 very successful years of From the Heart."

Foundation for Focus House Executive Director Jeni Hardin handles public relations for From the Heart and said Feb. 25 that the

decision to end From the Heart was not made lightly. The organization will also be ending its yearly cash calendar sales. "There were a lot of reasons," Hardin said. "The thought process had been ongoing for a few months and Dave and Chuck have been doing this for 18 years. It takes a lot of work to put the event on each year along with everything else. Everybody just got tired. It became harder to find volunteers. We had a record year with attendance this year and raised \$90,000 and Dave wanted to go out on top. It was not an easy decision to make."

Hardin also worked with From the Heart as a director of one of its recipient organizations. From the Heart

raised around \$900,000 over its 18 years. It started out raising \$30,000 in its first year for three area nonprofits and grew to have nine benefiting nonprofits and raised \$90,000 in each of its final two years. Hardon called being part of From the Heart "an honor." "As a group, they just worked tremendously to raise money for Focus House and the other nonprofits," Hardin said. "Accepting the check every year for my organization was so incredible. It was humbling. The work was done by people that didn't have to help. It's getting harder to raise money today and knowing there was a group like From the Heart was great. It'll be a hard loss and a hit to



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

the foundation. Hopefully something else like this comes along in the future." From the Heart's board is made up of Eckhardt, Watkins, Flanagan, and Greenfield along with the directors of the nine nonprofits. Hardin said that along with their work, the community's support is what made From the Heart thrive for 18 years. "We're very aware of the fact that From the Heart couldn't have happened without the support of the community," Hardin said. "We had sponsors and community members step up to help. Planning the gala was a year-round job. 18 years and around \$900,000 raised does not happen without the community."

From the Heart's cash

calendars also became a staple of the community over the years with area residents donating \$20 to have a chance at daily prizes throughout the year. That money became supplemental funding for From the Heart, helping out with its large gala event that included dinner, games, prizes and silent and live auction items. The Rochelle Rotary Club was the sponsor of the From the Heart cash calendars, which were sold by Rotary members. Hardin said work on From the Heart's gala and operations took place year round, and that it will be strange for her not to be a part of it in the coming year. "My office won't be filled with auction baskets for it in the winter any-

more," Hardin said. "Dave is emotional about this and it's bittersweet for him. He lives and breathes From the Heart. It just ran its course. Maybe it's time for something else." Hardin thanked Eckhardt, Watkins, Flanagan, Greenfield and everyone else that helped with From the Heart over its 18-year run. "The people of this community are amazing," Hardin said. "Dave deserves so much praise. He has such a love for the community and a passion for helping others. He didn't make this decision lightly. He deserves all of the thanks and praise for helping raise almost \$1 million for the community over 18 years."

## MURDER CHARGE: Palatine man pleads guilty in death of Rochelle woman

From page 1

Freeman was sentenced by Judge Anthony W. Peska. His term of imprisonment will be served at 100 percent and is followed by three years of mandatory supervised release. The plea of guilty followed an extensive criminal investigation and prosecution. RPD led the investigation. Rock and Assistant State's Attorneys Allison Huntley and Heather Kruse handled the prosecution. "I would like to thank the Rochelle Police Depart-

ment's Detective Sgt. John Kaltenbach (retired) and Detective Elvis Baneshki and Assistant State's Attorneys Allison Huntley and Heather Kruse for their hard work on this case," Rock said in the press release. Back at a March 2023 press conference in Rochelle, Rock said that Gibbons and Freeman knew each other prior to the murder and that officials believed she was already deceased before the fire. RPD narrowed its investigative search to Freeman within a short amount of

time. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, State Fire Marshal's Office, The Red Cross, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigators, Ogle County Coroner's Office, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Rockford and Chicago Offices), Schaumburg Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Sterling Police Department and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center assisted with the investigation.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Sept. 18, 2022 at 10:46 a.m. Rochelle Fire and Police Departments were dispatched to an apartment located at 503 7th Ave.

## Music scholarship aid auditions scheduled for April 5

**FREEPORT**—State-line Music Foundation of Freeport has scheduled scholarship aid auditions for high school seniors

graduating in 2025 who will enroll in a music major curriculum in a junior college or a four-year college or university.

Auditions will be held Saturday, April 5, 2025, in the Freeport Arts Center, 121 N. Harlem, Freeport, and are open to high

school seniors who reside or attend high school or home school in one of the following counties: Jo Daviess, Carroll, Stephen-

son, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, DeKalb, Whiteside, and Lee in Illinois or Lafayette, Green and Rock counties in Wisconsin.

Application forms and repertoire requirements are available by writing Kenneth Drake, (keos-drake@gmail.com).

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# LOCAL NEWS



Ms. Carl, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Tompkins received a donation to use in purchasing items for their classrooms.

## Meridian CUSD 223 receives donation from Northern IL CPR & First Aid

**STILLMAN VALLEY**—Northern Illinois CPR & First Aid graciously honored Meridian CUSD 223 teachers by inviting community members to nominate teachers. This initiative underscores Northern

Illinois CPR & First Aid commitment to invest in those who shape the future — our teachers. As a company dedicated to saving lives, Northern Illinois CPR & First Aid recognizes the vital role that educa-

tors play in ensuring the well-being of students and families. By offering financial support, the organization aims to alleviate some of the personal expenses teachers often incur for classroom supplies, technology, and

other essential materials. “Our educators go above and beyond to provide quality learning experiences for our children, often using their own money to do so,” Zach Oltmanns, owner of Northern Illinois

CPR & First Aid, said. “We believe in giving back to those who make a lasting impact on the next generation, and who better to determine where support is needed than the community itself?” Cali Carl, Courtney

Jones, and Jen Tompkins received the funds based upon community nominations. Each one was surprised and deeply honored to be recognized for their part in the overall excellence of Meridian CUSD 223.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



**OES February Students of the Month named**  
Oregon Elementary School recently named its February Students of the Month. Students honored included: Lenny Millard, Baker Stoos, Odin Nichol, Wynter Gale, Henry Taylor, Hattie Harris, Harper Meeker, Westin Carreno, Eli Hatheway, Mia Canfield, Claire Raper, Luci Callaway, Madden Barron, Saywer O'Malley, Dax Hitchcock, Stella O'Rorke, Jonathan Peralta, Bryce Webb, Sadie Palmer, Gavin Burke, Aidyn Robertson, Ahna Stanley, Axel Carlson, Daniel Vasquez, Tessa Mitchell, Charlie Nesimeier, Henry Nobis, Mason Palmer, Ella McMillan, Wyatt Chisamore, Sender Tajiboy Kilkan, Ashton Smith, Marie Ramirez-Dzwierzynski, Audrey Leach, McKenna Miraglia, Huddson Long, Jaryn Newberry, Kaia Gecan, and Jaryn Newberry. (Courtesy photo)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Dorothy's Diamonds last trip taken was a tour to Pigeon Forge and the Smokey Mountains.

## Dorothy's Diamonds travel to the Smokey Mountains

**ROCHELLE** — Dorothy's Diamonds last trip taken was a tour to Pigeon Forge and the Smokey Mountains.

The scenery was beautiful and in full color. The drive up to the twin chimneys in The Smokey Mountain National Park was breath taking.

The group saw five shows including the Paula Dean Lumber Jack show. The group visited the Applewood Farmhouse in Sevierville and free time in the beautiful Gatlinburg nestled within the mountains.

The Hub City Senior Center benefited monetarily from this trip. If you want to see beautiful country travel with Dorothy's Dia-

monds to a Myrtle Beach Show Trip in April and enjoy four shows, Barefoot Landing, Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Promenade, and L.W. living History Farm. In August we will tour

Mackinac Island and in October we will travel to the beautiful upper New Hampshire and the White Mountains. For more info on these fun times call Dorothy 815-384-5325.

**Oregon GFWC Woman's Club Presents**  
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(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Above, residents enjoy the spaghetti and mostaccioli at the Third Annual Masonic Spaghetti Dinner March 1. Below, Byron Masons Gerald Zeibert, Brad Richolson and Thomas Felker prepare spaghetti.

## Byron Masons hold annual Spaghetti supper

**BYRON** — The evening was brisk but clear as more than 100 persons showed their love for families by attending Byron Lodge #274 A.F. & A.M. Third Annual Spaghetti Supper Saturday, March 1 from 5-8 p.m. at the Masonic Temple on North Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford Drive. The Masons served spaghetti and meatballs, mostaccioli, salad, garlic bread and beverages. Proceeds will go toward the Lodge's philanthropic endeavors including donations to organizations in the Byron area. “We were pleased with the turnout on a cold evening and we would like to thank those who attended,” Chair Michael Thomas said. “We would also like to thank the Boy Scouts who helped during the event.”

Byron Masonic Lodge is the oldest continuous organization in Byron having been formally constituted Oct. 21, 1858. The Lodge is celebrating its 167th anniversary this year. The Byron Lodge supports the community through donations to such or-



ganizations as Masonic Charities Fund, Byron High School Academic Bowl, People Helping People (Byron Food Pantry), Operation Santa Claus, and Ogle County Hospice, among others.

Thus, the members of Byron Lodge #274 not only serve the community by setting a good example as citizens, but also improve the lives of future generations and care for the elderly.

**VFW POST 8739 OFFICER ELECTION**  
Nominations for Post Officers will start at the March 18, 2025 Post Meeting at 7 PM. Officers to be nominated are:

Commander	Quartermaster
SR. Vice Commander	Chaplin
JR. Vice Commander	3 year Trustee

Nominations will remain open until the April 15th Meeting at 7 PM when nominations will be closed and Elections will be held.

New Officers will take office at the June meeting.

**VFW Post #8739**  
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL  
**815-732-6851**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Jesus Alvarado

**ROCKFALLS**—Jesus Alvarado, age 77, died at his home, Friday, February 28, 2025.

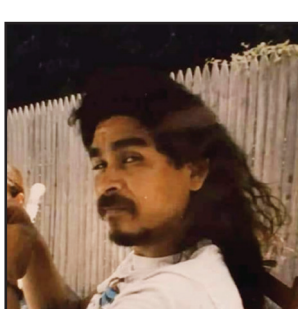
Jesus was born on November 5, 1947 in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico the son of Gloria (Becerra) Alvarado. He was employed as a Butcher for many years with FDL and later Rochelle Foods in Rochelle. Jesus enjoyed spending time with family and loved to feed his squirrels.

Survivors include his significant other, Corina Castillo two daughters, Belinda Alvarado of AZ, and Monique (Melanie Farmer) Castillo of Rock Falls; five sons, Jesse

Alvarado of NV, Larry Lozano of AZ, Alfonzo (Stephanie Eich) Alvarado of Oregon, Marco (Heather) Alvarado of Morrison and Gavin Alvarado of Sterling; two brothers, Lorenzo (Sue) Alvarado of AZ and Humberto Perez of China; one sister, Tonette Castillo; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded by his mother; one grandson; two sisters in law, Rita Weakley and Linda Castillo; one brother in law, Tony Castillo.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Gathering



of family and friends will be from 5:00 – 6:00 PM Thursday, March 6, 2025 at the Bethesda Temple, 1602 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Falls, IL. Memorial service will follow at 6:00 PM with Pastor Lucio Esquivel officiating.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.mcdonaldfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mcdonaldfuneralhomes.com)

### Trudy Lynn Karrow

**STERLING**—Trudy Lynn Karrow, age 60, passed away Sunday, January 26, 2025, at Allure Nursing Home in Sterling, Illinois, under the care of Serenity Hospice. She was born May 8, 1964, to Robert and Sharon Karrow in Sterling. Trudy was the youngest of three children, brother, Tony (Judy) Karrow and sister, Tammy Karrow. She was a graduate of Polo High School and was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Polo,

Illinois. She started to do babysitting in her home for some families in Polo, and those children turned out to be some wonderful adults. She showed them fun, and they loved being around her. She was also a Sunday School teacher for many years at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She was a Miami Dolphins fan. She enjoyed collecting dolphins, as well as Precious Moments.

She is survived by her brother Tony and sister-in-law, Judy, sister, Tammy

Karrow; niece, Brittney Karrow; nephews, Chad (Danielle) Karrow, Alex (Melissa) Karrow; 6 wonderful great-nieces and nephews, Rylyn, Morgan, Maddox, Trevor, Peyton, and Mack Karrow.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Sharon; maternal and paternal grandparents.

Celebration of life is going to be Sunday, March 16, 2025, at Allure of Sterling, nursing home, in the activities room, from 2-4pm

### Illinois State Police Troop 1 announces monthly activity for February

**STERLING**—Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette has announced enforcement figures and activity for February.

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Troopers issued 912 citations, 886 written warnings, and made 16 criminal arrests during

February. Troopers issued 302 citations for speeding, 39 citations for distracted driving violations, and 58 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 94 traffic crashes, assisted 305 motorists, and conducted 364 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of

which 54 were placed out of service for safety reasons. There were 14 arrests for driving under the influence.

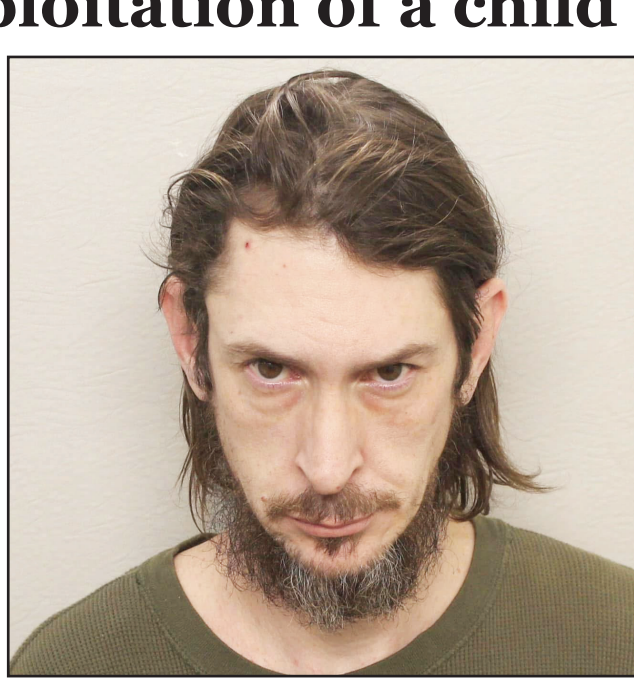
Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties, investigated one fatal crash in February.

### Oregon man arrested for sexual exploitation of a child

**OREGON**—On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Ogle County Sheriff's Office detectives began the investigation of a sexual exploitation of a child incident that occurred in rural Oregon.

As a result of the investigation, Kyle A. Gallagher, 42, of was arrested on Feb. 27 and charged with one count of sexual exploitation of a child (class-four felony). Gallagher was lodged in the Ogle County Jail pending a hearing in front of a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Kyle A. Gallagher



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Rochelle Runnings store recently donated \$779.92 to the Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation All About Me Cancer Resource fund from its Girl's Night Out held in October of last year.**

### Runnings donates to RCHF All About Me Cancer Resource fund

**ROCHELLE**—The Rochelle Runnings store recently donated \$779.92 to the Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation All About Me Cancer Resource fund from its Girl's Night Out held in October of last year.

"Thanks so much to the Runnings associates for keeping your donation

local to help out those in our area battling cancer," an RCH Facebook post said.

The All About Me Cancer Fund at Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation provides grants to qualified cancer patients in the hospital service area so they can better manage their road to recovery. The

All About Me Scholarship Program will help to improve patients' quality of life with valuable local resources and financial support. This scholarship offers a patient in need, a one-time grant up to \$500 per year or as funds are available. To apply for the grant, visit [www.rochelle-hospital.com/Foundation](http://www.rochelle-hospital.com/Foundation)

### Arellano introduces bill to allow local governments to store public records electronically

**SPRINGFIELD**—Senator Li Arellano, Jr. has introduced Senate Bill 1719, a legislative measure aimed at modernizing public record-keeping for local governments across Illinois. The bill amends the Local Records Act to allow local government units to store public records electronically, reducing costs and improving efficiency.

Senator Arellano, Jr. built the legislation from his own experiences as a local mayor, as well as on discussions initiated by Peoria County at a January legislative breakfast co-hosted by the County

of Peoria, the City of Peoria, and the Peoria City/County Health Department.

"We must cut costs in Illinois. As technology continues to evolve, it is crucial that we provide local governments with the flexibility to store records in a way that is both secure and accessible," said Senator Arellano, Jr. "This bill gives local governments the option to move away from outdated and costly paper-based systems and embrace a modern, digital approach."

By eliminating unnecessary barriers to digital storage, SB1719 provides

local governments the tools to transition to a more modern and cost-effective record-keeping system.

"Allowing electronic storage will help local governments operate more efficiently and transparently, benefiting both officials and residents," added Senator Arellano, Jr. "This is already being done in court systems and is a common-sense update to our laws that aligns Illinois with the best practices in government record-keeping."

Senate Bill 1719 has been assigned to the Government Operations committee.



### SVHS February Students of the Month named

**Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for February were recently named. Pictured from left to right are SVHS Assistant Principal Jeff Voltz, Brooke Jordal (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Zaiah Reed (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Addison Gillespie (ninth grade), Reagan Wood (10<sup>th</sup> grade), and Stillman Bank Vice President and Senior Operations Officer Ben Miller. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)**

### Johnson named to Millikin University Fall 2024 Dean's List

**DECATUR**—Millikin University is pleased to announce the names of

the outstanding undergraduates who have been named to the Dean's List

for the Fall 2024 semester.

Among the names was Rayna Johnson of Stillman Valley.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean's List honors. Students earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean's List honors.

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**815-732-6851**

**Bar Mon-Thur 4 - 8PM & Fri 4 - 9PM**  
**Kitchen Mon, Wed, Thur 4-7PM & Fri 4-8PM**

**Kitchen closed Tue.**

**VFW EVENTS**  
Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm  
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm  
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm  
**Fridays @ 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)**

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**VFW**  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Stillman Valley man charged with predatory criminal sexual assault of a child

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — On Wednesday, Feb. 26 Ogle County Sheriff's Office detectives, along with members of the FBI, executed a search warrant at a residence in rural Stillman Valley stemming from a lengthy child pornography case which led into a sex-related investigation. As a result of the investigation, Joseph G. Dreesen, 24, of Stillman Valley, was charged with one count of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child (class-X felony). Dreesen was lodged in the Ogle County Jail pending a bond hearing in front of a judge. Federal charges are pending. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Joseph G. Dreesen



### Polo Lions Club Toy Show held March 1

The Polo Lions Club Toy Show was held Saturday, March 1 at the Centennial Elementary School gym. The day was good for the Lions Club and for some dealers at the show. The Polo FFA and Polo Lions Club members helped get the dealers into the gym in the morning between 6-9 a.m. The Polo FFA also served refreshments. At the end of the day the Lions Club members and FFA members helped get the dealers back out to their vehicles. The members of FFA that were there are: Logan Nelson, Laynie Mandrell, Katelyn Rockwood, Grace Miatke, JT Stephenson, Sawyer Marceau, Mazy Queckboerner and ag teacher Mr. Wetzall. Thank you to all that helped, you all did a great job. (Courtesy photo)

# ELECT

★★★★★★★★

## CARY BENNETT

for **MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

Hello, my name is Cary Bennett and on April 1, 2025, I am seeking election to be your next Mt. Morris Township Supervisor. My wife Jeanette and I have lived in the Mt. Morris Township over 50 years.

My background includes:

- 1982 Mt. Morris HS graduate
- 1987 Rockford College graduate – BS in Accounting
- 1991-2012 Production Control Manager for 2 Rockford area manufacturing plants
- 2012-present Promoted to Plant Manager and now have 30 years with this company

Some of the other activities include:

Doing the financials for Sunset Golf Club since 2008 and co-clubhouse manager with my wife since 2012.

I have conducted financial audits for 2 local churches and a food pantry.

I feel my experience and work ethic will bring a new perspective to the position of Township Supervisor.

I would appreciate your support on April 1, 2025!

Sincerely,  
Cary Bennett

Paid for by: Cary Bennett



(COURTESY PHOTO)

From left to right are Pam Cunningham, Jennifer Bakener, Julie Robinson, Molly Baker, Jeff Bold, Becky McCanse, Bev Opalka, Karen Urish and April Bold.

## 100+ Women Who Care of Ogle County donates to Encore! Mt. Morris

**MT. MORRIS** — On March 3, representatives of 100+ Women Who Care of Ogle County presented Jeff Bold of Encore! Mt. Morris with the donations received from the January quarterly meeting. Each member donates \$100 each quarter directly to the charity that is chosen by vote. There

are now over 100 women, hence the change to 100+ Women Who Care. The group meets each quarter in January, April, July and October to hear three representatives of local non-profits and vote for one to be that quarter's recipient. 100+ Women Who Care are making a

significant impact in the local community. The next quarterly meeting will be held at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle on April 8 at 6 p.m. For more information contact Deanna Forrest at forrestdede5@gmail.com or find them on Facebook [www.facebook.com/oglegives](http://www.facebook.com/oglegives).

## 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



# VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday  
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of  
News Media Corporation.

## MOMENTS IN TIME

\* On March 24, 1965, the first "teach-in" was conducted at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, in which 200 faculty members led special anti-war seminars while regular classes were canceled and rallies and speeches held sway for 12 hours.

\* On March 25, 2001, Icelandic actress and pop singer Bjork made an unforgettable appearance at the 73rd annual Academy Awards in a nude body stocking draped with a large, fake white swan. As if that weren't enough, the artist then proceeded to "lay" six giant ostrich eggs. Whatever popular opinion said about the look, the dress went on to be honored by the Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

\* On March 26, 1804, President Thomas Jefferson attended a public party at the Senate and led a diverse crowd in eating an enormous loaf of bread dubbed the

"mammoth loaf." The bread had been baked to go with the remnants of a giant block of cheese.

\* On March 27, 1929, President Herbert Hoover had a phone installed at his desk in the Oval Office of the White House. It took a while to get the line working correctly and Hoover complained to aides when his son was unable to reach him from an outside line. Previously, Hoover had used a phone located in the foyer just outside the Oval Office.

\* On March 28, 1814, the funeral of Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, inventor of the execution device that bore his name, took place outside of Paris, France. Guillotin had given the contraption to the French as a "philanthropic gesture" and was upset at how his reputation had suffered afterward when it became closely identified with political executions and abuses during the French Terror after the Revolution

## Letter: Still a Republic

Dear editor,  
For all the dire editorial letters prior to Nov. 5, it is now week six and we are

still a Republic.

John Dickson,  
Oregon

## Letter: SAFE Act Illinois

DEAR editor,  
Illinois shuttered its last horse slaughtering plant in 2007, so why do we still need to worry about the topic of horse slaughter? The answer is as simple as it is sad: there is still no federal law banning the sale and transport of horses for slaughter across U.S. borders. This loophole allows kill-buyers, unethical individuals who prey on respectable horse owners, to sell horses and ship them off to be slaughtered and eaten in countries outside the U.S.

for human consumption or sell or transport horses for slaughter abroad. The SAFE Act would, critically, close a loophole that allowed kill-buyers to export 19,000 of our horses for slaughter in 2024 alone even though horse slaughter is not allowed here in the states. This bill would ensure that horses are given the chance to join one of the 1.2 million households who have the resources and desire to immediately adopt a horse in need.

On behalf of our horses, I thank Representative Schakowsky for sponsoring the SAFE Act and co-leading the effort to protect American horses from a terrible death in foreign countries.

Debbie Hood,  
Oregon

## Letter: Cut Israel loose

DEAR editor,  
Being primarily apolitical, I have little faith in either party; still, something seems more than a little off about the Trump administration. It reminds me of the movie The Wizard of Oz.

Strangely, the president's picks to head some powerful government agencies are Fox News TV personalities and Dan Bongino. Using the movie as a metaphor, they could be the Tin Man, Straw Man, and cowardly Lion, with the president pulling the levers behind the curtain.

President Trump is presently riding high among Republican voters for his perceived positive changes

No matter the president's intentions, the tentacles of corruption and mismanagement that have wormed their way into government will take more time to extract than he has as president.

Still, one move that would significantly improve our nation's situation would be to cut Israel loose!

Richard Rowland,  
Polo

## XX, XY, and the transgender culture war

PRESIDENT Trump wasted no time in targeting transgender people on his first day back on the job. He issued an executive order stating that the federal government will recognize only two sexes, male and female. The effects of this and other executive orders will be broad and deep.

The federal government will refuse to identify transgender people as such on its documents, including passports. Supportive programs at school, military service, and sports are to be a thing of the past for them. Federal insurance will no longer cover them for their condition. Federal prisons will move transgender women to male prisons. Opponents to the transgender movement are meanwhile pushing for restrictions on their bathroom access and their ability to revise their birth certificates.

It's important to be clear, in this emotionally charged situation, about the difference between sex, which refers to the organs for making babies, and gender, which reflects how people see themselves and their place in society. Transgender people feel that their psychological, emotional, and/or erotic make-up don't line up with the sex identified in their birth certificates. The Trump administration's policies imply that such people are deluded, dishonest, or simply immoral.

Science can help resolve this conflict by explaining how it is that we become men and women. It can be surprisingly complicated, as revealed by J. Ben Morton in the Feb. 6 Huffington Post (huffpost.com). He's by all appearances a male, but he learned from genetic testing at age 32 that his cells contain, not the XY chromosome combination that produces a male, but instead the XX chromosome pairing of a female.

This came about in his mother's womb, when part of his Y chromosome moved to the X chromosome. He grew up with the sexual organs of a male on the outside but, in his words, "my internal functioning was more blurred, including irregular hormone production and likely infertility."

His diagnosis provided an explanation for his health issues: "I couldn't build muscle as quickly, I was usually tired, and my brain seemed to operate differently." It also enabled him to receive appropriate medical treatments, and made him more sympathetic to those who "don't fit the typical molds."

Claire Ainsworth, in the Oct. 22, 2018 Scientific American magazine, explained that Mr. Morton's condition is one of many

variations of mixed male and female anatomy that can occur. They result from genetic mutations, mixed-up hormonal signals, and even exchanges of genes between the mother and the fetus in the womb.

It's possible, as a result, for people to have complete or partial organs of both sexes. They may, for example, develop testicles on the inside, but female genitals on the outside, and are identified as females at birth. Ms. Ainsworth reported, in a similar vein, that one man, who had fathered four children, discovered at age 70 that he had a womb.

These people aren't transgender, and they make up a tiny percentage of the population.

But they demonstrate that sex and gender aren't necessarily a simple matter of XX vs. XY. Their existence also suggests that there's much we still don't know about sex and gender regarding transgender people — and the rest of us as well. Common sense tells us that some heterosexual men can at times seem more feminine than some females, and vice versa. Sexual organs and the brain don't always make for a perfect match.

It makes sense, given these uncertainties, to be cautious with judgments about transgender people,

as well as those who consider themselves to be gay, lesbian, or otherwise outside the sexual norm. Science provides a useful frame of reference, but it can take us only so far. The question is, in the end, not as much about scientific fact as it is about how we want to treat people who are different.

We might want to exclude or punish them if we see them as threats to beliefs and values that we hold dear. It's an ancient and natural tendency. The better alternative, also ancient and natural, is to treat them with the kindness and understanding that we offer to everyone else.

Transgender people and their advocates must in like manner offer kindness and understanding to their opponents, if we're to reach a consensus on this issue. Their beliefs and fears are sincere. Everyone must be willing to compromise, whenever possible.

President Trump's executive order isn't kind or understanding. It's judgmental and punitive, and it won't bring a lasting resolution to the culture war over transgender people.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

## Letter: Why Musk's DOGE?

DEAR editor,  
Project 2025 is a political initiative to reshape the federal government and consolidate executive power in favor of right-wing policies. The plan was published in 2023 by The Heritage Foundation, an American conservative think tank. (please read here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project\\_2025](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_2025)).

"I have nothing to do with Project 2025," Trump said in the opening moments of his September debate against Vice President Kamala Harris. "That's out there. I haven't read it." The president, his spokesman Harrison Fields said, "had nothing to do with Project 2025."

On Trump's actions so far, Paul Dans, who oversaw Project 2025 at Heritage Foundation: "This is exactly the work we set out to do". Russel Vought, author of Project 2025, now director of

Trump's Office of Management and Budget, said "We're not going to save our country without a little confrontation."

About Elon Musk: Amount Musk donated to Trump's election campaign cannot be known but is thought to be several hundred million dollars.

Trump, in a recent executive order that he signed with Musk, said agency leaders "shall promptly undertake preparations to initiate large-scale reductions in force."

Musk's operation became more powerful with another executive order by Trump, directing federal agencies to develop new systems for distributing and justifying payments so they can be monitored by Musk's Department of Government Efficiency.

Consider just one federal agency among many: Social Security Admin-

istration. Advocates say long wait times for services have plagued the agency for years, and its current staffing is already at about a 50-year low. But SSA announced that it aims to cut some 7,000 jobs to align with DOGE. Don Moynihan, a public policy professor at the University of Michigan: "Once you do this damage, it's going to be incredibly hard to rebuild the capacity of these organizations. It's not like you can turn the switch back on and everything is going to be the way it was before."

Most citizens don't think how federal activities help their health and welfare, but when they are gone, then they will know. Should Trump fire Musk? About Musk, Trump said: "He's doing a great job".

Taxes: Trump has presented tax reduction plan

in alignment with Project 2025. This has been analyzed by bipartisan group Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget: "Depending on the details of these proposals, our rough estimate is that a package of this nature would: reduce revenue by \$5.0 trillion to \$11.2 trillion over 10 years, by 1.3 to 3.0 percent of Gross Domestic Product, and boost debt to between 132 and 149 percent of GDP by 2035, if not offset. Such a package could also lead to significant income shifting (away from wealthy) and tax avoidance, weaken the Medicare and possibly Social Security trust funds, dramatically boost interest costs, and increase the risk of debt spiral." However, raising debt could be lessened by radically slashing federal expenditures (as above).

Henry Tideman,  
Oregon

## Letter: Displeasure with senators

DEAR editor,  
I am writing to express my displeasure with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth voting on a Senate Bill to allow men to compete in

women's sports. This is a constitutional affront to women and girls on two levels as it constitutes both an invasion of privacy (locker and bathrooms) as well as a violation of the original intent of

Title IX, which was to both promote and offer more fairness in women's sports. This country needs more Riley Gaines and Caitlin Clarks' and less of these other "posers". We need role model women

by biological birth to lift up our women and girls rather than sexual deviants invading their spaces and sports.

Mark Schwendau,  
Byron

## 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

## McCombie gives CWD update: Legislative package filed

SAVANNA — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) is providing an update to constituents in her 89<sup>th</sup> District on Chronic Wasting Disease, fatal disease of the central nervous system in deer and elk. Since its first detection in a northwest Boone County deer in 2002, state efforts to manage the disease have had a lasting impact — especially in Leader McCombie’s legislative district. As a result, McCombie has filed a legislative package to produce state-based solutions. “Input from residents has been the driving force behind my efforts to ad-

dress Chronic Wasting Disease. Because of this feedback, I have identified legislation that represents our community’s voice and will make significant change,” said McCombie. Based on overwhelming feedback from residents, Leader McCombie is advancing the following measures: End the CWD sharpshooting program entirely (HB3858). Automatically phase out the sharpshooting program in any area that has not had a confirmed CWD case in three years (HB2339). Encourage responsible hunting by allowing

special deer, turkey, and combination hunting licenses for landowners with at least 20 acres in counties where CWD has been identified (HB2340). McCombie is urging constituents to stay involved on the issue. To

date, two of the bills have moved forward, HB2339 and HB2340; they are assigned to the Agriculture and Conversation Committee in the Illinois House. “Our community knows what is best, and I

am relying on the voices from local residents to help me forge the path forward and ensure we reach a suitable outcome,” continued McCombie.

## Byron’s Kultgen named to dean’s list at Auburn

AUBURN, Ala. — The College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University in Alabama has named Ava Kultgen

of Byron to the dean’s list for the fall 2024 semester. Kultgen is majoring in applied mathematics and actuarial science.



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Main \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Second \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL SALES ARE LIMITED TO STOCK AVAILABLE.**  
**FINAL ORDER DEADLINE- APRIL 1, 2025. After April 1st, call for availability.**  
**TREE ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE OGLE CO. FAIRGROUNDS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 10th & 11th, 2025.**

Office use only

Order # 25- \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Paid \_\_\_\_\_

We need your full mailing address and phone numbers to reach you if a problem arises and to mail you a pick up reminder in the Spring.

Item description	Age & Size	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 22" plus	15 trees for \$ 42.00		
COLO. BLUE SPRUCE      SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 28"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
WHITE SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 20" plus	15 trees for \$ 42.00		
WHITE SPRUCE      SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 24" plus	15 trees for \$ 42.00		
NORWAY SPRUCE      SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 20.00		
SERBIAN SPRUCE	4 yr. transplant, 16-22"	10 trees for \$ 35.00		
WHITE PINE      SMALLER	2-3 yr. seedling, 4-8"	25 trees for \$ 25.00		
WHITE PINE	4 yr. transplant, 20" plus	15 trees for \$ 55.00		
WHITE PINE      SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, up to 30"	5 trees for \$ 25.00		
DOUGLAS FIR      SELECT PREMIUM	4 yr. transplant, 22-28"	10 trees for \$ 40.00		
CANAAN FIR	3 yr. transplant, 10-15"	10 trees for \$ 30.00		
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE, <i>White Cedar</i>	2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	10 trees for \$ 30.00		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	1 yr. seedling, 12-24"	25 shrubs for \$ 35.00		
BUTTERFLY BUSH	1 yr. seedling, 2-3'	1 pack (3 plants) \$15.00		
HIBISCUS, <i>Swamp Rose Mallow</i>	2 yr. seedling,	1 pack (5 plants) \$15.00		
BLAZING STAR, <i>Liatris</i>	Select bulbs	1 pack (7 bulbs) \$10.00		
RED BUD	1 yr. seedling, 1-2'	\$ 7.00 each		
LILAC, Common	1 yr. seedling, 1-2'	1 pack (2 plants) \$10.00		
HYBRID POPULAR, <i>Imperial Carolina</i>	1 yr. seedling, 1-2'	10 for \$35.00 or \$ 5.00 each		
WHITE PAPER BIRCH      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RIVER BIRCH      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
Am. LINDEN (Basswood)      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SUGAR MAPLE      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED MAPLE      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 2-3'	\$ 10.00 each		
PIN OAK      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
RED (NORTHERN) OAK      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SWAMP WHITE OAK      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
WHITE OAK      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
SYCAMORE      PREMIUM SIZE	2 yr. seedling, 3-4'	\$ 10.00 each		
BLACK WALNUT	2 yr. seedling, 12-24"	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
CHINKAPIN OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 50.00		
RED OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 12-24"	25 trees for \$ 40.00		
SWAMP WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 50.00		
WHITE OAK	1-2 yr. seedling, 18-24"	25 trees for \$ 50.00		
BAT HOUSE or BLUEBIRD HOUSE	Locally made, IDNR plans	Bat @ \$30 or Blue Bird @ \$40		
FERTILIZER PACKET	Formulated, Time Released	25 packets for \$ 20.00		
PLANTING GEL      Root Dip	4 oz. dry pack, makes 5 gallons	1 packet for \$ 10.00		
TREE PROTECTOR	4 inch x 4 ft tall poly tube	\$ 5.00 each		
MARKING FLAGS	36" wire w/ 4"x5" flag	50 flags \$10.00 / 100 flags \$20.00		
*** MINIMUM ORDER \$ 10.00 ***			TOTAL	
ALL ORDERS DUE BY APRIL 1, 2025 or call after				

\*\*\*FOR VOLUME ORDER DISCOUNTS CALL\*\*\*

To request a full tree brochure with descriptions contact the  
Ogle Co. Soil & Water Conservation District at 815-732-6127 ext.3

Return order and payment to:      **OGLE COUNTY SWCD**  
1213 PINES ROAD SUITE 3  
OREGON IL 61061-9060

Plant today for tomorrow. All trees and shrubs are for conservation purposes. Providing habitat for wildlife and enjoyment for all.  
All Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District services and programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.





# Must-Try Fish Frys

## CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

**EVERY Friday**  
**4-8 pm**  
during Lent

**Fish Fry Buffet**  
(All You Can Eat) - \$20  
Every Friday during Lent

(Multiple dishes, Baked Cod, Pollock, Perch, homemade hush-puppies, shrimp fried rice, cheesy potatoes, soup and salad bar, vegetables and more! \*Fish will vary each week)

Win some money gaming!

Friday Night Fish Dinner  
\$17 Perch/\$15 Cod  
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Other seafood available / Full menu available

After Lent, Friday Night Fish Fry Buffet will only be the 1st Friday of every month!

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Post 8739

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Cod, Catfish, Salmon & Shrimp Dinners

**Served Fridays 4pm-8pm**  
Open to the Public, Dine-in or Carry-out.

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**SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
ROCHELLE, IL

## 2025 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

St. Patrick Parish Center 236 Kelley Drive

**Fish Dinner**

ADULT (11YRS+) \$15.50  
SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$14.50  
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$10.50

Includes 2-3 pieces of baked or hand breaded fried cod and everything on the menu excluding pizza

**Pizza Dinner**

ADULT (11YRS+) \$13.50  
SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$12.50  
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$8.50

Includes 2 slices of pizza (1 slice for children's dinner) and everything on the menu excluding fish

**FAMILY RATE - \$50**  
Parent(s) and children 18-under - DINE IN ONLY  
**3-UNDER - FREE**

50/50 RAFFLE - HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE - CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

**Friday's Dates**  
MARCH 14, 21, 28  
APRIL 4, 11  
5:00-7:00 PM

**MENU**

Baked & Hand Breaded  
Deep Fried Cod  
Tartar Sauce & Lemon Slices  
Alfano's Cheese Pizza  
Macaroni & Cheese  
French Fries  
Potatoes w/Parsley  
Green Beans  
Cole Slaw  
Dessert & Beverages

Dinner proceeds support St. Patrick Cursillo Ministry.  
A special thank you to our Parishioners for their support of our ministry!

**Friday 5pm-9pm**

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**2023 VOTED BEST OF OGLE COUNTY**  
**2024 VOTED BEST OF OGLE COUNTY**

PUBLIC WELCOME, DINE IN OR CARRY OUT. CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

03032025



# LOCAL NEWS

## Sutton named February 2025 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

**POLO**—Caleb Sutton was recently named the February Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for his efforts. He is the son of Jennifer Emmert and Chris Sutton.

Sutton's extracurricular activities include golf, band, Drama Club, Varsity Club, FCCLA, Student Council, Game Club, and Spanish Club. After high school, he plans to pursue a career in social work.

Upon winning the award, Sutton filled out a list of questions about his school experience.

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

-Paying attention in class, turning in work, and being kind to others.

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

-Be kind to others even when they aren't kind to you. Be the bigger person and don't judge because you might not know what others are going through in their life.

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

-The class that I find fully engaging is Band.

In the class our teacher Derek McAnally teaches us how to become better musicians and how to play the rhythm correctly and how to practice on our own time making us better. I am surrounded by people in the band that I call my friends, and I know we all have each other's back when we need it.

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

-My post-graduation plans include attending the University of Louisville in Kentucky. There I plan on studying social work, where I can get my BSW (bachelors in social work) in four years and my MSSW (Masters in Science in Social Work) in another year.

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

-My two favorite extracurricular activities are Golf, and Drama Club. I started playing golf my freshman year, and each year I have seen myself get better and it has taught me many things, for example; I have learned patience, better hand

eye coordination, more teamwork skills, and has helped my mental health more. I have also been a part of the drama club since my freshman year, and it has also taught me a variety of things. Those being; leadership, how to memorize things better, and being a better person with people.

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

-I have been a part of many group events and activities but the thing that was most meaningful and memorable for me was playing in our school's pep band. Throughout all four years I had been playing in our school's pep band as our lead trumpet player for almost all of those years. This was memorable because it was an experience that gave me millions of memories from playing with my friends on the stage or in the stands at games or rehearsing in the band room with everyone and learning new music to play for the people every game.

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Caleb Sutton was the February winner of the Polo High School Student of the Month. He received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation member Alissa Zeigler.**

-My hope for the future is after obtaining my masters degree to join a private practice and get my

footing for a couple years building up a clientele and then after either going back to school for my

doctorate or starting my own practice whichever comes first, but both are the ultimate goal for me.

## Fall archery season yields record harvest of 1,045 wild turkeys

**SPRINGFIELD** - Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary record statewide total of 1,045 wild turkeys during the 2024-2025 fall archery turkey season. The total

compares last year's harvest of 803 and the 5-year average of 763 birds harvested. The previous record total for fall archery season was in 2015 when 851 turkeys were taken.

This season 27,422 permits were sold (excluding landowner permits) compared to 25,741 for the 2023-2024 season. The season dates were Oct. 1, 2024 through Jan. 19,

2025 and all 102 counties were open for hunting.

Harvest reports were 51% male and 49% female compared to 54% males and 46% hens last year. A total of 62% of

hunters reported using crossbows versus 37% using compound bows and 1% using traditional bows.

The top five counties for fall archery wild tur-

key harvest this season were Fayette, 37; Jefferson, 28; Pike, 25; Marion, 24; and Jo Daviess, 23. Ogle County saw 17 turkeys harvested this year and 17 harvested last year.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**March 7-April 11:** The Knights of Columbus Friday Lenten Fish Fry at 2226 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. will be held on Fridays, March 7-April 11, all at 4-7 p.m. Dine-in at the parish (handicap-accessible) or carry-out. Meal includes choice of fried or baked pollock, fish tacos, mac & cheese, fish chowder, cole slaw, potatoes and more. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus #4739. Cost: \$12/adult, \$11/senior citizen (ages 65 and up), \$5/child (ages 6-11). Cash-only; no debit

or credit cards. Profits go to Serenity Hospice and Home, Oregon. Last year resulted in an \$8,000 donation. Stations of the Cross: Fridays, March 7-April 18, 7 p.m. in the church.

**March 13:** The Performing Arts Guild will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove Community Center. This event is an evening of food, fun and fellowship along with a preview of the

upcoming season. The cost is \$40 to become a PAG member which covers attendance for you and a guest at the annual meeting and includes one show ticket for the 2025 season. You can join and pay your membership fee at the meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Karen by Feb. 29 at Karen2024@performingartsguild.com to make your reservations. Remember....It Isn't Work...It's Play! Come PLAY in commu-

nity theater.

**March 14:** Join the Leaf River Lions Club and other local organizations with an evening of fun, laughter and lots of music! March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Bertolet Memorial Building, 103 W. 2nd St., Leaf River, teams will be competing for prize money. People in the audience may win too! Admission is \$10 and light refreshments will be available. Looking forward to seeing you at the Name That Tune

event.

**March 20:** The Polo FFA alumni spaghetti dinner is Thursday, March 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Polo Community High School cafeteria. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for kids 12 & under. There will be a 50/50 raffle, need not be present to win. Purchase tickets at the door. Carry out available. Proceeds go to the Polo FFA Alumni Scholarship and other ag needs.

**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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# LOCAL NEWS

## Fritts honors Dinges Fire Company in Amboy for February Local Business Highlight

**AMBOY** – For his February 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Dinges Fire Company in Amboy. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for his contributions to the community.

“This month, I am proud to recognize Dinges Fire Company in Amboy for their dedication to public safety and their remarkable growth as a company,” said Rep. Fritts. “Dinges Fire Company provides essential equipment and services to fire departments across the Midwest, and their continued expansion is a testament to their hard work and commitment to their mission.”

Founded in 2002 by owner Nick Dinges, Dinges Fire Company sells firefighter protective equipment, rescue tools, gear, and more. They also service fire trucks on site. Dinges Fire Company currently employs over 180 people across multiple states.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

For his February 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Dinges Fire Company in Amboy.

Rep. Fritts continued, “I also want to recognize Nick Dinges not only as a business leader but as a dedicated public servant. Not only does he work as an assistant fire chief with the Sublette Fire Department and a firefighter-paramedic with the Amboy Fire Department, but Nick also runs Sublette 365, a non-profit organization that works to fund projects to develop and beautify Sublette. Nick has devoted himself to bettering our community. His leadership, and the continued success of his team, deserve to be honored.”

Dinges Fire Company is located at 243 East Main Street in Amboy. For more information, you can visit their website at [DingesFire.com](http://DingesFire.com). To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit [RepFritts.com](http://RepFritts.com) and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit [RepFritts.com](http://RepFritts.com).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

State Rep. Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) is proud to announce that his Deputy Chief of Staff and Outreach Director Piper Grazulis recently won the Shoulder to the Wheel Award from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce.

## Rep. Fritts' staff honored

**DIXON** – State Rep. Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) is proud to announce that his Deputy Chief of Staff and Outreach Director Piper Grazulis recently won the Shoulder to the Wheel Award from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce.

“I couldn’t be more proud of my Deputy Chief of Staff and Outreach Director, Piper Grazulis, for receiving this award,” said Rep. Fritts. “Her dedication to the people of the 74th District is remarkable, and I am

truly fortunate to have such a committed team member working every day to improve our community.”

The Shoulder to the Wheel Award honors an individual who demonstrates unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment to the betterment of the community. This award recognizes those who go above and beyond, putting their “shoulder to the wheel” to drive positive change, support local initiatives, and uplift businesses and residents through their efforts.

act on the community.

“As the committee reviewed the applications and reflected on the incredible success of so many outstanding individuals, one name kept surfacing,” said Sam Smith, president/CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber. “Piper’s positivity and drive stood out time and again. As the committee finalized their discussion, it became clear that there was a bold and deserving winner for this year’s award.”

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**FARMING:** “These farmers are going to have to have a really sharp pencil this year”

"The farm bill affects every farmer in one way or

During President Trump's first term, tariffs were also seen which resulted in negative financial impacts to farmers. The Trump administration then allocated payments to help mitigate and offset those impacts.



"I don't know if this time around we'll see those types of payments or mitigation," Kern said. "I have no idea. But I do know this, if you start including agricultural commodities in these tariffs, this isn't the 1950s anymore. South America is a huge competitor. If China can't source soybeans for the right price from the U.S., they'll get them from somewhere else. And they'll source them from South America. Once you start playing that game and once you start being known across the world as an unreliable supplier, regaining markets that you lost becomes a no-win

"These farmers are going to have to have a really sharp pencil this year," Kern said. "When farmers sit down and they're pencil-

Kern said current lower fuel prices are a positive for farmers, and they worked to lock in prices on anything they could for the year before potential changes could be seen. Farmers are always at the mercy of mother nature, but they now face uncertainty with the Farm Bill and other changes

"Hopefully from there, we'll have a relatively normal growing season," Kern said. And from there, I hope we can pull out the bushels we're anticipating. Then it's a matter of whether or not we have a place to sell them."



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

# Oregon Woman's Club gives books to Oregon Public Library

The books are *A Place*

field, Jan Larson, Rosemary Underwood, Youth Librarian Debbie Herman, Audrey Taylor, Christa Young, Valdean Fletcher, Maggie Kippes, and Nancy Bartels.

For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association, visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).



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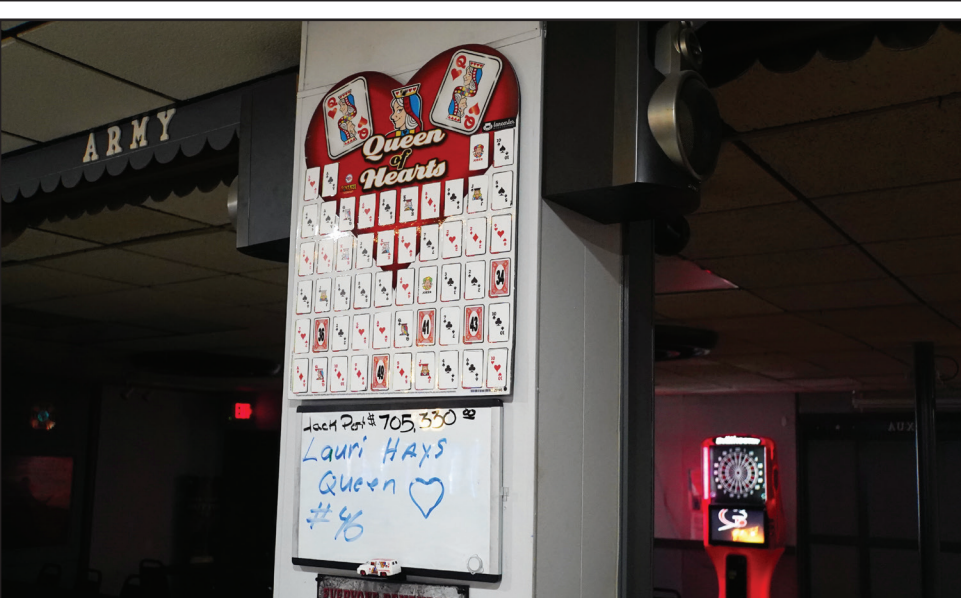
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# LOCAL NEWS



VFW Commander Dennis Orlikowski said the recent run of the Queen of Hearts game went "very well" after it started out at around \$100,000 and saw a flurry of ticket sales and activity at the post in the past several weeks.

## VFW: 'We're so thankful for everybody's participation and involvement'

From page 1

One ticket is drawn each Tuesday night and the card with the number on the ticket is revealed.

"I never expected in all those tickets that mine would ever be the one picked," Hays said. "You can't win unless you throw some tickets in there. I cried happy tears when I found out. I feel so thankful and blessed."

When the Queen of Hearts is drawn, the winner receives 65 percent of the pot. The remaining 35 percent (\$246,865.50) will be split evenly between the post and donations to nonprofit organizations. The VFW plans to use its \$123,432.75 portion

for improvements and operational costs. The donations to area nonprofits and veterans organizations will be made in the coming weeks.

VFW Commander Dennis Orlikowski said the recent run of the Queen of Hearts game went "very well" after it started out at around \$100,000 and saw a flurry of ticket sales and activity at the post in the past several weeks.

VFW Quartermaster Joe Drought said the funds raised will "help tremendously" with projects at the post such as an ongoing floor remodel. He's excited to make contributions to charities as well.

"Our part of this is the satisfaction of being able

to get this money out into the community and doing good things with it," Drought said. "And using our share to improve our building infrastructure and having a solid foundation to pass onto the next generation of veterans."

The \$705,330 total jackpot was a record high for the VFW in its years running the Queen of Hearts game. Patrons looking to win life-changing money spent time at the post buying tickets in recent weeks and many also bought food or drinks during their time there, which helps with the nonprofit organization's revenue. The VFW is open to the public.

The VFW got a helping



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

hand from members and volunteers when selling tickets became too much for bartenders to handle due to the game's popularity.

"You get to talk with people and it's people from all over," Drought said. "People want to be a part of it. It's exciting to see that. The public is always welcome here. We like to say the VFW is where the community meets its veterans. We want to have that interaction and welcome the public. If we didn't have the public in here, we would've had to close our doors years ago."

Drought said the VFW is always looking for new members for its organiza-

tion to keep numbers up in order to maintain a voice and relevance with lawmakers to affect change to help veterans in the country. Eligible veterans need to have been involved in a campaign or have served in Korea to join.

Drought said being able to hand a member of the community a check for life-changing money was gratifying. The start of the next Queen of Hearts game will be delayed for 4-6 weeks due to the upcoming completion of the post's flooring project and updates on the start of the game and its first jackpot will be provided on the VFW's Facebook page.

Orlikowski and Drought thanked the post's staff,

members, volunteers and the community for their involvement over the past 49 weeks.

"The volunteers putting the hours and effort in is tremendous," Drought said. "Our staff here is top-notch. They make it happen. When it gets super busy, it's too much for the bartenders to sell tickets and take care of everyone's food and drinks. We count on our volunteers. And I want to send a big thank you to the community and everyone in the region that came and contributed and participated and was a part of the excitement. We're so thankful for everybody's participation and involvement. It's been a tremendous blessing."

## Illinois students could benefit from UNI proposal to offer in-state tuition

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** — The University of Northern Iowa is taking a bold step to benefit students across the Midwest with a plan to offer in-state tuition to students in all six states bordering Iowa, includ-

ing Illinois.

This initiative, pending approval by the Iowa Legislature, aims to help students from neighboring states access affordable, high-quality education while enhancing workforce-ready

skills and addressing job shortages in Iowa.

UNI remains the most affordable public institution in Iowa and has long been recognized for helping first-generation college students achieve their educational

and professional goals. It is consistently ranked No. 2 on U.S. News and World Report's annual list of the Best Regional Public Universities in the Midwest, underscoring UNI's ongoing commitment to academic excellence and student success.

In 2024, the David W. Wilson College of Business continued its long streak of being named a Best Business School by the Princeton Review for more than a decade. The Wilson College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, a distinction that can be boasted by fewer than 5% of business schools worldwide.

UNI continues to be widely recognized for its esteemed reputation in teacher education. More than 10,000 educators can trace their roots back to UNI as the institution ranks in the top 1% of teacher education programs nationwide in terms of size and quality.

In addition to these signature programs, UNI launched its standalone Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 2024 to help supply the Midwest with more health care professionals. UNI also boasts three new engineering programs: a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology, a Bachelor of Science in Materials Science & Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science

in Materials Science Engineering Technology.

By drawing in students from neighboring states and providing them with a high-quality education at an affordable cost, UNI plays a pivotal role in attracting young professionals who will choose to build their careers and lives in our region.

The University of Northern Iowa will welcome its 150th class of students in August 2025 as the institution celebrates its sesquicentennial over the next two years. The Iowa State Normal School was established in 1876 and has consistently evolved to meet the changing needs of students and the workforce in Iowa and the Midwest.

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# Stillman Valley Cardinals win IHSA 2A Sectional Championship

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCK FALLS** — An emotional Taylor Davidson said it felt like a dream as she and her Stillman Valley teammates celebrated their IHSA 2A Rock Falls Sectional Championship win Thursday.

Facing off against Big Northern Conference rival Byron in a matchup of Ogle County programs, Stillman Valley overcame a double-digit deficit during the first quarter and delivered huge plays in the final moments, outlasting the Tigers 47-45 to claim the program's first sectional crown since 2017. Thursday marked the third encounter between Byron (32-3, 8-1 BNC) and Stillman Valley (32-1, 8-1 BNC) this season, with all three games being decided by five points or less.

"We knew that it wasn't going to be easy going up against Byron," said Davidson, who led the Cardinals with 17 points. "The way we were able to rally together and get that win... I'm over the moon right now and I can't describe how I feel. The last two times we played

Byron, we had a deficit and we were able to build back. We never quit and I thought that was a good advantage for us. It felt like they got tired at times and that's when we were able to take advantage."

Stillman Valley advanced to the IHSA 2A Bureau Valley Super Sectional this past Monday, when the Cardinals took on Peoria Notre Dame for a chance to earn their first ticket to the state tournament since 2012. Byron took control of Thursday's sectional title game during the first quarter, where the Tigers limited Stillman Valley to six points and held Davidson, an Ashland University commit and 2,000-point scorer for her career, without a single point.

The Tigers carried a 17-6 lead into the second quarter, where a Stillman Valley turnover led to a breakaway layup that forced a Cardinal timeout and allowed Byron to surge ahead 25-11, the team's largest advantage of the evening in the first half. The Tigers showed great balance on offense during the first half, where five Byron players scored points



(PHOTO BY MIGUEL HUARACHA - DOPE VZN/CLUTCH SPORTS MEDIA 815)

**The Stillman Valley High School varsity girls basketball team won the IHSA 2A Rock Falls Sectional Championship on Thursday, Feb. 27, defeating Byron 47-45. The team includes Olivia Voltz, Joslyn Nanni, Nola Ivy-Friberg, Lillian Green, Amelia Dunseth, Taylor Davidson, Emma Withers, Abby Gilliam, Addisyn Faerber, Alyvia Bagg, Dailene Wade, Brooklyn Lee and Brooke Jordal. The team is coached by Bobby Mellon.**

and three players drained 3-point shots. Aubrie Fuller and Karsyn Bielskis each had seven first-half points for the Tigers.

Trailing 25-16 at half-time, Stillman Valley surged back into the game with a trio of clutch triples early in the third quarter.

Brooke Jordal drilled a 3-pointer from the corner before Davidson put home a pair of triples over Stillman Valley's next

two possessions to force a Byron timeout.

**See SECTIONAL  
page 2**



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**66XX Montague Road Rockford \$225,000 Call Rebecca**

15-Acre Buildable Homesite in Winnebago School District! An incredible opportunity to own 15 acres of prime Class A farm ground with a highly productive PI of 138! This versatile property is buildable and ideal for a farmstead, offering the perfect setting to grow your own produce, raise livestock, and live sustainably—all in one place. The rich soil makes this land well-suited for a hobby farm or niche crop operation. Conveniently located near Rockford and Route 20, you'll enjoy the best of both worlds—rural living with easy access to modern conveniences. Natural gas is adjacent to the property, adding even more value. Available to rent for the 2025 crop season—buy now and build later! Don't miss out on this rare opportunity—call today for more details!

**313 S Jefferson Avenue Amboy \$149,900 Call Jenny Kirchner**

It's love at first sight when you enter this 2 bedroom 2 bath home in Amboy. Gorgeous updates to the main floor of the home include a custom kitchen, full bathroom, and functional laundry. From the moment you walk in the door there is a perfect blend of comfort and style. The kitchen is the highlight of the home with a spacious feel, beautiful cabinets featuring soft close drawers and modern hardware. Quartz countertops, pristine subway tile, ample lighting, stainless hood and appliances complete the classy look of the culinary space. Main floor bath is tastefully finished and boasts new sink, cabinet, fixtures, lighting and the LVT flooring also in laundry and kitchen. There is ample living space creating an open feel with both a living/family room combination. 2 bedrooms upstairs and the potential for another in the basement. Basement has another updated bathroom, bonus room, plenty of storage and a walk-out entrance to the patio. The outdoor spaces are fantastic with a quaint front porch, deck off the sliders in the kitchen and concrete patio. The 2+ garage is every hobbyist dream with plenty of room for vehicles and workspace. This darling home is a must see- call for more detailed information and a showing today!

**000 Deer Valley Drive Deer Grove \$29,000 - \$35,000 Call Rebecca**

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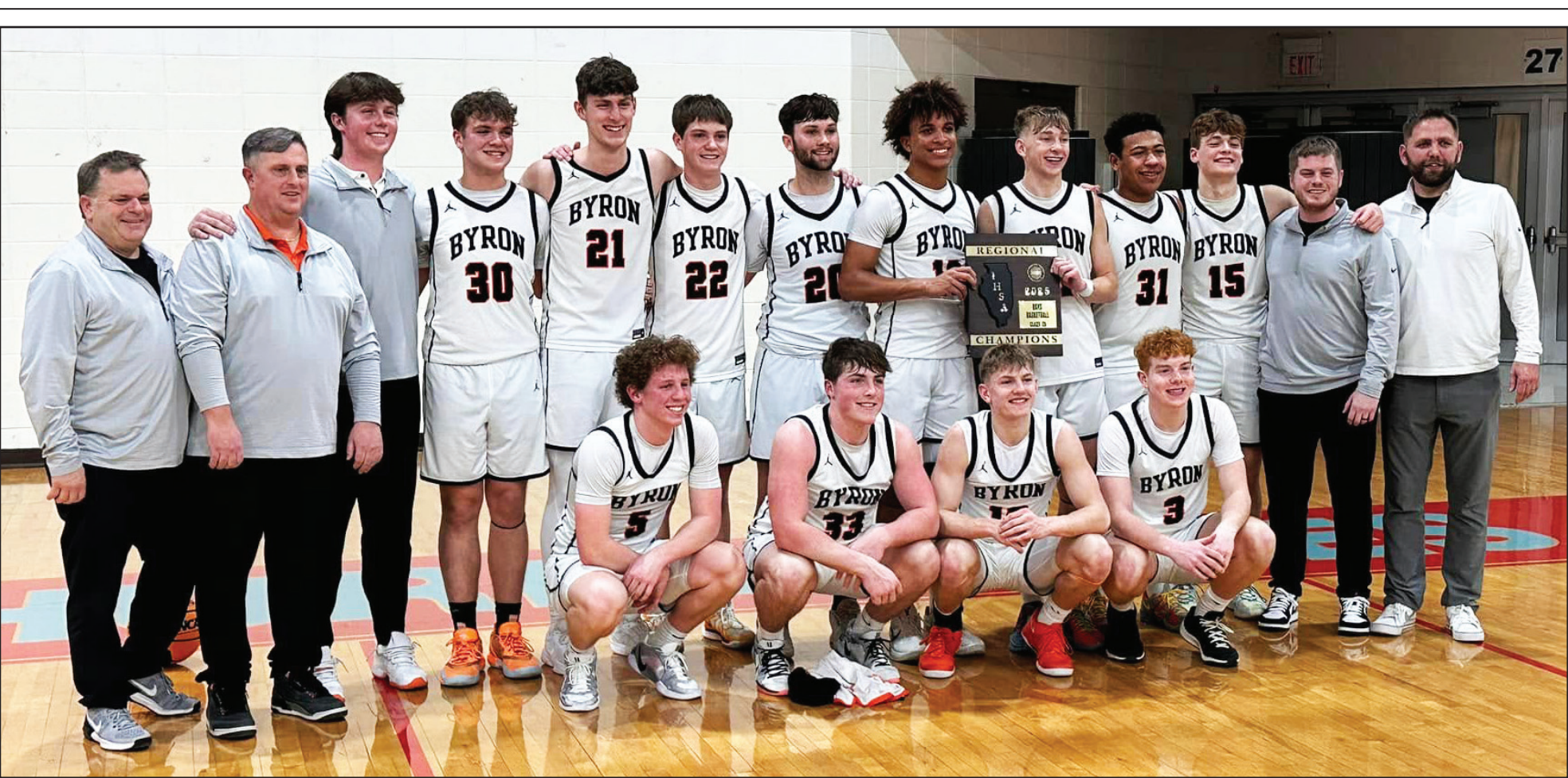
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# SPORTS



## Byron Tigers take home IHSA 2A Regional Championship at Marian Central Catholic

The Byron High School varsity boys basketball team took down Rockford Lutheran 64-51 on Friday, Feb. 28 to claim the IHSA 2A Regional Championship at Marian Central Catholic. Byron (21-9) defeated Marian Central 54-41 in the semifinal round on Wednesday evening. Cason Newton led the Tigers with 18 points in the regional finals, while Ben Hiveley added 16 points and Weston Auker recorded 14 points. The Tigers will advance and compete in the IHSA 2A Marengo Sectional next week. The team is coached by Matt Huels and includes Zion Gautier, Kole Aken, Weston Auker, Cason Newton, JJ Edmonson, Ben Hiveley, Riley Kesler, Hunter Haas, Davis Baker, Oliver Jones, Jordan Croegaert, Jacob Lawver, Kaden McGough and Caden Considine. (Courtesy photo)

## SECTIONAL: Stillman Valley holds off Byron to reach IHSA 2A Super Sectional

From page 1

“It was a huge moment that built up so much momentum,” Davidson said. “We were down by nine and we knew in the locker room that, if we hit three threes, then we’d be right back in it.”

Dailene Wade emerged for the Cardinals midway through the third quarter, using her low-post skills and size advantage to create problems for the Tiger defense in the paint. Wade, who finished with 14 points in the game, hit a pair of shots under the basket to keep the Cardinals within striking distance of the Tigers, who remained ahead 37-33 after a deep mid-range shot from Byron’s Macy Groharing beat the third-quarter buzzer and drew a roar of applause.

“We had a huge advantage inside,” Wade said. “I knew we could do it and we practiced these things over and over again. We executed the way we were supposed to. We never put our heads down, whether it was at halftime or right at the beginning. It’s honestly surreal, but I knew we

could make it this far. We have great coaches, great teammates and everything worked out.”

With a full venue watching for the fourth quarter, Byron’s standout guards, Groharing and Malia Morton, each hit tough running shots near the basket to help the Tigers maintain their slim lead. But the Cardinals rallied off seven straight points midway through the quarter to tie the game at 41-41 and force a Byron timeout. Davidson hit a right-handed runner and a reverse layup under the basket, while Wade finished a shot through contact for an old-fashioned three-point play.

Byron found quality looks from range as the fourth quarter wound down, but missed shots led to defensive rebounds for the Cardinals, who put the Tigers over the limit and broke a 45-45 draw with free throws from Amelia Dunseth and Wade, who each made one in the final minute to put Stillman Valley ahead. After a timeout with seven seconds remaining, Byron inbounded the ball with

one last shot, but a steal by the Cardinals ultimately clinched the Stillman Valley victory.

“It feels amazing,” Wade said. “It’s a great feeling for us and I hope that we can go far.”

Fuller finished with 13 points and Morton added 10 points for the Tigers, who made their way to the sectional finals after winning the IHSA 2A Regional Championship against Aurora Central Catholic last week. Stillman Valley, who took down Riverdale in the sectional finals earlier this week, brought home an IHSA 2A Regional Championship on its home floor, beating Winnebago. A relieved Davidson admitted she’s glad the Cardinals don’t have to face Byron a fourth time.

“We all grew up playing Midwest Wildcats AAU basketball so we all know each other pretty well,” Davidson said. “When Macy [Groharing] drives, I know what she wants to do and when I drive, they all know what I want to do. I’ll be honest, I’m glad I don’t have to play them again.”



(PHOTO BY MIGUEL HUARACHA - DOPE VZN/CLUTCH SPORTS MEDIA 815)

Stillman Valley’s Taylor Davidson (left) guards Byron’s Macy Groharing (right) during the IHSA 2A Rock Falls Sectional Championship on Thursday, Feb. 27.

### Super Sectional

The Stillman Valley Cardinal basketball team saw its record-setting season come to a conclusion during the IHSA 2A Super

Sectional at Bureau Valley

Facing off against defending Class 2A state champion Peoria Notre Dame for a bid to the state tournament, Stillman Valley fell behind early and faced a double-digit deficit at halftime. Despite a tremendous effort from standout guard Taylor Davidson, who head coach Bobby Mellon called a “once in a lifetime player” after the game, the Cardinals were unable to erase the early deficit, falling to the Irish 67-56 and suffering only their second defeat of their historic 2024-25 season.

“This is an amazing team,” Mellon said. “We’ve always talked about being a family and that’s what this group really is. We’re one big family and the girls play hard for one another and that’s what can make a team really special. We wanted to get over the hump tonight and have that experience down state, but we are still really proud of everything we were able to accomplish.”

Stillman Valley (32-2, 8-1 Big Northern) found itself down early in the first quarter, where Peoria Notre Dame (32-4, 10-0 Big Twelve) opened the game on an 8-0 run capped off by a 3-pointer from guard Julia Mingus, who drilled five triples and finished with 25 points for the defending state champion Irish. The Cardinals soon recaptured their footing, though, playing through forward Dailene Wade in the low post, where the sophomore put home a pair of field goals.

A buzzer-beating step-back triple from PND forward Lexi Baer capped off a strong opening quarter for the Irish, who led 16-9 entering the second quarter, where PND continued to push the pace and stretch the floor on offense. On the other end of the floor, Stillman Valley leaned heavily on Davidson and Wade, who combined for all but one of the team’s first-half points.

See **SUPER SECTIONAL** page 3



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# SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY MIGUEL HUARACHA - DOPE VZN/CLUTCH SPORTS MEDIA 815)

The Stillman Valley Cardinals faced Peoria Notre Dame in the IHSA 2A Super Sectional at Bureau Valley on Monday, March 3. Above, Stillman Valley's Lillian Green (left) shoots over Peoria Notre Dame's Cora Heinz, Stillman Valley's Taylor Davidson (middle) rises for a floating jump shot and Stillman Valley's Emma Withers (right) drives inside for a layup. Below, Stillman Valley takes the court for the national anthem before the game.

## SUPER SECTIONAL: Stillman Valley's season ends with loss to Peoria Notre Dame

From page 2

"We knew what to expect based on our scouting report," Mellon said. "We allowed some easy transition threes and threes for some of their players who we had hoped to take away. We knew we could get some offensive looks for Taylor and we hoped to for others, but that didn't happen."

Davidson entered double figures in the second quarter, knocking down a long-range 3-pointer that bounced high above the rim before falling through the hoop, enabling the Cardinals to keep the Irish within striking distance at halftime. Entering the third quarter with a 31-21 deficit, senior guard Amelia Dunseth drained a triple from the corner and Stillman Valley, who rallied from a halftime deficit to beat Byron in the sectional finals, forced a turnover on the next PND series.

But the Irish quelled the momentum with their 3-point shooting, as Baer knocked down multiple stepback triples and

went toe-to-toe against Davidson, who buried long-range shots of her own in an entertaining third-quarter shooting display. A crossover move to the basket led to a layup for guard Emy Wardle that gave the Irish a 41-29 lead and forced a Stillman Valley timeout.

With their season on the line, the Cardinals turned to their star guard Davidson, who made six shots in the third quarter alone and helped keep the Irish within 10 points, 51-41, entering the fourth quarter. But Davidson's outstanding scoring display wasn't enough to upend the Irish, who saw Mingus deliver a pair of 3-point daggers over the final minutes to help PND clinch its bid to the state tournament later this week. Davidson led all players with 31 points on Monday.

"I told [Taylor] before the game and I told her coming out of halftime that there wasn't any way that any of their players could stop her," Mellon said. "It was her game to dominate and she did that."

### OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Oregon boys basketball team takes IHSA Regional game against E-P

The Oregon High School varsity boys basketball team won its first IHSA Regional game on Feb. 24, defeating Erie-Prophetstown 51-42. Kade Girtan led the Hawks with 16 points, while Cooper Johnson added 10 points and Kea-

ton Salsbury chipped in nine points.

#### Forreston boys basketball team falls in IHSA Regional Finals

The Forreston High School varsity boys basketball team fell 67-38 against Annawan in the IHSA Regional Finals on Feb. 28. Kendall Erdmann led the Cardinals with 14 points, while Brendan Greenfield add-

ed 11 points in the loss. Forreston finished with a 21-13 overall record this year.

#### BNC releases All-Conference Girls Basketball Team

The Big Northern Conference revealed the 2024-25 All-Conference Girls Basketball Team. Among the First-Team winners were Byron's Macy Groharing and Ma-

respectful."

Baer finished with 21 points for the Irish, who will advance to face Mt. Carmel in the state semifinals at the CEFCU Arena in Normal on Thursday at 2 p.m. Despite the loss, Stillman Valley reached the super sectional round

for the first time since 2017 and set a new record for victories in a season with 32. Stillman Valley's 27 wins to start the season are also a record.

"It's a huge learning experience where our younger players are able to learn alongside these se-

niors while not having the same level of pressure on them," Mellon said. "The girls can step into larger roles in our program over the next few years and I think they will. We have great kids all throughout the program and we're excited for the future."

## Davidson selected to 2025 IHSA Academic All-State Team

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Congratulations to Ms. Taylor Davidson for being selected to the All-State Academic Team.

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) is proud to announce the 26 students who have been selected to the 2025 All-State Academic Team. The 13 male and 13 female honorees of the IHSA's top academic honor were chosen from a group that included hundreds of students throughout the state.

"This is a tremendous honor and I hope every student who was nominated takes a great deal of pride in all that they have accomplished," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "These students are the embodiment of what it means to take

advantage of the entire high school experience. I am thankful to Caterpillar for providing the All-State Academic Team platform to honor and congratulate them."

Every IHSA member school was invited to nominate one student by the February deadline. Nominees needed to possess a minimum 3.50 grade point average on 4.0 scale after their 7th semester, have participated in at least two IHSA sponsored sports or activities during each of the last two years and demonstrated outstanding citizenship.

The nominations were evaluated by a committee made up of IHSA principals, representatives of the Illinois Activities Directors Association



Taylor Davidson

and representatives of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. One male winner and one female winner from each of the seven IHSA Board of Directors Divisions were selected initially, while the final 12 spots on the team were then rounded out with at-large candidates from anywhere in the state.

lia Morton and Stillman Valley's Taylor Davidson. Second-Team winners included Byron's Aubrie

Fuller and Stillman Valley's Lillian Green and Brooke Jordal. Honorable Mentions included

Byron's Karsyn Bielskis, Oregon's Aniyah Sarver and Stillman Valley's Amelia Dunseth.

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# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## Stillman Valley girls hoops thrills with sectional win

THE big news in local sports from last weekend was Stillman Valley's thrilling sectional win over Byron in girls basketball. Did we expect anything less?

Often a particular game gets so much build up, there is no way it can meet expectations. With these two teams, it was going to be good anyway you looked at it.

For starters, they were fairly equal opponents, as evidenced by the 1-1 in head-to-head play. There would be no quit on either side, as seen in how hard both went after one another this year. Throw in five-mile apart rivals and you have the makings of a classic high-school basketball game.

The Cardinal faithful had to be worried early on when Byron jumped out to a double-digit lead in the first half. This is a Tiger squad that knows how to win and doesn't get flustered in pressure-packed

environments, like Tabor Gym in Rock Falls was.

However, the players from Stillman didn't appear to be fazed by the necessary task of mounting a second-half comeback. That's the steely determination built from months and months of preparation for moments like this and the desire to be the ones on the ladder clipping nets down.

It still saddens me to think of how long it took for girls sports to come into being in Illinois. For anyone of you in the gym watching Byron and Stillman, imagine not having that same opportunity 50 years ago because of ignorant, chauvinistic attitudes.

The last time these two teams played, Taylor Davidson of SV was held to six points. It was tight defense on her again, but she managed to make 5-6 shots in the second half comeback. It wasn't until the final minute that the Cardinals could claim

their first lead. Again, the players had the resolve to finally pull in front, but as a fan, I would have been near cardiac arrest for the previous 31 minutes.

How about the 2A boys sectional with as wide open of a field as can be found. The No. 1 seeds bowed out at regionals, with No. 2s Byron and Rock Falls surviving, along with No. 4 Princeton and No. 6 Winnebago, who beat one of those No. 1 seeds in Rockford Christian. Was it the tradition of Winnebago that got it done, or was RC overrated? Credit does need to go to RC for being the only team in IHSA history to have two 2,000-career scorers (Elijah Cummings, Elijah Daughtery) playing at the same time.

What I found interesting in the four regional finals was how close the scores were to one another,

with Byron and 'Bago winning by identical 57-50 scores. Princeton was 59-53 and Rock Falls 61-58. Does that mean we will see scores in the 50s at the sectional?

If Byron plays like they did in the regular season against Pecatonica, they could be the one moving onto the super-sectional.

Anything can happen in the post season and the 3A regional final between Rockford Boylan (6-26) and Rochelle (12-20) bears this out. Neither should have been there, especially Boylan who had lost 21 of its last 22 contests.

Bear in mind, this was a once proud basketball power that dominated the northern Illinois basketball scene. But, Boylan has half as many students as they did in the glory years of decades past. Lately, it was been the public schools like Au-

burn, East and Guilford on top of the NIC-10 instead of Boylan or Hononegah. By making the sectional with a last-second 64-63 win over Rochelle, Boylan was at least able to salvage its season a bit.

Hey, its called March Madness for a reason and I sure wish I would have been able to be in Bureau Valley to watch the Stillman Valley girls and Peoria Notre go at for a trip to state on the line. I will be cheering you on from 1,300 miles away, though, on the NFHS network.

One regional final that puzzled me was Annawan beating Forreston 67-38. I really thought Forreston was going to be the type of underdog that nobody wanted to play. Apparently, Annawan surmised the situation differently and put the hammer down.

It's been nearly 40 years since tiny Ohio took second place the boys Class A state basketball tournament. That was

when it was two classes instead of four and winning Class A was the same as being champ of 1A/2A combined. To finish second with about 60 kids was remarkable.

Sadly, there have been meetings about closing the school. With only 20 students in the entire grades 9-12, it's become something that needs to be addressed. If approved, the plan is to bus the remaining students to either Amboy or Bureau Valley.

Even though Oregon's wrestling team lost to Tolo Unity in the quarter-final round of the 1A state duals, it doesn't diminish its season. The Hawks are loaded with younger talent and could regain its lofty status of top dog of area small-school wrestling in the years to come.

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



Andy Colbert

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### DIXON

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Pastor Bob Clardie 8:30am Sunday School  
815-535-6990 9:30am Church Service  
90 W. Flagg Road [www.lostlakechurch.org](http://www.lostlakechurch.org)  
Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

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

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

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Celebrating 175 Years!  
West Grove Rd. At Columbine Rd.  
Worship Service 10:30 am. Communion is served every Sunday.  
"Singing the Song of Christian Faith in Worship, Service, Learning, Outreach and Welcome" in a beautiful rural setting.  
Everyone is cordially invited to be with us.  
Follow Us on Facebook "St. James Lutheran Church" =

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

**LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Billy Hardy  
**Sunday Morning:** 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages  
10:30am Worship Service with nursery available. Live stream available at [leafriver.church/live-now](http://leafriver.church/live-now)  
6941 N. Mt. Morris Rd., Leaf River, IL 61047  
815-738-2205  
[leafriverbr@gmail.com](mailto:leafriverbr@gmail.com)  
[leafriver.church](http://leafriver.church)

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

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

**KINGS**  
**ELIM REFORMED CHURCH**  
140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Mary Jacobs  
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.goelimchurch.org](http://www.goelimchurch.org)  
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

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

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

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

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

**OREGON**  
**EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD**  
East Oregon Chapel Church of God  
The Sharing is Caring Church

**MOUNT MORRIS**  
[ECCOGministries@gmail.com](mailto:ECCOGministries@gmail.com) 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. with Sunday Worship following at 10:30 a.m.  
Breakfast is served every fifth Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday evenings both Adults & Youth (during the school year) meet weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
In the event that Oregon Schools are not in session the Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays.  
We look forward to meeting you!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS**  
Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service  
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255  
[polo@crossroadscn.com](http://polo@crossroadscn.com)  
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. 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.crossroadscn.com](http://www.crossroadscn.com)  
**FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH**  
801 W. Oregon St., Polo • 815-946-3588 • Jeremy Heller, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Nursery Available,  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. We are an independent non-denominational Christian church. Visitors are always welcome.

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

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

**VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**  
Lead Pastor Barry Norris  
103 S Maple St, Stillman Valley, IL  
815-645-8872 | [www.valleycov.org](http://www.valleycov.org)  
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at [facebook.com/VECCFSV](http://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](mailto:middlecreekchurch@gmail.com)





# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Did You Know?

Public libraries were considered “to be the center of the intellectual activities of the town in which it was located. It is made the repository not only of books for circulation and reference, but of works of art and of historical value. It is the focus around which the young life of the place gathers for mental, moral and social development.” “Citizens of the Oregon community have shown a deep interest in the library from the start and supported the Library by: mending books and preparing them for the shelves, financial contributions for repairs to the building, donations of books, reading tables, towel racks, suspended world globe, and a water fountain.” (Information compiled from historical documents found in cupboards in the Library office.)

### Ogle County Mini Food Center Pantry

A donation box for the local Ogle County Mini Food Center Pantry is currently located in the Library’s northwest lobby entrance. A list of acceptable food items is posted along with more information about the food center which is located at Conover Square.

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

## BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### Faux Stained Glass Craft

Monday, March 24th at 2:00PM: Follow a template or create your own design in this activity for ages 6 years through Adult.

### Movie Wednesday

March 26th at 2:00PM: Join Moana and Maui on a new voyage in search of a mythical island to help the people reunite.

### Stories With Stacey

Thursdays at

[com.orcall\(815\)732-2724](http://com.orcall(815)732-2724).

### Tournament of Books

March 10<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>. Got March Madness? Come down to the library and participate in our Tournament of Books. It is a battle between the most checked out books at Oregon Public Library of 2024 and there can be only one winner! Voting begins March 10th and will run until April 4th. You can vote in person or at our website. Round One: March 10th-March 14<sup>th</sup>. Round Two: March 17th-March 21<sup>st</sup>. Top 4: March 24th-March 28<sup>th</sup>. Finals: March 31st- April 4<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be announced shortly after. For more information you can visit our website or stop by in person.

### Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, March 12, at 12:30 to discuss The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Cocktails and Crime will meet March 16, so stop by the Library to find out title, location and time. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet March 18 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, March 19, at 1 pm to discuss Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell. Books on Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, March 27 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss Long Bright River by Liz Moore

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, March 17 at 6:00pm. Sending personal

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

### Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, March 18 at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your timeslot). Spring Glass Magnets. Let’s welcome spring with these decorative magnets. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

### 9 to 5: The Story of a Movement

March 21-23, at 7 pm. When Dolly Parton sang “9 to 5,” she was doing more than just shining a light on the fate of American working women. Parton was singing the true story of a movement that started with 9to5, a group of Boston secretaries in the early 1970s. Their goals were simple—better pay, more advancement opportunities, and an end to sexual harassment—but

their unconventional approach attracted the press and shamed their bosses into change. Featuring interviews with 9to5’s founders, as well as actor and activist Jane Fonda, 9to5: The Story of a Movement is the previously untold story of the fight that inspired a hit and changed the American workplace. Register at: [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_9to5](https://bit.ly/ILP_9to5)

### Poetry Slam

Sunday, March 23, 6 pm-9 pm @ Ogle County Brewery, 16 yrs. and older. Oregon Public Library and Ogle County Brewery will be hosting Dreams vs Reality Poetry Slam. Must be original material, 3-5 minutes per participant. Will be judged and prizes will be given. Register at [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com) or call 815-732-2724 for more info.

### Lego Club

Tuesday, March 25, 2 pm (2nd grade & up) (No School). Get together and spend some recreational time building! There will be a limited number of vintage kit instructions available, so if you make it, you can take it! (First come, first serve) The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration is required

### Functional Fitness

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

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

### Knit & Crochet

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

### Photo Printer at the library!

The library now has a photo printer capable of printing 4 x 6, 5x7, 8x10, and 8.5x11 from computer, USB drive or SD card. It will not print directly from a phone. Call for more info.

### Community Seed Library

Harvesting your garden? Have extra seeds? Donate them to the community seed library. 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 Strangest Fish by Katherine Arden. At the StoryWalk is Chickens Aren’t the Only Ones by Ruth Heller.

Saved By the Matchmaker by Jody Hedlund

Paranoia by James Patterson

### Chapter Book

The Hunt for Scarface by Lane Walker

### Picture Book

Laugh-Out-Loud Food Jokes by Caitie McAnaney

20 Bunnies At Bedtime by Mark Sperring

### DVD

The Cowboy and the Queen

## 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 @ 815-732-33252 for assistance with Benefit Access Application for a license plate discount, Medicare, housing, home-makers service, heating assistance or other things. Visit us at [www.rockrivercenter.org](http://www.rockrivercenter.org) and like us on Facebook.

### MORNING MUG CLUB

Tuesday, March 11 – 9:00

– 10:30 a.m.

### FUN & EASY FLOWER GARDENS

Monday, March 17 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Advance Registration Requested.

### WOOD CARVERS

Tuesdays – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Wednesdays - 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

### MICHIGAN RUM-MY

Wednesdays - 12:30 – 3:15 p.m.

time than we know today. Pick up your copy today at the circulation desk. Reading or listening on the Boundless app? Let us know what you think of this month’s book!

### March Take & Make Craft

Stop by the circulation desk to pick up the materials to make a cute dragonfly.

### Community Puzzle

We’ve got a new winter themed puzzle out for you to help complete. Put in one

piece or five; you can even do it all if you have time!

### Coloring Pages

Don’t forget we have new coloring pages each week available for you to choose from.

### Card Making

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

### Game Table

We have a variety of board games, including checkers,

for anyone to play. Stop in and bring your competitive streak.

### Plastic Recycling

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

### NEW RELEASES

### Adult Books

able BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Rock River Center at (800) 541-5479 to schedule an appointment. Place – March – Time. Byron - Jarrett Prairie Center - Mar 10 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Forrester – Library - Mar 12 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mt. Morris - Senior Center - Mar 13 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Polo - Senior Center - Mar 27 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rochelle – Hub City Senior Ctr. - Mar 6 & 20. - 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.



**Adopt ME**

## PET OF THE WEEK

**815.758.2457**  
[www.tailshumanesociety.org](http://www.tailshumanesociety.org)

Hey there, I’m Aaric! If you’re looking for a loving, snuggly feline who’s already mastered the art of being the purrfect family cat, I might just be your guy. I absolutely love hanging out with human and feline friends- but dogs, not so much!

I’m all about the people I know and trust- I’ll soak up all the love and attention from my family! I’m ready to bring my affectionate, easygoing personality to a home that’s nice and cozy! If you’ve got a comfy spot for me to curl up and some gentle hands to give me pets, let’s meet!

## ROCHELLE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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**Dr. Lynn Deets**  
**Dr. Melissa Corson**

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Boarding And Grooming  
**815-453-2843**  
1751 Melugins Grove Rd Steward, IL 60553

# Call:

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

**to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!**





# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### FINE FREE!

Yep! You no longer need to worry about paying fines for late books, dvd's, audiobooks, etc. at the Mount Morris Library! We have no fines due for late materials, just return the item and you can check out any other item at no cost! We love serving our community and invite all patrons to visit the Mount Morris Library!

### Freewheeling in Ireland with John Lynn

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. John Lynn is returning to Mount Morris to share his experiences bicycling around Ireland. He will be there on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm to share the best of Ireland including the landscape, villages, and people he met along the way. Refreshments and musical entertainment by the Westfall family will be provided after the show! Everyone is welcome, no card needed. Come experience an 1100-mile adventure through the Emerald Isle!

### Ink with a Friend

Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm! You will get all the materials to

make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, \$5 fee when you register. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before March 3<sup>rd</sup>!

### Lego Night!

Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Bring the family out for some awesome brick building! We will pull out #AlltheLegos for this night and kids can build whatever they can imagine. Then, they can put a name to their creation and keep it on our display for all to enjoy until the next Lego night!

### Read with Therapy Dog, Holly

Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We have an exciting opportunity at the Mount Morris Library with Holly, a local therapy dog. Holly will be here on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 5pm until 6:30pm for 15-minute time slots. You can register a child for a time slot using the link in our Facebook Events page! This program is free for anyone, but you must register to let Holly know you will be coming to visit!

### Display Case Showings

There is a new display in our cases! Artwork from local artists through

the years! On loan from Jo Ward, there is a wide range of different types of art from many different artists but all from our local town! Stop by to see this gorgeous collection! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

### Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois, RAILS' online cultural and recreational pass program for Illinois libraries, welcomes its newest attraction, Oakton College Performing Arts Center in Des Plaines! The Oakton College Performing Arts Center, originally built in as a lecture hall, was renovated in 2001, adding a shop, dressing rooms and a black box/studio theatre. Today, the Oakton College Performing Arts Center provides a unique theatrical experience with a 262-seat mainstage and an 85-seat black box/studio theater. Oakton College Performing Arts Center is offering Two Dollar Tickets. Explore More Illinois users can access and reserve passes from any of our attractions on

the Mount Morris Library website, [mtmorris-il.org](http://mtmorris-il.org), under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

### Book Donations Welcome

Our book sale was such a great success due to all of your wonderful donations! We are accepting donations again for the next book sale! If you have any media you no longer need or want-bring them to the Mount Morris Library! We cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books, VHS tapes, or audio cassettes.

### Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections

Donation boxes for eyeglass recycling are available at the library. When the boxes are full, they are picked up by local Lions members and dropped off at collection depots. These recycled eyeglasses are given to people in need, with the help of various medical missionaries, in Central and South America and around the world. When the eyeglasses arrive in these countries, doctors and technicians conduct eye exams and provide a free pair of prescription

eyeglasses that are as close as possible to that person's sight needs. When donating HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.

### Adult Programming

We would love to hear from you. Do you have any program ideas? Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have a program you would like to share/lead? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at [mmllib@mtmorris-il.org](mailto:mmllib@mtmorris-il.org) or call 815-734-4927.

### Memorial Gifts

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

### Newspaper Available!

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

**Curbside Service is available!**

We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

### Additional Services Offered

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

### Library Board Meetings

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

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054-815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 [www.mtmorris-il.org](http://www.mtmorris-il.org)

## Weekly Brain Busters

### King Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 Solo of "Star Wars"

4 Dandy guy

7 Sir's counterpart

12 Coach

13 Parseghian

14 Lab eggs

15 Mountain crest

18 Roulette bet

19 "Absolutely not!"

22 Genetic letters

23 Long journeys

27 Informal pronoun

28 JFK's predecessor

29 Slightly wet

31 Id counterpart

32 Small burger

33 Majestic

34 Paris school

35 Diocese part

37 Iota

38 Tennis score

39 Author Umberto

41 Slightly open

45 Stand-in

47 Japanese sash

48 "Absolutely not!"

52 Egg quaff

53 Love, Italian-style

DOWN

1 Wizard Potter

2 Sports venue

3 Tennis star

4 Rafael

5 Type choice

6 Go too far

7 Macadamized

8 Earth's neighbor

9 Common verb

10 "Lion" actor Patel

11 Chowd down

12 Sea, to Henri

17 Stretches (out)

21 Bolshevik leader

23 Formal decrees

24 Fuss

25 Singer Torme

26 Season opener?

28 Dept. store inventory

30 Luau souvenir

31 Transcript no.

32 "Awesome!"

33 "Entourage" role

36 Olympian queen

37 Freight train unit

40 Homebuyer's option

42 Singer Nick

43 Home

44 Star in Orion's foot

45 "Close one!"

46 Holler

48 "Terrif!"

49 Author Tan

50 Heavy weight

51 -Magnon

### MAGIC MAZE • HORSE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: NAILED TO A HORSE'S HOOF

And buggy  
Back  
Chestnuts  
Collar

Doctor  
Fly  
Hide  
Liniment

Opera  
Race  
Sense  
Trainer

Weed  
Whisperer  
Wrangler

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Tail is moved. 4. Window is missing. 5. Bush is larger. 6. Dog's leg is moved.

### Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer

### King Crossword

Answers

— King Crossword —

Answers

— King Crossword —



# LOCAL NEWS

## JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Teams face off at the annual Friends of the Library Trivia Night fundraiser at Julia Hull District Library on Friday, Feb. 28.**

**Seed Library**  
Discover the joy of gardening with our NEW seed library! Borrow, grow and share from a diverse selection of seeds, and help cultivate sustainability and biodiversity in our community...one seed at a time! Only five seed packets per patron. March through October.

**Genealogy Basics: Census and Vital Records**  
So, you know a little something about Genealogy. Time to dive into some of the most basic (and helpful!) types of records: Census and Vital records. Join us for a more in-depth exploration of what's available on Ancestry Library Edition, how to search for these records and why they're useful. Wednesday, March 12, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**Tech Café Drop-In**  
Got a new gadget you aren't sure how to use? Need help unsubscribing from spam email? Not sure how to adjust your phone settings? Come by during our drop-in tech help hours and let a friendly library staff member help. If we can't find the answer for you, we'll tell you where to get more help. Portable devices (phones, tablets, laptops) preferred. For tech-shy people with basic questions. Drop in Saturday, March 15, 1 – 3 p.m.

**Genealogy Basics: Immigration and Tracing Your Roots**  
Kiss me. I'm Irish/German/Swedish! In this class, beginner genealogists will be introduced to the different types of immigration records available on Ancestry Library Edition. We will discuss how to trace our ancestors' movements overseas, reasons and modes for immigrating to America and how to search for records in other countries. Monday, March 17, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**Roadside Attractions with Leslie Goddard**  
Have you ever slept in a wigwam? Or taken a selfie with Paul Bunyan? Ever stepped inside an alligator's mouth? Since Americans took to the highways for long-distance travel in the 1920s, entrepreneurs have been dreaming up unusual structures to attract passing motorists. Although the heyday passed with the arrival of interstate highways, thousands of quirky roadside attractions remain. Join Pop culture historian Leslie Goddard, Ph. D. to explore these unique structures and what they tell us about the history of road travel. Monday, March 31, 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**Tween Scene: Wacky Art Nite**  
Take a walk on the wild side with this crazy challenge. Participants will use a mix of craft supplies to make a piece of art that's wacky and tacky in all the right ways. Tuesday, April 1, 6 p.m. Ages 10-13. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**Toddler Time: Spring Sensory Bins**  
Explore the wonders of Spring! This month, we'll explore a variety of sensory bins with a seasonal twist. Friday, April 4, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

**Get Growing: Plant Swap Drop-In**  
Are you ready to grow your plant collection? Join us for our first-ever plant swap, and exchange your rooted plant, seedling or cutting for some new greenery. Master Gardener Phil Bratta will be on hand to answer all of your plant care questions. Indoor, pest-free plants only. No plants accepted prior to event date. Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Paradise Playhouse Presents: Lucy! The Musical**  
Tuesday, Mar. 11. 1 – 2:00 pm. Join Jillann Gabrielle from Paradise Playhouse as she presents Lucy! An original solo musical based on the life of Lucille Ball. Lucy! takes her from her shaky family beginnings in upstate New York, through Broadway, and finally to Hollywood. Eventually she meets and marries Desi Arnaz along the way - their volatile but passionate marriage, her reign as Queen of the Bs, and finally to her zenith as the Lucy character on TV. It also portrays her eventual successful marriage to actor/comedian/producer Gary Morton. You get to peer into the deep recesses of Lucy's mind and emotions, her struggles and her triumphs. Exhaustively researched, brilliantly written, and radiantly performed, this original solo musical is one you don't want to miss! Please call 815-234-5107 to register.

**Did you know**  
That the library has a variety of rooms available for the public to reserve? Whether it's a private area for studying, a medium-sized room for a prayer group or scout meeting, or a large room for a baby shower or birthday party, the Byron Library has a room to suit just about every need. There is no charge for non-profit use of our rooms; for-profit reservations will be charged \$25 per hour. To reserve a room, you can visit [Byron.evanced.info/spaces](http://Byron.evanced.info/spaces), or call the library at 815-234-5107. Rooms cannot be booked over 30 days in advance.

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

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

**Curbside Delivery**  
The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at [byronlibrary.org](http://byronlibrary.org) or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at [byronlibrary.org](http://byronlibrary.org), to keep up to date on library news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On Feb. 25 at approximately 1:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After investigation deputies placed Ethan Rogers, 55, of Leaf River, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Rogers was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Rogers was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 5:35 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Lowden Road and Nashua Road. After further investigation John Strader, 36, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked and an outstanding Lee County warrant. Strader was also cited for an equipment violation. Strader was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on notice to appear bonds.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 5:51 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Luis Diaz, 45, of Rockford, under arrest for driving with no valid driver's license. Diaz was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Diaz was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 9:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and South Chamberlain Road. After investigation deputies placed Anna Reillo, 22, of Cortland, under arrest for driving under the influence-combination of alcohol and drugs. Reillo was additionally issued citations for possession of cannabis-driver, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, and speeding. Reillo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 2:26 p.m. deputies were dispatched to 8725 N. Illinois Route 2 in reference to an accident. After an investigation, deputies arrested Cynthia Swanson, 64, of Byron, for driving under the influence of alcohol, having no insurance, and leaving the scene of an accident. Swanson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was processed on her charges and released on a notice to appear court date. Swanson's vehicle was towed from the scene.

On Feb. 28 at approximately 11:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of West Sterling Road. After an investigation, deputies placed James Fowler, 22, of Freeport, under arrest for an Ogle County failure to appear warrant. Fowler was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On March 1 at approximately 2:02 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of West Milledgeville Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Angel Gonzalez-Diaz, 18, of Morrison, under arrest for driving with no Valid license. Gonzalez-Diaz was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and improper lane usage. Gonzalez-Diaz was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On March 1 at approximately 9:22 p.m. deputies responded to 107 West Orchard Hills Drive, Rochelle, for a domestic altercation. After an investigation, Rafael Valencia Jr., 24, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for aggravated battery to pregnant person and domestic battery. Valencia was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Rochelle EMS.

On March 1 at approximately 11:11 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After investigation, deputies placed Nayeli Hidalgo, 35, of DeKalb, under arrest for no valid driver's license. Hidalgo was also issued a citation for suspended registration. Hidalgo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was given a notice to appear and released pending a future court date.

On March 2 at approximately 11:11 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic in the 3,000 block of South Freeport Road. After investigation, deputies placed Ardany Everardo Estrada-Rueda, 28, of Humboldt, Tennessee for no valid license. Estrada-Rueda was also issued citation for no splash guards. Estrada-Rueda was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On March 2 at approximately 9:54 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Lowell Park Road and Penn Corner Road. After investigation, deputies placed the passenger, Alyssa Trotter, 32, of Polo under arrest for an active Lee County contempt of court warrant. Trotter was transported to Lee County deputies and held in lieu of bond.

On March 2 at 5:17 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of the Byron Police Department, conducted a warrant check at Casey's General Store (700 W. Blackhawk Drive) in Byron. As a result deputies arrested Hailey M. Quinn, 33, of Rockford, on an Ogle County warrant for possession of controlled substance. Quinn was additionally charged with possession of controlled substance (crack cocaine), and possession of drug paraphernalia. Quinn was transported to the Ogle County Jail and detained on the no bond warrant. Quinn was released on a notice to appear on the new charges.

On March 2 at approximately 5:12 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Eagle Point Road and Donaldson Road. After further investigation Daniel Tegler, 35, of Chadwick, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Tegler was released on a notice to appear.

On March 3 at 5:55 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of 6,000 North German Church Road. After a brief investigation, the driver of the vehicle, Issac Alvarez, 41, of Byron, was placed under arrest for an active Ogle County traffic warrant. Alvarez was transported to the Ogle County Jail. All subjects presumed innocent.

On March 3 at 7 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of East Illinois Route 72 for a speeding violation. After an investigation, Mauricio Luna Jr., 32, of Rockford was arrested for driving under the influence of combination alcohol/drugs. Luna was also cited for speeding and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Luna was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



# Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 10, 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:

YOUniquely Handmade  
2709 N. Stephanie Dr.  
Lindenwood, IL 61049

Dated February 10, 2025  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0216  
(Feb. 24, Mar. 3 and 10, 2025)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 14, 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:

Circle W Livestock  
5852 S Lowell Park Rd  
Dixon, IL 61021

Dated February 14, 2025  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0217  
(Feb. 24, Mar. 3 and 10, 2025)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

UNION SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

WALTER J. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, deceased, DOMINICK LUBA, NICK LUBA, AMY LUBA, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OR DEVEISEES OF WALTER K. LUBA JR. A/K/A WALTER J. LUBA, deceased, VILLAGE OF MT. MORRIS, an Illinois municipal corporation, and COURTNEY KENNEDY as Special Representative, Defendants.  
2024 FC 33

**LEGAL NOTICE FOR FORECLOSURE SALE – PUBLIC AUCTION OF REAL ESTATE (IT IS ADVISED THAT INTERESTED PARTIES CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEYS BEFORE BIDDING AT FORECLOSURE SALES.)**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause on December 23, 2024, the property hereinafter described will be sold to the highest qualified bidder.

(A) The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is Matthew Bowen, Union Savings Bank, 815.235.0800.

(B) The common address of the real estate is 502 East Brayton Road, Mount Morris, IL 61054 and its legal description is:

Part of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Mt. Morris Township, Ogle County, Illinois, bounded and described as follows: Beginning 749.4 feet South of the Northwest corner of Lot 29 of Brayton's Addition to Mt. Morris, according to the Plat of said Addition, being the Northeast corner of the intersection of Frederick Avenue and the public highway formerly known as the Oregon

Road, now known as Brayton Road; thence Southeasterly, along the North line of said Brayton Road, to a point 169.2 feet West of the point of intersection of said North line of Brayton Road and the Southwesterly right-of-way line of S.B.I. Route No. 77 (now Illinois State Highway Route 64) measured along said North line of Brayton Road; thence Northerly, parallel with the East line of said Frederick Avenue, a distance of 157.25 feet; Thence West to a point on the East line of said Frederick Avenue, said point being a distance of 137.3 feet North of the intersection of the East line of said Frederick Avenue with the North line of said Brayton Road; thence South on the East line of said Frederick Avenue, a distance of 137.3 feet to the point of beginning.

(C) The real estate consists of a two story, 1,547 square foot house with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a one car attached garage.

(D) The time and place of the sale are as follows: 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2025 at Ogle County Sheriff's Office located at 202 S. 1st Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061.

(E) The terms of the sale are 10 percent of the purchase price at the time of the auction sale as earnest money, and the balance at least 24 hours after the sale. All payments shall be by CASH, BANK DRAFT, or CERTIFIED FUNDS. Any sale is subject to Court approval. Any specific restrictions on property or title will be announced day of sale. ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY PRINTED MATERIAL.

(F) The case title, case number and the court in which the foreclosure was filed are specified above.

(G) The sale shall be subject to all easements, covenants, restrictions and reservations of record, taxes for the year 2023 and all subsequent years.

(H) No other information is required to be disclosed. Union Savings Bank, Plaintiff, By WARD, MURRAY, PACE & JOHNSON, P.C. Its Attorneys Maverik A. Good – ARDC 6342150 Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C. Attorney for Union Savings Bank 202 E. 5th Street I P.O. Box 400 Sterling, IL 61081 P: 815.625.8200 good@wmpj.com No. 0220 (Feb. 24, Mar. 4 and 10, 2025)

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Sealed proposals for the improvement described below will be received at the office of Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, Illinois 61068 at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2025. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office

of Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, Illinois 61068 at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2025.

Description of Work:

County:

Ogle

Name:

Ogle County Educational Co-Op - Parking Lot Improvements

Location: 204 North Main Street, Chana, Illinois

Proposed Improvement:

The contract work shall consist of the HMA resurfacing of an existing parking lot and driveway for the Education Center. The ditch along the east side of School Street will be regraded to improve drainage.

Quest eBid: 9569655

1. Bid documents available electronically at [www.fehrgraham.com](http://www.fehrgraham.com) for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Also available at Fehr Graham, 515 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61068 for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00.

2. Prequalification

The 2 low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57), in duplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and one original with the IDOT District Office.

3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.

4. The following forms shall be returned by the bidder to the Awarding Authority:

a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)

b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)

c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)

d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)

e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)

5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.

6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.

7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error or omission in the proposal and advertised contract.

8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the blank spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When an envelope other than the special one furnished by the Awarding Authority is used, it shall be marked to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.

9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals. No. 0304 (March 10, 2025)

**NOTICE MARION TOWNSHIP Public Notice Gravel Bid**  
Marion Township is accepting bids for Road Rock for fiscal year 2025-2026. SPECIFICATIONS: Must be able to furnish for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026, including winter months. • Must spread on any Township road, or delivered to Township garage as per Road Commissioner. • Price per ton Road Rock spread on Road. • Road Rock must be CD6 State inspected. • Must have 1-10 tandem or 1-8 semi dumps for road construction as requested by Road Commissioner. • \$200.00 per day deducted if not met after 48 hour notice by Road Commissioner. • Must be able to furnish Road Rock within 4 hours if needed. • Ogle County prevailing wage rates apply on all materials delivered. • Proof of insurance must be on file before delivery and approved by Road Commissioner. Sealed bids must be turned in by 3:00 p.m. on March 30, 2025 at the Township office at 400 W. Roosevelt Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084. Bids will be opened at 7:00 March 31. Any questions, please call 815/222-6298. Marion Township has the right to accept or reject any bid. Candy S. Beck/Clerk No. 0306 (March 10, 2025)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: VICTORIA L. MARSHALL, deceased. NO. 2025-PR-15

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF the death of VICTORIA L. MARSHALL. Letters of office were issued on February 12, 2025, to JULIE A. BORELLI of Carroll, Iowa, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith Law Group, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010. CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed. Julie A. Borelli Independent Administrator No. 0305 (Mar. 10, 17 & 24, 2025)

**NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOYCE E. SMITH, Deceased NO. 2025-PR-16

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF the death of JOYCE E. SMITH of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on February 25, 2025, to JEFFREY R. SPRATT of Oregon, Illinois, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith Law Group, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010. CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975,

as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed.

Jeffrey R. Spratt Independent Administrator No. 0307 (March 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that the Village of Davis Junction will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Village Hall at 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020 for the purpose of discussing the sanitary sewer improvements plan to serve unsewered areas east of the Village near I-39 and IL Route 72. The Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination developed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Project Plan report developed by the Village of Davis Junction will also be discussed and are on file at the Village Hall for public inspection. Public comments and participation are encouraged, and anyone interested in this project is invited to attend. Comments will be received for a period of 10 days after the public hearing and may be made orally at the public hearing or in writing to Mr. Rick Wurm, Village President, Village of Davis Junction, 106 N. Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020 or to Ms. Julie Matthews, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. Date: March 10, 2025 Sandie Maahs, Village Clerk No. 0310 (March 10, 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.

## 127 SERVICES & REPAIRS

**HEALTH/PERSONAL/ MISCELLANEOUS**

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

## 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."

## 121 LOST AND FOUND

LOST - A blue coin purse - coins inside, a piece of paper, little stones from great granddaughter. Last seen on top of paper machine outside of Rochelle News-Leader. If found, please return to the Rochelle News-Leader, open M-Th 9a-3p and F 9a-1p or call 815-562-4171 to arrange a time to drop it off.

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless

## 103 AUCTIONS

## CHANA 64 AUCTION Opening for the Season!

Sunday, March 16th 10:00 a.m.

(No small livestock to be sold)

Antiques, Collectibles and Primitives

Dress for the Weather. Will be in Big Barn.

Taking reservations for good/clean Spring consignments.

Cash or Check. NO Credit cards

10% Buyers Premium

Check out photos on "AuctionZip" or on our Facebook Page.

For more information, Call 815-830-3898

**CHANA AUCTION**

620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, IL 61015

815-830-3898

Watch for our early start-up Spring auctions beginning of March. Good/clean consignments always welcomed.

## 103 AUCTIONS

## LAND AUCTION

Peoria County, IL  
ONLINE ONLY AUCTION  
APR 3rd @ 10 AM

Property: N Eden Rd, Elmwood, IL 61529 Parcel: 12-21-300-007. 121.1 acres offering income-producing farmland, recreational opportunities, and excellent building sites

**121.1 ± acres**  
• Buildable  
• Recreational  
• Tillable  
• Waterfowl Hunting

Auctioneer/Broker Brad Chandler  
Property Peddler Inc. 618-221-5727  
Find the auction on the home page at [PROPERTYPEDDLER.COM](http://PROPERTYPEDDLER.COM)

# AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

**Chana 64 Auctions**  
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana  
815-830-3898  
• Pick Up Service Available  
"UWANNASELLITCALLUS"

**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





# Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

203  
HELP WANTED

**Byron School District #226**  
Open Positions  
**Maintenance Worker**  
**Special Education Paraprofessional**

Apply online at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

Click on the Menu button  
Go to Employment Opportunities in the "About Us" Section  
All openings are listed there with additional information

**Byron School District #226**  
2025-2026 School Year Opening

**High School Student Services/Guidance Office Secretary**

Please apply online at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

- Click the Menu Button
- Click the Employment Opportunities Button Located under "About Us" on the left

Additional information provided in the posting online

307  
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

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

**815-262-3900**

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

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

511  
STORAGE UNITS

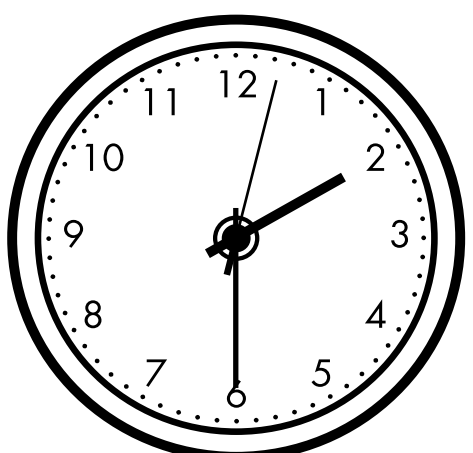
**K&P SELF STORAGE**  
1563 Kysor Drive, Byron (next to D&W Garage)  
**815-247-8518**  
**OUTSIDE STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE**  
Storage Unit Sizes:  
5' x 10' 10' x 10' 10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

**NEED A WELL-TARGETED AD?**  
Our sales reps would be glad to lend a helping hand!

**Color**

**kids' corner**

**Creative Coloring**  
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



**Double Word Puzzle**  
Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

C C L K O   
M T E I   
U H O R S   
D H G T A L I Y   
 P  N   
 .

Answers: Clock, Time, Hours, Daylight, Spring ahead one hour.

**THIS DAY IN... HISTORY**  
MAR 15

- 1820: MAINE IS ADMITTED AS THE TWENTY-THIRD U.S. STATE.
- 1917: TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA ABDICATES THE RUSSIAN THRONE, ENDING THE 304-YEAR ROMANOV DYNASTY.
- 2019: AROUND 1.4 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN 123 COUNTRIES GO ON STRIKE TO PROTEST CLIMATE CHANGE.

**New Word**  
**ADJUST**  
to alter or move something

**WORD SCRAMBLE**  
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to working from home.

**F E C O I F**

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Office

**GUESS WHO ?**

I am an actress born in Louisiana on March 22, 1976. I was a fashion model at age seven. I had a breakout role as a party girl who sets her sights on Harvard Law School. I won several awards for playing a country star with an equally famous husband.

Answer: Reese Witherspoon

**CRYPTO FUN**

Solve the code to discover words related to a home office. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = E)

A.	26	5	3	1	25	18	16	20	
Clue: Work device									
B.	20	16	3	5	18	16			
Clue: In a distant location									
C.	4	5	25	24	16	4	5	11	22
Clue: Place of residence									
D.	1	20	8	10	6	26	2		
Clue: Free of being disturbed									

Answers: A. computer B. remote C. household D. privacy

**How they SAY that in...**

**ENGLISH:** Time  
**SPANISH:** Tiempo  
**ITALIAN:** Tempo  
**FRENCH:** Temps  
**GERMAN:** Zeit

**Did you know?**

IN EACH OF THE TIME ZONES WHERE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS OBSERVED, PEOPLE MOVE THE CLOCK AT 2 A.M. LOCAL TIME.

**GET THE PICTURE?**

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SUNRISE ON A FARM

**REMOTE WORK WORD SEARCH**

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

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

**WORDS**

- ANNUALIZED
- ASYNCHRONOUS
- CLOUD
- COMMUNICATION
- COWORKING
- DIGITAL
- FLEX TIME
- FREELANCE
- FULLY
- GIG ECONOMY
- GLOBAL
- HOURS
- HYBRID
- LOCATION
- MESSAGE
- OFFSHORING
- REMOTE
- SOFTWARE
- SOLOPRENEUR
- TEAM
- TELECOMMUTE
- VPN
- WORKLOAD
- WORKPLACE



# SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES



**Ogle County**  
Community Unity  
Shop • Play • Stay



608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron  
815.234.5626  
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon  
815.732.7956  
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley  
815.645.2266  
stillmanbank.com



606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL | 114 E Everett St., Dixon, IL  
**815-732-9100**  
[RockValleyProperties.com](http://RockValleyProperties.com)  
Each office is independently owned & operated.

**BAR/GAMING/ENTERTAINMENT**

**Oregon VFW Post 8739 & Mess Hall**  
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.6851  
[facebook.com/oregonvfwpost8739](https://facebook.com/oregonvfwpost8739)

**BLACKTOP & SEALCOATING**

**King Blacktop**  
3499 N. Tower Rd., Byron  
815.234.4171  
[kingblacktop.com](http://kingblacktop.com)

**CONSIGNMENT/RESALE SHOPPING**

**Angel Treasures Resale Shop**  
201 IL Route 64, Mt. Morris, IL  
815.734.0504

**ReRuns**  
120 W. 2nd St., Byron  
815.406.8060  
[rerunsbyron.com](http://rerunsbyron.com)

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES**

**Central Illinois Loans**  
310 Eagle Dr  
815.561.4035  
[centralillinoisloans.com](http://centralillinoisloans.com)

**Stillman Bank**  
608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron  
815.234.5626  
1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon  
815.732.7956  
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley  
815.645.2266  
stillmanbank.com

**GARDEN CENTER**

**Hidden Timber Gardens**  
462 S. Chana Rd., Chana  
815.751.4162  
[hiddentimbergardens.com](http://hiddentimbergardens.com)

**HEALTH SERVICES**

**Rochelle Community Hospital**  
900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle  
815.562.2181  
[rochellehospital.com](http://rochellehospital.com)

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE SERVICES**

**Serenity Hospice and Home**  
1658 S. IL Route 2, Oregon, IL  
[Serenityhospiceandhome.org](http://Serenityhospiceandhome.org)

**MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES**

**Sinnissippi Centers**  
100 Jefferson St., Oregon  
815.732.3157  
1321 N. 7th St., Rochelle  
815.562.3801  
[sinnissippi.org](http://sinnissippi.org)

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**Byron Forest Preserve**  
7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
815.234.8535  
[byronforestpreserve.com](http://byronforestpreserve.com)

**The Serenity Shed**  
131 N. 3rd St., Oregon, IL  
815.732.2499

**TITLE COMPANY**

**Rock River Title**  
412 W. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.5291  
[rockrivertitle.com](http://rockrivertitle.com)

**REAL ESTATE AGENCY**

**RE/MAX of Rock Valley**  
606 E. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.9100  
[rockvalleyproperties.com](http://rockvalleyproperties.com)

**SENIOR SERVICES**

**Rock River Center**  
810 S. 10th St., Oregon  
815.732.3252  
[rockrivercenter.com](http://rockrivercenter.com)

Support  
Your  
Community



**Rochelle Community Hospital**  
No Place Like It  
900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle, IL  
815-562-2181  
[www.rochellehospital.com](http://www.rochellehospital.com)



**ROCK RIVER TITLE**  
412 W. Washington St., Oregon  
815.732.5291  
[www.rockrivertitle.com](http://www.rockrivertitle.com)



**Byron Forest Preserve District**  
7993 N. River Rd., Byron  
815.234.8535  
[www.byronforestpreserve.com](http://www.byronforestpreserve.com)



**WHITE PINES Lodge**  
Relax. Discover. Get Away.  
6712 West Pines Road  
Mount Morris, IL 61054  
(815) 655-2400  
[visitwhitepines.com](http://visitwhitepines.com)



**Serenity HOSPICE & HOME**  
Hospice and Palliative Care  
HOSPICE HONORS ELITE 5 Star Rated By CMS  
Non-Profit Organization  
Serving Nine IL Counties  
  
815-732-2499  
1658 S. IL Route 2 • Oregon, IL  
[Serenityhospiceandhome.org](http://Serenityhospiceandhome.org)



**HIDDEN TIMBER GARDENS**  
PREMIUM PLANTS & TREES  
462 S. Chana Rd., Chana, IL  
Just North of Route 64 • 815-751-4162  
  
[hiddentimbergardens.com](http://hiddentimbergardens.com)  
Garden Center Closed until April 2025  
Pre Order plants online for Spring  
[info@hiddentimbergardens.com](mailto:info@hiddentimbergardens.com)



# LOCAL NEWS

## MT. MORRIS POLICE REPORT

**MT. MORRIS** — On Jan. 29 at approximately 8:20 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of West Brayton Road after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Phoenix C. Cantu, 20, Galt, was issued a citation for expired registration.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 6:35 a.m. the Mt. Morris Police responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 200 block of East Hitt Street involving a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado and a 2009 Jeep. Driver, Gannon Zuniga, 20, Mt. Morris, was issued a cita-

tion for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Feb. 7 at approximately 7:45 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Wesley Avenue. After a short investigation, Raymond A. Weil, 39, Rock Falls, was arrested on an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Weil was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Feb. 9 at approximately 11 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of North McKendrie after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Thakir S.

Bannosha, 35, Elk Grove, was issued a citation for expired registration.

On Feb. 15 at approximately 9:10 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of North Wesley after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Jennifer L. Eich, 33, Oregon, was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance and methamphetamine possession. A passenger in the vehicle, Andrew J. Swift, 38, Oregon, was arrested for outstanding warrants out of Ogle, Whiteside and Lee

counties. Both Eich and Swift were transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Eich was released with a notice to appear.

On Feb. 20 at approximately 7:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of North McKendrie Avenue. As a result of the stop, Michael W. Uttecht, 42, Mendota, was arrested on a Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Uttecht was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On Feb. 23 at approximately, 12:35 a.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted

a traffic stop near the intersection of Mud Creek Road and Leaf River Road after observing a traffic violation. After an investigation, the driver, Issac D. Reber, 21, Oregon, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving under the influence BAC >.08, improper lane usage, no lights when required, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and expired registration. A passenger in the vehicle, Kaden A. Wendt, 21, Oregon, was issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol

by passenger. Reber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear.

On Feb. 24 at approximately 9:35 p.m. Mt. Morris Police were sent to the area of the 10 block of West Center Street for the report of a wanted subject. Police located Eleanor R. Cardot, 41, Mt. Morris, who was arrested on a Kendall County warrant. Cardot was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

These charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

# OCSWMD releases battery information

**OREGON** — Battery-containing devices seem to be everywhere and are becoming a major topic in the solid waste and recycling industries. Everything from small handheld items to vehicles, rechargeable batteries are a common part of everyday life for almost everyone.

Like every other product, rechargeable batteries have an end of life (EOL) and must be managed safely and responsibly when

that time comes. Batteries though, unlike other items, can be dangerous and pose safety threats if their EOL is not managed properly. Regular single-use alkaline batteries are non-hazardous and may be disposed of in the regular trash, but there are also mail-back programs for these batteries as well.

First, rechargeable batteries or other battery-containing devices, should never be placed into regular curb-side recycling

carts, recycling drop-off bins, or garbage cans with trash destined for landfill disposal. Doing so will expose the battery to conditions which may cause the battery to overheat and could lead to a fire. Recent incidents involving waste-hauling trucks and recycling processing facilities are well documented and are now commonplace in the news.

Second, always charge batteries according to

the manufacturer's instructions, use the proper charging devices, and monitor devices and batteries for damage, charging ability, overheating, and deformation and/or bulging.

Third, when the EOL comes for your rechargeable battery, be sure it gets recycled properly. Here in Ogle County rechargeable batteries can be brought to the monthly residential electronics collections, and are also

accepted from businesses and institutions through a separate program. There are also mail back programs for batteries and some home improvement and electronic stores take back rechargeable batteries as well. You can also check with the manufacturer of the device for proper recycling and take back options.

In regards to small battery containing devices such as vapes, toll transponders, and other

small sealed electronics, check with the manufacturer or the generator of the device for proper recycling. Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will take these items also at their monthly residential electronic collections.

For more information about battery safety and proper recycling, call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020 or visit [www.ogle-countyil.gov](http://www.ogle-countyil.gov) and head to the Solid Waste tab.

# Haugdahl promoted to Stillman Bank portfolio manager

**ROCKFORD** — Stillman Bank has recently promoted a key member of its successful team in northern Illinois. Eric B. Haugdahl, CFP®, has been promoted to the position of portfolio manager, according to Thomas R. Hughes, president and CEO.

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Eric has five years of banking experience.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in finance from Northern Illinois University. In his new position, Eric will manage investment portfolios for clients within our Trust and Wealth Management Department. He will be located primarily in the bank's Rockford office, 8492 East State Street, but

will assist clients at all six Stillman Bank locations.

Eric also recently earned his Certified Financial Planner certification (CFP®) from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. The CFP® mark identifies those individuals who have met the rigorous experience and ethical requirements of the CFP Board, have completed

financial planning coursework, and have passed the CFP® Certification Examination covering the following areas: the financial planning process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits, and estate planning. CFP® professionals also agree to meet ongoing continuing education re-

quirements and to uphold the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Rules of Conduct, and Financial Planning Practice Standards.

"We would like to congratulate Eric on his well-deserved promotion and for earning his Certified Financial Planner certification," stated J. Joseph McCoy, Stillman

Bank Vice president and senior trust officer. "Eric's knowledge and dedication to his work will continue to be of great value to our clients and the communities we serve."

For more information on Eric Haugdahl or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please contact (815) 332-8850 or visit [www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com).



**FRESH GREEN CABBAGE**  
59¢ lb

**FRESH CARROTS**  
1 LB BAG  
99¢

**RED POTATOES**  
5 LB BAG  
2.99

**MURPHY'S FRESH POINT CUT CORNED BEEF BRISKET**  
3.99 lb

**COOK'S FRESH FLAT CUT CORNED BEEF**  
5.99 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, March 12 thru Tuesday, March 18, 2025

**FRESH HOT CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE MEAL**  
**11.99 ea**  
From The Deli  
Saturday, March 15  
thru Monday, March 17

**BAKERY**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY CUPCAKES**  
White or Chocolate  
6 ct  
**3.59**

**BLARNEY STONE CAKES**  
2X2, 4 ct  
**6.99**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY GLOSSED DECORATED COOKIES**  
12 ct  
**6.99**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY SPRINKLED SUGAR COOKIES**  
12 ct  
**5.99**

**FRESH BAKED RYE BREAD**  
Loaf, Select Varieties  
**2.59**

**IRISH SODA BREAD**  
Loaf  
**2.99**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY 2 Day Sale**  
MARCH 13TH - 14TH, 2025

**USDA Choice BEEF T-BONE STEAKS**  
8.88 lb

**Bakery Fresh BAKED APPLE PIE**  
Regular or Dutch  
8 inch  
**5.99**

**Best Choice VEGETABLES**  
Select Varieties  
14.5-15.25 oz  
**4/\$3**

**Snack Pack PUDDING OR GELATIN**  
Select Varieties  
4 ct  
**4/\$5**

**Kemps SOUR CREAM, COTTAGE CHEESE, OR DIP**  
Select Varieties  
12 - 16 oz  
**2/\$4**

**Bumble Bee CHUNK LIGHT TUNA**  
Select Varieties  
5 oz  
**79¢**

**Bulk Farm Raised FROZEN CATFISH NUGGETS**  
Family Pack  
**1.88 lb**

**Deli 8 Piece FRIED CHICKEN**  
Two each: Breast, Leg, Thigh, Wing  
**6.99**

**Fresh 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF**  
5 lbs or more  
**3.49 lb**

**Fresh STRAWBERRIES**  
2.99 lb

**LENTEN FISH FRY**  
ASH WEDNESDAY & EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH LENT

**ONE PIECE COD SANDWICH**  
1 piece Atlantic Cod, Bakery Bun & Cole Slaw  
**6.99**

**FAMILY FISH FRY DEAL**  
7 pieces Atlantic Cod, Cole Slaw, & Pub Fries  
**39.99**

**BREADED FRIED SHRIMP BUCKET**  
32 count  
**15.99**  
16 count  
**7.99**

**CATFISH NUGGET BUCKET**  
**5.99**

**ONE PIECE COD MEAL**  
1 piece Atlantic Cod, Cole Slaw, & Potato Salad  
**6.29**

**TWO PIECE COD MEAL**  
2 pieces Atlantic Cod, Cole Slaw, & Potato Salad  
**10.99**



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