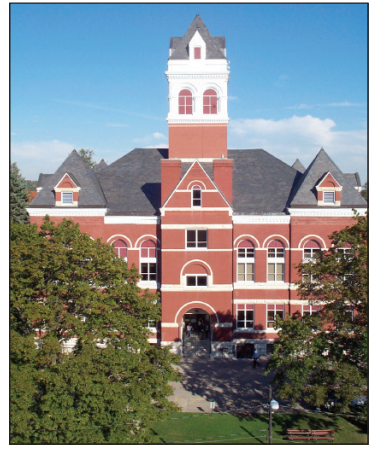



BHS falls in IHSA sectional semis

The Byron High School boys basketball team fell to Princeton in the IHSA 2A Sectional Semis. **Section B**



Visit www.oglecountylife.com

Ogle County's most widely read weekly newspaper!



Home lost after fire in Ashton


A home was a total loss after a fire in rural Ashton on March 5. **Page 7**




No injuries after shed fire

There were no injuries after a shed fire at a home in Rochelle this past week. **Page 7**


WEATHER




MONDAY
HIGH LOW
58 28




TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
63 40




WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
56 36



THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
41 30



FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
46 28



SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
50 32

OBITUARIES

- Doris Jean Elliott
- Dolores M. Larson
- Max Wenzel

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Polo Foods
- Menards
- Runnings
- Living 50+

Oregon VFW presents OFD's Hunter with EMT of the Year Award

Longtime fireman recognized on March 3

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR



(PHOTO BY MATT ALFORD)

On March 3, Oregon VFW Post 8739 presented Greg Hunter of the Oregon Fire Department with its EMT of the Year Award.

my job and keep me safe.”

Hunter comes from a military family. His father served in the Air Force. He was the first of his family to not go into the service, due to his desire to become a park ranger and the fact that there wasn't a war going on. After long conversations with his family, Hunter went to college and realized his dream of becoming a park ranger.

While serving as a park ranger in the 1980s, Hunter joined the local fire department in the area.

See EMT OF THE YEAR page 12



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Monday, the deceased person was identified as Jill Bier, 67, of Oregon. Bier was a staff member at Oregon Elementary School.

Death of Oregon woman under investigation

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office has opened a death investigation after receiving a call to an address in the 4,000 block of East

Illinois Route 64 in rural Oregon regarding a deceased person on Friday, March 7 at about 9:59 a.m. The Sheriff's Office provided an update on Monday, March 10.

See DEATH page 12

Rochelle officials react to IDOT's planned interchange project at Illinois Route 38 and I-39

'It's enhancing another corridor in the city...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its Feb. 10 meeting, the Rochelle City Council heard a presentation from Illinois Department of Transportation Studies & Plans Engineer Mike Kuehn on an upcoming IDOT project that will see a diverging diamond interchange installed in the area of Illinois Route 38 and Interstate 39.

Kuehn said the project will be completed by June 2027.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh discussed the IDOT project with the News-Leader on Feb. 18. Tesreau said the project has been in the works for the past 2-3 years.

See INTERCHANGE page 8



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

With move-in plans in place, the new Creston-Dement Public Library building at the corner of Main and Cederholm Streets is planned to open March 17, Library Board President Doug Kroupa said March 3.

New Creston-Dement Public Library planned to open March 17

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — With move-in plans in place, the new Creston-Dement Public Library building at the corner of Main and Cederholm Streets is planned to open March 17, Library Board President Doug Kroupa said March 3.

The library decided to close its current location at 107 S. Main St. from March 2-March 16 as it prepares for packing, moving and organizing. The construction project on the new building broke ground on March 15, 2024.

See LIBRARY page 9



Stillman BANK

Estate Planning
Retirement Planning
Personal Trusts
Investment Management

We offer no-obligation, complimentary consultations!

Helping You Protect What Matters Most!

www.stillmanbank.com | 815.332.8858

Investments offered through Stillman Trust & Wealth Management • Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value



Holcomb Bank

Where Relationships Matter



Lower your borrowing costs!

Up to \$10,000 may be available for the purchase of a home through the Downpayment Plus® Program from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, for qualified buyers who meet eligibility requirements.

Call us today - 815.562.3838

www.holcomb.bank

Member FDIC




CELEBRATE AG WEEK

MARCH 16-22, 2025

The First National Bank in Amboy

Amboy - Dixon - Franklin Grove - Monroe Center
815-857-3625 Ext 5306 • fnbamboy.com



Byron Wealth Management

815.234.4075
byronwealthmanagement.com

Our goal is to make a difference – for you, your family, and your future.

Call today and talk to one of our local advisors!

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Byron Bank and Byron Wealth Management are not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using Byron Wealth Management, and may also be employees of Byron Bank. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of Byron Bank or Byron Wealth Management. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

Not Insured by FDIC or Any Other Government Agency	Not Byron Bank Deposits or Obligations	Not Byron Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
--	--	---------------------------	----------------

LOCAL NEWS

Oregon Park District Board: Bid awarded for Park East project

OREGON — The Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, Feb. 11 for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Executive Director Erin Folk updated the board on the district's January financials, participation milestones, and the Board of Commissioners approved the monthly treasurer's report.

Folk shared an update on the board packet format and impressed upon the importance of consistent and concise reporting. Commissioner Engelkes and Commissioner Messenger were complimentary of the updated reporting format.

The Board of Commissioners approved the Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year 2025. Director Folk said,

"the year end fund balance is projected to be \$1,934,111. Additionally, the district will spend \$1,920,000 in capital improvement projects and is set to meet all fund balance goals with the exception of the liability fund. The liability fund took a hit in 2024 with an increase in insurance costs."

Director Folk reminded the board that all fund balance goals are set by board-approved policy and thanked staff for their hard work during the budgeting process.

The Board of Commissioners awarded the Park East construction bid to Midwest Excavators following a bid opening held on Feb. 4. The district received bids from four contractors and approved the lowest provided bid. The total cost of the bid

award was approved at \$1,228,451.25. The project will be partly funded by Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$600,000. The remainder of the project will be funded through park improvement funds. Improvements will include the addition of a parking lot, new playground, walking trail, disc golf course, basketball court, and a lighted baseball field. The bid award also included an upgrade to the playground to include artificial turf in place of engineered wood fiber. Director Folk recommended the addition of artificial turf to create a fully-accessible play surface.

Ms. Folk added, "Installation of artificial turf will provide a fully-accessible playground on both



(COURTESY PHOTO) The Oregon Park District Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, Feb. 11 for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

the west and east side of our community. We are committed to improving our parks and creating space for all to gather and enjoy our amenities." Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring when weather permits and will conclude in early August.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on March 11 at 6 p.m.

Kish College announces winners of 2025 Juried High School Art Exhibition

MALTA — Kishwaukee College has announced the winning selections of the 2025 Juried High School Student Art Exhibition.

The exhibition showcased two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork from Kishwaukee College district high schools, including DeKalb, Hiawatha, Indian Creek, Oregon, Rochelle and Sycamore high

schools. A total of 155 pieces were submitted, and works were displayed in the Kishwaukee College Art Gallery. Winning selections are below, and artists' names are listed as requested.

Best In Show — "Now You See Me" by Courtney Richied of Sycamore High School.

Black and White Drawing — "Statically Shocked" by Kyrie Cragin

of Rochelle Township High School, First Place; "The Protector" by Samantha Minchala of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Picture of Me" by Gabriele Hoyle of Oregon High School, Third Place.

Ceramics — "Waterfall" by Alexi Rodriguez of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Weeping Lilly" by Mya Livious of DeKalb High School, Second Place; "Imprint of the Ancients" by Yana Bartkiv of Rochelle Township High School, Third Place.

Color Drawing — "Memory Lane" by Denia Rincón of Rochelle Township High School, First Place; "Resistance" by Hannah Hart of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Sweetened Death" by Litzy Agaton of DeKalb High School, Third Place.

Mixed Media — "Torn by Selfworth" by Teagan Auld of Rochelle Township High School, First



(COURTESY PHOTO) Kishwaukee College has announced the winning selections of the 2025 Juried High School Student Art Exhibition.

Place; "Heart to Brain and Brain to Heart" by Brenda Cuautle of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Blues" by Grace Tremble of Oregon High School, Third Place.

Painting — "Curiosity" by Issy Smith of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Scars of Life" by Christina Blanchard of DeKalb High School, Second Place; "Insomnia" by Marcus Montgomery of DeKalb High School, Third Place.

Photography/Digital Media — "Untitled" by Gialan Zuniga of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Forgotten Memories" by Everyiel Smith of Rochelle Township High School, Second Place; "Untitled" by Daisy Dominguez of DeKalb High School, Third Place.

Sculpture — "Metal Bars and Hearts in Jars" by Macklynn Rager of Oregon High School, First Place; "Feminine Aneurysm" by Audrey Emmens of Hiawatha High School, Second Place; "Impulsive" by Sienna Seebach of Rochelle Township High School, Third Place.

Learn more about the exhibition at kish.edu/hsartexhibition. Learn more about the Kishwaukee College Art Gallery or Art program at kish.edu.



SERVICES

Tree Trimming & Removal

Stump Grinding

Storm Clean Up

Lawncare

Landscaping

Spring & Fall Clean-Up

Shrubbery Trimming & Planting

Mulching

Forestry Cutting



PINE VIEW TREE SERVICE

Phone 779-251-0254

Fax 815-946-4372

Gabriel Mack

pineview@daystar.io



SERVICE CALL SPECIAL

\$29.95 ANY BRAND

We Service All Makes & Models. Test & check.

Over 30 Years Experience.

AFFORDABLE WATER

815-625-3426

Toll Free: 877-353-7638

dickersonnieman.com

homes

BYRON
220 W. 3rd St.
(815) 234-5133

Ogle County's Real Estate Market Leader!

Dickerson & Nieman
REALTORS

10312 Ardis Road, Roscoe



\$364,000 dickersonnieman.com/202500478

BEAUTIFUL HOME ON WOODED CORNER LOT! Covered porch leads to a formal dining room with hardwood floors. Updated kitchen opens to an eat-in area & playroom with backyard views. Spacious living room with high ceilings, fireplace & deck access. Upstairs, find a primary suite with bath & walk-in closet, plus 2 additional bedrooms. Partially finished basement with bonus room and storage.

SEAN HOSSEINI
(815) 200-8490

1103 Frosty Morning Drive, Davis Junction



\$315,390 dickersonnieman.com/202500680

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN OGLE COUNTY! 1,803 SF Open concept great room with cathedral ceiling. Large dine in kitchen with 2 walls of cabinets, island with breakfast bar, walk-in pantry closet, stainless range, dishwasher and microwave. Primary bedroom with double closet, private bath, main floor laundry room, bench seat at garage entrance. Full basement, 3-car garage and deck and blacktop drive. Agent owned.

JOE CONTARINO
(815) 978-8677

1109 Frosty Morning Drive, Davis Junction



\$321,300 dickersonnieman.com/202500677

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN OGLE COUNTY! 1,823 SF Open concept great room with cathedral ceiling. Large dine in kitchen with 2 walls of cabinets, island with breakfast bar, walk-in pantry closet, stainless range, dishwasher and microwave. Primary bedroom with double closet, private bath, main floor laundry room, bench seat at garage entrance. Full basement, 3-car garage and deck and blacktop drive. Agent owned.

JOE CONTARINO
(815) 978-8677



DOROTHY BOWERS
(815) 985-3264



LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL
(815) 218-0059



TIFFANY CRAVATTA
(815) 871-4004



RANDY CRIDDLE
(815) 871-4004



KAYLA HESLOP
(815) 222-9771



SEAN HOSSEINI
(815) 200-8490

LOCAL NEWS

Extension's Wits Workout program promotes brain health in older adults

MT. MORRIS — Our brains control essential executive functions, such as speaking, thinking, learning, making sound decisions, and remembering. In addition to physical exercise, getting at least seven to eight hours of quality sleep and eating a heart-healthy diet improves brain fitness for maintaining long-term cognitive health in older adults.

University of Illinois Extension developed Wits Workout based on brain health and aging research. "Just like muscles, our brains need exercise to maintain flexibility and strength," says Wits Workout's co-author, Chelsey

Byers. "Challenging ourselves with new and diverse activities promotes cognitive health." Join others to challenge your brain and learn more about keeping your brain healthy.

The free, in-person Wits Workout sessions will be offered at the Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center, 9 E. Front St. on Thursdays, from 10-11 a.m. starting March 13, and will continue for 12 consecutive weeks. Participants will try a variety of fun and interactive intellectual challenges that encourage the use of different cognitive processes, such as memory, attention, and

reasoning. In addition to intellectual challenges, each session features brain health education and discussion of strategies, tips and techniques, providing an opportunity for participants to connect and socialize with one another.

Register for the series by calling the Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center at 815-734-6335 or online at go.illinois.edu/wits25.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in programming, contact Extension Program Coordinator Jan Saglier at 815-544-3710. We strongly encourage early requests so we can meet your needs.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Wits Workout participants engage in a variety of fun and interactive intellectual challenges that encourage the use of different cognitive processes.

Record-high results for 2025 Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale

URBANA — Strong tradition leads to strong results at the Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The sale held during the Illinois Beef Expo averaged \$7,096 on 333 lots, reaching an all-time record-high average for the sale.

"This sale continues to be one of the best sources for total performance genetics in the Midwest," said Travis Meteer, IPT sale manager, commercial agriculture educator, and beef cattle specialist at University of Illinois Extension. "During the past 57 years, the sale has sold 5,030 bulls valued at over \$10 million."

The IPT Bull Sale is a multi-breed sale offering both older age-advantaged bulls and yearlings. Me-

teer said the high-selling bull was a yearling Angus bull, selling for \$13,000. The bull, Kramer Farms Goalkeeper 2348, was sold by Keith and Brady Kramer, Farina, Ill., to Crosby Farms, Roachdale, Ind. The high-selling senior Simmental bull consigned by Haven Hill Simmentals, Milan, Ill., was sold for \$11,000 to Kevin Hildebrand, Ohio, Ill. The high-selling senior Angus bull, consigned by Joe Curtin Cattle Company, Stonington, Ill., sold for \$9,000. The high-selling yearling Simmental bull, consigned by Rincker Simmentals, Shelbyville, Ill., sold for \$10,500. The high-selling Polled Hereford bull, consigned by Lowderman Cattle Company, sold for \$6,500.

Sale sponsors include University of Illinois Extension, the Department of Animal Sciences at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and consigning breeders. Industry support included Axiota, Vita-Ferm, ABS, Zoetis, Dearwester Grain, FerAppease, Illinois Angus Association, and Illinois Simmental Association.

Producers interested in viewing a breakdown of all the prices can visit the IPT Bull Sale website at IPTBullSale.com. The site also includes individual bull prices from the 2025 sale and the numbers and averages from previous sale years.

Seedstock breeders interested in consigning to the 2026 IPT Bull Sale should contact Travis Me-



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Strong tradition leads to strong results at the Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On March 5 at approximately 8:20 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of East Lindenwood Road. After investigation, deputies placed Christopher McGill, 40, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving while license suspended. McGill was also issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. McGill was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 5 at 10:03 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 38 at the intersection with South Brooklyn Road. As a result, deputies arrested Brandon A. Moore Jr., 19, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Moore was additionally issued a citation for window tint. Moore was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 6 at approximately 1 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and Illinois Route 2.

After investigation, deputies placed Vanessa Peterson, 22, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Peterson was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and no insurance. Peterson was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 6 at 9:39 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Edson Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Ricky Kruse, 45, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Kruse was released with a notice to appear. Kruse was additionally issued citations for speeding and inoperable headlight. Ogle County deputies were assisted by Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

On March 7 at approximately 12:25 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of North Freeport Road and West Grove Road. After inves-

tigation, deputies placed Kevin Schneider, 39, of Sterling, under arrest for an active Boone County and McHenry County warrant. Schneider was also charged with driving while license suspended. Schneider was additionally cited for speeding and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Schneider was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was issued a notice to appear for the citations and was held in lieu of bond for the warrants.

On March 8 at approximately 1:13 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Deon R. Body, 30, of Rockford for driving while license suspended. Additionally, Body was issued citations for speeding and expired registration. Body was issued a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 8 at 7:22 a.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic

stop in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. As a result of that stop, Rebeca Alvarado, 25, of Rockford, was charged with driving on a suspended license and driving with suspended registration. Alvarado was given a notice to appear at a later court date and released at the scene.

On March 8 at approximately 8:35 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After a brief investigation, the driver, Jessica D. Delnagro, 44, of Rochelle was placed under arrest for an active Ogle County warrant. Delnagro was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On March 9 at approximately 12:08 p.m., deputies responded to the area of South Ridge Road and Pines Road for a report of a vehicle driving northbound on Ridge Road in the southbound lane. It was also being reported that the vehicle, a grey Chevrolet, was going

in and out of the ditches and causing other traffic to leave the roadway to avoid being struck. The vehicle was reported to have turned around and was now traveling south on Ridge Road in the northbound lane. The vehicle was located by deputies in the 2,000 block of South Ridge Road. The driver continued south in the northbound lane ignoring the squad car behind it. The vehicle went into the ditch and came to a stop in the 2,900 block. After an investigation the driver, Kathy A. Brooks, 66, of Kings was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was also charged with illegal transportation of alcohol and improper lane usage. Brooks was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing where she was released with a court date to appear in Ogle County court later this month.

On March 9 at approximately 10:14 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East

Illinois Route 64 and South Moore Road. After a brief investigation, Carlos A. Carpio Miranda, 59, of Chicago, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Carpio Miranda was additionally cited for speeding and expired registration. Carpio Miranda was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was issued a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 10 at approximately 9:50 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After investigation, deputies placed Pedro Caballero, 43, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Caballero was additionally cited for no insurance. Caballero was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear pending a future court date.

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

MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

meysersfurniture.com
209 Powers Rd. Hwy. 251 | Rochelle
815-562-8792

Relax in Luxury...

Sleep in style...

Entertain with elegance...

Store Hours
M-F 9-5,
Sat 10-5 and Sun Closed

Easter EGG HUNT

FREE & Open To The Public

Hot Dogs To Follow The Egg Hunt

Golden Egg Prizes

Free Hot Dogs, Chips & Drinks

Separate Egg Hunt For Smaller Children

Egg Hunt Throughout The Club For Older Children

April 13th at 2pm sharp
Please arrive at least ten minutes early

Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club
3501 S. Sweeney Road, Chana 61015

• SCAN HERE •

• SCAN HERE •

The QR code is to RSVP or email to rwcc_bod@hotmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Doris Jean Elliott

OREGON — Doris Jean Elliott, 89, of Oregon IL, passed away on March 6th, 2025 following a brief illness.

She was born February 5th, 1936, The only child of Earl and Stella (Strang) Baker. She graduated from Mount Morris High School in 1954 and was a proud Moundcheerleader.

Doris married Robert Elliott on February 18th, 1956 in Mt. Morris. Together they raised 2 daughters. They enjoyed traveling the U.S. by car and we're active members of their family, never more than a phone call away.

Doris worked at the

Mt. Morris dress shop, Tot and Teen, and Town and Country women's apparel. Fashion was a huge part of her life, she never turned down a chance to go shopping. She enjoyed her retirement, spending much time with her grandchildren, and later great grandkids, who held a very special place in her heart.

Doris is survived by her daughter Brenda (George) Noble, grandchildren Whitney (Andrew) Connell, Alyssa (Juan) Carreno, Zach Noble, Libby, Eli, and Josh Head, and great grandsons Justin, Brighton, Westin, Kai, and Liam, and bonus great-grand daughters Ava and



Grace.

She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Jody Elliott, and husband Robert.

Per her wishes, a private celebration of life will be held by the family, and cremation rights have been accorded with Finch Funeral Home in Mt. Morris.

Dolores M. Larson

SHABBONA — Dolores M. Larson, 87, of Shabbona, passed away Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at Manor Court of Rochelle. Dolores was born December 19, 1937, in Oregon, IL, the daughter of Ralph and Hazel (Wilde) Young.

She was raised in Oregon and went to Rockford Memorial Nursing School to become a registered nurse. Almost 4 decades of her nursing career was spent at the Shabbona Nursing Home. She met Army veteran, Les Larson, on a blind date. They were married on September 20, 1958, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon, IL. Dolores had many interests but spending time with friends and family was most important to her. This included her Calvary Lutheran Church family where she was an active member.

Dolores is survived by her husband, Les; four children, Nancy (Denny) Johnson, Cass (Diane) Larson, Amy (Bob) Peel, and Ward (Rima) Larson; five grandchildren, Karlie (Brian) Willenbring, Keaton Johnson, Malia (Andy) Lanza, Seger (Samantha) Larson, and Benay (Dane Bell) Larson; seven great-grandchildren with another blessing on the way; sister, Karen (Gordon) Souden; brother, Richard (Nancy) Young; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Dolores is preceded in death by her parents.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Manor Court of Rochelle for the care given to Dolores.

Cremation care has been provided. Please join the family, wearing your favorite denim, to celebrate Dolores' life for



a memorial service at 12 noon on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Lee with Pastor Jeff Johnson officiating. Visitation will be from 10 A.M. until the time of the service on Friday at the church. Interment will follow in Union Cemetery. Contributions in Dolores' name may be directed to Calvary Lutheran Church or Cure SMA (www.curesma.org) or your favorite charity. Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com to sign the online guest book.

Max Wenzel

LEAFRIVER — Max Wenzel, 84, born January 19, 1941, resident of this community for many years passed away on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Born in Rockford, IL and graduated from Kirkland High School in 1959.

Max served two years in the United States Army. Upon returning to Leaf River. He farmed for the remainder of his life.

He is survived by brother Robert Wenzel, sister Josephine Judah, and brother Richard Wenzel.

A visitation will take

place on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Byron, IL between the house of 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Following the visitation, beginning at 12:00 PM Pastor Randy Snider will preside over a funeral service in his honor at the funeral home. Immediately following the services at the funeral home, Max Wenzel will be laid to rest at Maple Cemetery of Kirkland, IL alongside his parents. Memorial donations are established in his name



and may be directed to Kirkland High School or Serenity Hospice and Home of Oregon, IL. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

Wells selected to University of Minnesota Twin Cities Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The following students have been named to the 2024 fall semester Dean's List at the Univer-

sity of Minnesota Twin Cities: Baileyville's Julia Wells (senior, College of Biological Sciences).

To qualify for the

Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.



Byron High School's February Students of the Month named
Byron High School Students of the Month for February were recently named. Pictured from left to right are BHS Principal Andrew Donaldson, Kristian Ruch (10th grade), Layne Hilliker (ninth grade), Dannan Young (11th grade), Lilliana Ramos (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

Peterson performs for McKendree University

LEBANON — Students from McKendree University's wind ensemble, percussion ensemble and concert

band took to the stage to perform beautiful music for the crowd on Monday, March 3 at the Hettenhausen Center for

the Arts on campus. Hunter Peterson of Stillman Valley was among the performing students.

Polo Lions thank community for Candy Day donations

POLO — The Polo Lions Club would like to thank all these people and businesses that donated to Candy Day. These funds are designated for vision and hearing needs.

The list of people are: Don Hay, Richard Folk, David Buchar, John Deuth, Jeanette Linker, Jim Sheaffer,

Chris Casper, Doug Knapp, Tom Suits, Steve Knie, Dan Bocker, Greg Cross, Ryan Shetler, Irene Boelkens, Winton Bocker, Henry Bocker and Mark Bocker.

The list of businesses are: Polo Chiropractor, Northend Auto, Pines Auto, Scholl Insurance, Birkey's Farm Store, Polo

Family Funeral Home, Haldane Custom Auto and Body, Bocker Grain, Legacy Prints and Northern TV. The Lions Club also collected money by standing at the gates of the Polo Marcos Homecoming football game last September and the club also has displays throughout the community.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Commander Becky Jo Davis receives a donation from Tammy Merdian, AromasByTam.

Polo American Legion Receives Donation from Aroma by Tam

POLO — Commander Becky Jo Davis of Polo American Legion Patrick Fegan Post #83 recently received a \$140 donation from AromasByTam, an independent distributor of Mia Belle Candles, on

Feb. 11.

In November, Mia Belle Candles, a family-owned company from Pennsylvania produces a special veteran candle each year. Tammy Merdian, an independent distributor of

Mia Belle Candles, made a pledge of \$5 from each candle sold to support her local American Legion - Patrick Fegan Post 83, Polo. On Feb. 11, Ms. Merdian attended Post 83's monthly meeting to present a check of \$140 to Davis. The money will be used to place veteran gravemarkers at Fairmont Cemetery, Polo.

Commander Davis expressed her extreme gratitude for the continued support of AromasBy-Tam and look forward to working with her on future endeavors.

Polo's American Legion Patrick Fegan Post #83 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 101 E. Mason St. in Polo. Information on joining the legion or helping with community activities can be obtained through the legion e-mail address at patrickfeganpost83@gmail.com

ADVERTISING DISCLAIMER

Advertisers please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors made on our part and we will adjust bills accordingly, but only provided we receive notice immediately following the first time the ad appears. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which also reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, and not this newspaper, is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval, and may be refused at any time for any reason.

The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

USPS (004-083) ISSN (1045-3059)

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

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

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

Kitchen closed Tue.

Public is Welcome!

VFW EVENTS
Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm
Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)
Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners
We do Carry Outs
Try out the hot slots every weekday!

J&J Gaming

LOCAL NEWS

Northwest IL Bird and Nature Alliance to screen ‘Moved by Waters’ March 18

FREEPORT — Film-makers Kelly and Tammy Rundle of Fourth Wall Films turned their lens on the Upper Mississippi watershed in Iowa and Illinois for their award-winning documentary “Moved by Waters”. The film will be presented by Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance (formerly Northwest IL Audubon Society) on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:15 p.m. at the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas St. The Rundle’s other film “Places to be Wild” will also be screened.

What unites us is more important than what divides us. “Moved by Waters” is an uplifting

and inspirational new documentary that depicts collaborative projects involving organizations and diverse groups of students, teachers, artists, farmers and volunteers of all ages. Setting aside political or other differences, all are working toward improving the quality of water in the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

We all need water that is clean and safe to drink, and the people and projects in “Moved by Waters” model a way forward that benefits people and the environment.

“The national narrative tells us that Americans are too divided politically to work together on any-

thing,” said director-writer Kelly Rundle of Fourth Wall Films. “The diverse groups and individuals we met and talked to while making “Moved by Waters” showed us the opposite.

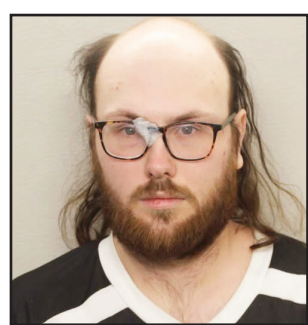
“Moved by Waters” was made possible by a grant from Roger Ross Gipple. The film was nominated for an Emmy Award, won Best Documentary Short at the 2025 Oneota Film Festival, Best Documentary at the Alternating Currents Film Festival, and is a winner of the Iowa Motion Picture Award.

The screening and short discussion afterwards is open to the public.

Rochelle man arrested for indecent solicitation of a child

ROCHELLE — On March 6 at 9:45 p.m. the Rochelle Police Department was contacted regarding an adult male attempting to meet with a minor for sex in Rochelle. After an investigation by the RPD patrol division, Timothy J. O’Dell, 28, of Rochelle was arrested

for one felony count of indecent solicitation of a child and one felony count of failure to register as a sex offender. O’Dell was transported to the Ogle County Jail without incident. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Timothy J. O’Dell



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Oregon FFA, just like many chapters around the country, celebrated National FFA Week Feb. 17-24 and planned by the chapter advisors and the leadership team, the Oregon FFA chapter celebrated the week with various fun activities.

Oregon FFA celebrates National FFA Week

BY KERRIE DIAZ
OREGON FFA CHAPTER REPORTER

OREGON — Oregon FFA, just like many chapters around the country, celebrated National FFA Week Feb. 17-24 and planned by the chapter advisors and the leadership team, the Oregon FFA chapter celebrated the week with various fun activities.

Throughout the week the chapter participated in dress up days such as FFA pride and western (cowboy) day. The chapter kicked the week off with a special lunch and movie night. Reading books and providing coloring books to the elementary school

children taught the young students what FFA is and gave them insight about agriculture. On the final day of Oregon’s celebration of FFA week, the leadership team rolled a cart around the Oregon High School building dropping off snacks and treats for the staff, to show the chapter’s appreciation.

For the weekend, a select group of Oregon FFA members traveled to Wisconsin for snow tubing. Overall, this year’s National FFA Week was a fun and exciting time for the Oregon FFA students. With all of the fun activities students participated in, service and togetherness are only a fraction of what National FFA Week

stands for. National FFA Week recognizes the hard work and dedication of FFA members, advisors, and alumni who have contributed to agriculture.

This week has been celebrated by the organization since 1947 to advocate for and recognize the importance of agriculture and the future of it. Without agriculture and the future generations carrying it forward, we would not have essentials like food, crucial careers (like a veterinarian, teacher, or engineer.), and essential technology. After all, agriculture isn’t just farms and soil, it can be manufacturing inventions you use every day like a car.

Ogle County Sheriff’s Office launches St. Patrick’s Day enforcement

OREGON — St. Patrick’s Day will be here before we know it, bringing with it parades, parties, green beer and more to communities throughout the state. To remind motorists of the dangers of impaired driving and to help keep our streets safe, The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Transportation for a stepped-up traffic safety campaign.

“With St. Patrick’s Day falling on a Monday this year, we expect increased celebrations throughout the weekend prior,” said Sheriff Brian VanVickle. “We urge everyone to celebrate responsibly. Please plan ahead for a sober ride home before you leave the

house — your safety and the safety of others depends on it.”

In addition to looking for alcohol- and cannabis-impaired drivers, Deputies will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced.

Whether you’re attending a party, hosting friends or going out to a bar, keep safety at the forefront of your day and night. When it’s time to leave, make sure your designated driver is sober. Remember that walking impaired can also be dangerous, so designate a sober friend to walk home with you. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers who may not

obey street signs. It’s not about luck, it’s about smart decisions.

Other important tips:

Drunk or high, it doesn’t matter. It is never okay to drive impaired. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.

Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and plan to get your friend home safely.

Always buckle up!

The St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.



Carefree 4-H Club met on March 10 in Oregon

The Carefree 4-H Club met on March 10 in Oregon. This month they had a speaker, Oregon Chief of Police Matt Kalnins. He talked about how he became a police officer, his suit, the weapons he carries, his training and answered many, many questions from the kids. Everyone had a good time and we would like to thank Chief Kalnins for coming. The club then had recreation and their business meeting followed by 11 talks and demos. (Courtesy photo)

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 31, 1492, King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile issued the Alhambra Decree, which mandated that all Jews be expelled from the country by the end of July. The church had already forced much of Spain's Jewish population to convert, and modern historians estimate that around 40,000 Jews emigrated.

* On April 6, 1909, American explorer Robert

Peary believed he had fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he, his assistant Matthew Henson and four Inuits reached what they determined to be the North Pole. Decades after Peary's death, however, navigational errors were discovered in his travel log, in all probability placing his expedition several miles short of its goal.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Letter: Why tariffs?

DEAR editor,

In recent speech to Congress, Trump said: "Tariffs are about making America rich again and making America great again."

"Trump has used and promised to expand tariffs for three primary purposes: to raise revenue, to bring trade into balance and to bring rival countries to heel."

to the across-the-board 10% tariff on all imports and the EU threats, Trump has suggested he may use tariffs to compel Denmark to give the United States control of Greenland.

"The problem is it's hard to achieve all three simultaneously. If countries do what Trump wants to avoid tariffs, the United States can't raise the revenue it needs. If the United States is going to impose tariffs on foreign countries anyway, countries have no incentive to come to the table. And if trade needs to be brought into balance, putting tariffs in place has led to retaliatory tariffs, igniting a trade war that can hurt American industry and consumers."

Trump has promised a tariff on every single item that comes into the United States.

US business leaders offer mixed reaction to steep trade tariffs Donald Trump's administration is imposing on Canada, Mexico and China. *Wall Street Journal* called it "the dumbest trade war in history". Mainstream economists largely agree that Trump's tariff plan will reignite inflation and slow or reverse US economic growth.

Trump said that he won't promise his plan won't cause prices to rise a little. Or, I might say, more than a little, perhaps.

(Main sources for this article: APNews, BBC & CNN.)

Henry Tideman,
Oregon

Political letter policy

THE Ogle County Life has implemented a new political letter policy.

We accept election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a 200-word letter and 10 cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers and exact addresses are not published. We have the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these

letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

Will we still publish letters complaining about the county board or school board? Yes. But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words.

Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters:

The primary election is Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Monday, March 24, 2025 issue of the Ogle County Life must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@oglecountylife.com.

Consider this: DOGE

BUILDING on my last article's section pertaining to the Department of Education and even to other departments that may be on the chopping block, how many of you really feel that the following is a possibility? That once any department is no longer in existence, or even is still there but has had staff or budget reduced, that any savings from the changes will be given back to the states? If you feel it will, I have some swamp land for your purchase.

Elon Musk's DOGE has, in less than two weeks, determined that cuts can be made in so many areas that it's almost scary. With everything they have been searching through, how can two weeks tell anybody anything? How can the staff be cut, the budget be reduced, or a whole department be shut down? What we want to know is why. This why can be scary enough.

First, Elon has talked about our federal agencies as if they were weeds. He said, "If you leave part of them behind ... It's kind of like leaving a weed. If you don't remove the roots of the weed, then easy for the weed to grow back." This quote can be found in an article by Eleanor Pringle of Fortune on MSN at ["www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/elon-musk-wants-to-tear-out-entire-federal-agencies-it-s-like-a-weed-if-you-don-t-remove-the-roots-the-weed-will-grow-back/ar-AA1yYte7?ocid=BingNewsSerp"](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/elon-musk-wants-to-tear-out-entire-federal-agencies-it-s-like-a-weed-if-you-don-t-remove-the-roots-the-weed-will-grow-back/ar-AA1yYte7?ocid=BingNewsSerp)

In addition, President Trump has promised to extend the tax cuts that were passed during his first term and expire at the end of this year. This has led to a budget plan that would add an additional 4.5 trillion to the deficit. But why would Congress pass this? Haven't the President, Congress, and many other Republicans said that the Democrats increased the deficit, and they were not going to because of their fiscal responsibility. You can find more about this plan in an AP article written by Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro at ["apnews.com/article/house-republicans-budget-blue-print-trump-tax-cuts-ff2bddf-31f4e7cb0928139072392a091"](https://apnews.com/article/house-republicans-budget-blue-print-trump-tax-cuts-ff2bddf-31f4e7cb0928139072392a091)

print-trump-tax-cuts-ff2bddf-31f4e7cb0928139072392a091"

So, what is Elon doing cutting and gutting our federal government? My response to this? So that President Trump and his administration can look good by beginning to reduce the deficit they raise in a few months or a couple of years and look good at the next election (if there is one). A problem is created so that a benefactor can look good down the road. Do you feel that there will be people that will praise President Trump for being their savior if this is his plan?

In other news, Vice President Vance recently told Rep. Ro Khanna to "grow up" after he demanded an apology from DOGE staffer Marko Elez after Marko was found to have made racist comments online. Do we presume that VP Vance has the same thought process when students are bullied online? Some of these students go on to hurt themselves or take their own lives. Does VP Vance feel the students affected should "grow up"? After all, in my book, bullying is racism. This story by Jabin Botsford of The Washington Post can be found on MSN at ["www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/grow-up-jd-vance-eviscerates-democrat-attempting-to-cancel-doge-employee/ar-AA1yQ0sW?ocid=BingNewsSerp"](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/grow-up-jd-vance-eviscerates-democrat-attempting-to-cancel-doge-employee/ar-AA1yQ0sW?ocid=BingNewsSerp)

And why does President Trump want peace between Ukraine and Russia so badly? My thoughts are that since Russia is now feeling the squeeze on their economy, the President would like to make sure that Russia is saved from the trauma. "The Russian economy is now beginning to see the full effects of international sanctions. If these trends continue, then the full impact of these financial punishments, combined with strong Ukrainian resistance to Russian forces, could at last put enough pressure on the Kremlin to end its war." This quote can be found in the article by Mark Temnycky of the Atlantic Council at ["www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/is-2025-](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/is-2025-land-grant-university-based-innovation-labs-in-17-states/)

the-year-that-russias-economy-finally-freezes-up-under-sanctions/"

I feel that what President Trump and Putin want is to see that Russia gets the western-most parts of Ukraine it initially conquered in the early part of its invasion and the war to go silently away. At this time, however, Ukraine is finally gaining ground on Russia and could eliminate this requirement. This depends, partly, on Zelenskyy's popularity. It also depends on the involvement of other countries, especially the U.S.

With all these changes and shake-ups within the government, there is one area that will feel things a bit differently. Farmers may feel some of the biggest effects with these changes. But it should not be assumed that farmers will be the only ones affected. With grocery prices staying high or even rising in some areas, you and I will feel an even tighter pinch at the supermarket since it's farmers who supply the basic ingredients to most of our purchases.

"A newly introduced bill and judicial review could stall some damage, but a number of U.S. producers will likely still feel economic pain. Funding cuts will also impact 19

land-grant university-based innovation labs in 17 states." This statement is in an article by Deborah Huso of FARM/Journal Ag Web which can be found at ["www.agweb.com/news/policy/politics/usa-id-dismantling-what-it-means-farmers-and-ag-research/".](https://www.agweb.com/news/policy/politics/usa-id-dismantling-what-it-means-farmers-and-ag-research/) This article covers several changes the federal government is making. If these changes force more smaller farmers out of business, their farms will be absorbed by big agricultural corporations. Once again, we find ourselves bowing to the rich in this country.

How did some of us not see these changes coming? Well, we had one eye on the television, one eye on our phones, and were told the truth was false and the false true. In a sense, beaten within an inch of our rationality with disinformation.



Reed Harris

Democrats take aim at homeschool community

IN a state with limitless opportunity yet vast room for improvement in many areas of state government, one thing we do very well in the Land of Lincoln is our "hands-off" approach toward those who choose to homeschool their kids. Illinois has a stellar reputation for respecting parents' rights to make informed and autonomous decisions about their children's education without layers of bureaucracy impeding those efforts.

Homeschooling in Illinois is a thriving community, with U.S. Census data estimating that between 20,000 and 40,000 K-12 students are part of it. These parents and guardians are dedicated to providing the best education for their children—an education they feel is lacking in the public school system. I am a product of public schools, and I know many Illinois families are grateful for the education their local schools provide. However, when a family chooses to homeschool, they should be free to do so without interference, as this right is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment

of the U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, this year, legislative Democrats have taken aim at the homeschool community by introducing House Bill 2827, which threatens to undermine parental rights and impose unnecessary regulations on homeschooling families. This bill would create additional hurdles for families, such as excessive paperwork and truancy penalties for non-compliance with paperwork—efforts that only complicate an incredibly successful system.

By imposing these heavy-handed regulations, lawmakers are essentially saying that they know what is best for every child, ignoring the truth that education should not be a one-size-fits-all system. Homeschooling is rooted in the belief that parents understand their children's needs better than anyone. Rigid standards would only erode parental rights, stifle educational innovation, and restrict parents' ability to teach in a customized

way for each child's unique needs.

Proponents of HB 2827 claim it will improve educational quality through enhanced accountability, but this premise is misguided. Homeschooling families are already held accountable through existing laws that require them to provide a well-rounded curriculum, with mandated lessons in language arts, math, biological and physical science, social studies, physical development, health, and fine arts—subjects also taught in public schools. The current system ensures that homeschooled students receive a quality education while maintaining the flexibility to learn in the best way for them.

Imposing additional mandates, however, could make homeschooling financially burdensome for many families. Some parents choose homeschooling because it is a cost-effective alternative to public schools, and adding compliance costs—such as assess-

ment fees, oversight, or curriculum approvals—could make this option out of reach for some families. We cannot allow the imposition of new costs to price out homeschooling as a viable option for Illinois families.

As legislators, it is our duty to respect the choices of parents and guardians who choose to homeschool their children. We must work to ensure that this option remains accessible and viable for all Illinois families. House Bill 2827 would be a step backward for educational freedom and parental rights. It would restrict a system that has worked exceptionally well for 10s of thousands of Illinois children.

Now more than ever, we must stand up for the rights of parents to educate their children according to their values, needs, and beliefs. Let's protect the freedom to homeschool and ensure that it remains a choice available to every family in Illinois.

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



Andrew Chesney

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

No injuries, home a total loss after March 5 fire in rural Ashton

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ASHTON — There were no injuries and a home was a total loss after a structure fire on the afternoon of March 5 in rural Ashton, Rochelle Fire Department Captain Zach Prewett said.

RFD and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District stations of Hillcrest, Flagg Center, Creston and Steward were called at 2 p.m. to 8423 E. Illinois Route 38 to assist the Ashton Fire Protection District with a structure fire. Other mutual aid organizations that responded included Franklin Grove, Dixon City, Dixon Rural, Amboy

Fire and the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Prewett said.

"A passerby saw the flames and went and alerted the occupant of the home and got him out and called the fire in," Prewett said. "The house was fully involved and flames were going through the roof when firefighters arrived on scene. It was completely a defensive operation and no firefighters were sent inside of the house. Most of the fire was out when I left at 4:15 p.m. and they were calling in an excavator for overhaul work and were going to work on extinguishing secondary fires."

The structure fire

reached the third alarm level. Prewett said he was unaware of any injuries to occupants or first responders, and the two-story home was a total loss with a garage on the property also seeing damage.

The total cost of the damage and the cause of the fire have yet to be determined, Prewett said. The state fire marshal was on the scene on March 5. Firefighters battled high winds in a rural area on March 5.

"The concerns we had were high winds and no access to water on site," Prewett said. "We had to truck water in and high winds advanced the fire once it broke through the roof of the house."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

There were no injuries and a home was a total loss after a structure fire on the afternoon of March 5 in rural Ashton, Rochelle Fire Department Captain Zach Prewett said.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

There were no injuries and a small dog shed was a total loss after a Tuesday afternoon fire, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Josh Lewis said.

Tuesday afternoon fire in Rochelle claims dog shed, no injuries

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — There were no injuries and a small dog shed was a total loss after a Tuesday afternoon fire,

Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Josh Lewis said.

On Tuesday afternoon at approximately 1:30 p.m., RFD responded to a shed fire at 247 Kelley Drive in a backyard.

Firefighters arrived to find a fully involved fire with the tree above it and a nearby fence suffering burn damage as well. Firefighters then extinguished the fire. There were no injuries

to residents, firefighters or pets, Lewis said.

Lewis said the dog shed was likely valued at around \$1,000-2,000. The pets were nearby on Tuesday but were a safe distance from the fire,

he said. RFD was the only department called to the scene. Lewis said the cause of the fire was not suspicious and was accidental in nature.

"There was possible danger to other exposed

buildings in the area of the fire while it was burning," Lewis said. "It caught the tree on fire and next in line to burn was the house and another shed nearby. Luckily, that didn't happen."

NIU law of business practices program now available to guide small business owners

DEKALB—Northern Illinois University's Continuing and Professional Education department is proud to announce our new Law of Business Practices Certificate in partnership with the College of Law, designed to equip professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks that govern business operations. This program is tailored for individuals aiming to enhance their legal acumen in the business realm, providing them with the tools to navigate complex legal landscapes effectively.

The Law of Business Practices Certificate offers an in-depth exploration of various legal aspects pertinent to business, including contracts, corporate governance, compliance, and intellectual property rights. The certificate is comprised of two full modules and eight half-modules that can be completed in up to one year. Participants will engage with a curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring they are well-prepared to address legal challenges in today's dynamic business environment. Pettee Borissova,

director of the Northern Illinois University Continuing and Professional Education department stated, "We are overjoyed to provide professionals with the essential legal knowledge necessary to navigate today's complex business landscape. This program has been created to bridge the gap between law and business, and we feel confident that we will empower participants to make informed decisions with confidence."

This certificate program is ideal for a diverse range of professionals seeking to enhance their expertise in business law. Business professionals, including managers, executives, and

entrepreneurs, can benefit from a deeper understanding of the legal aspects of business operations. Legal practitioners, such as attorneys and paralegals, may find this program valuable for specializing or updating their knowledge in business law. Compliance officers responsible for ensuring organizational adherence to laws and regulations will also gain essential insights.

Additionally, recent graduates with degrees in business, law, or related fields can use this program to strengthen their credentials and improve their employment prospects. "At NIU College of Law, we are committed to

providing innovative educational opportunities that empower professionals across industries. Taught by expert law faculty and practicing attorneys with extensive legal and business industry experience, this program offers valuable knowledge and practical insights to enhance strategic decision-making, support career growth, and expand your professional network," expressed Cassandra L. Hill, dean of Northern Illinois University College of Law.

The program offers several key benefits for professionals looking to expand their knowledge of business law. Participants will gain enhanced

legal expertise, allowing for more informed decision-making and effective risk management. The curriculum emphasizes practical application, enabling learners to apply legal concepts directly to real-world business scenarios and build the connection between theory and practice. Furthermore, acquiring specialized legal knowledge can lead to career advancement, making participants more valuable to employers seeking expertise in business law.

The program also provides valuable networking opportunities, allowing individuals to connect with peers, instructors, and industry professionals, strengthening their professional relationships within the legal and business communities.

By enrolling in NIU's Law of Business Practices Certificate Program, participants will position themselves at the forefront of business law expertise, ready to tackle the legal challenges that businesses face today.

Oregon GFWC Woman's Club Presents
The 73rd Annual Oregon, IL
Antique Show & Vintage Market
Over 40 Dealers from the Midwest
March 22nd & March 23rd, 2025
Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 10 am - 3pm


Blackhawk Center
1101 W. Jefferson St.
Oregon, Illinois 61061

- Antique Appraisals Sun. only 10 am - 2pm (\$5 per item)
- Plenty of Parking
- Concessions
- Handicap Accessible

Entry \$8.00

This Ad Good For \$1.00 Off Per Person (up to 2 people)

Rendered by
Toni Cacciatore



VFW Post #8739
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL

VFW Post 8739 2025 Scholarship Offering

Scholarship forms are now available for pick up at the Oregon VFW Post at 1310 W Washington St in Oregon. Student's parents do not need to be a member to submit an application. Applications must be turned in by April 25, 2025. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship to the school of their choice. Forms can be picked up at the Post Monday thru Friday from 4 to 7 PM. For more information phone 815-732-6851 same time and days as listed above.

LOCAL NEWS

INTERCHANGE: It's a major corridor because there's more traffic'

From page 1

"For us, it's enhancing another corridor in the city," Tesreau said. "It's a major corridor because there's more traffic. You have twice the amount of traffic coming in from that area than you do Illinois Route 251. We're also gaining some other amenities out there for the city."

Those amenities will include the multi-use path that will help patrons of the Pilot, namely truck drivers, to park and walk or back into the commercial corridor along Dement Road. The city has plans to connect its multi-use path near Walmart to the Dement Road area in the next 2-3 years, Tesreau said.

There will also be new lighting from Dement Road to the area of Pilot. IDOT will have its own interchange-type lighting at the on and off ramps that will transition into the city's lighting style of 30-foot-tall black light poles that are currently in that area.

"Dement Road in that area is a city road, both north and south," Tesreau said. "The geometrics of that intersection with Illinois Route 38 will change a little bit, but for the most part the footprint you see out there is what it's going to be. They are providing refuge islands for pedestrians as a part of that path and there will also be pedestrian crossings on Illinois Route 38 from north to south over to the McDonalds area and Road Ranger."

Tesreau said the Illinois Route 38 and Interstate 39 interchange area underwent a traffic study by IDOT to determine its needs. The diverging diamond interchange is one of the tools IDOT uses to improve safety for areas like it.

The new traffic layout will include signals at both on and off ramps to help control traffic through the area. Today, there are only signals on the east side of the interchange.

"While the new alignment looks somewhat odd, it will actually help with traffic calming and reduce the speed," Tesreau said. "That will help with the situation."

Fiegenschuh said improvements like the diverging diamond interchange that can connect corridors and improve pedestrian safety are important to the city. He believes the IDOT project will be great for the community and increase vehicle safety as well. The Rochelle Fire Department and Rochelle Police Department provide emergency services to that area.

The Illinois Route 38 and Interstate 39 interchange project is one of two large-scale IDOT improvements that will be taking place in Rochelle in the approaching years. IDOT is also expected to begin reconstructing and widening the deteriorating Illinois Route 251 on the north side of town from south of Flagg Road to south of Illinois Route 38 in the next three years.

"I just want to thank IDOT," Fiegenschuh said. "Sam has worked with IDOT for the better part of 20 years on the Illinois Route 251 project. They've programmed these dollars in and they've listened to our concerns and I want to thank them for reinvesting state dollars back into our community to address road reconstruction and safety and pedestrian issues that have been going on for a long time. I'm excited for the day our street department will have to be out on Illinois Route 251 fixing water issues and the road falling apart on them. It will be nice to have a newly reconstructed road going through the center of our community with new lighting, pedestrian access, stormwater improvements and drainage. It will be a great day for the City of Rochelle."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Engineer Sam Tesreau said the Illinois Route 38 and Interstate 39 interchange area underwent a traffic study by IDOT to determine its needs. The diverging diamond interchange is one of the tools IDOT uses to improve safety for areas like it.



At left are Lion Tom Champley, Lion Grant Afflerbaugh, Lion Tim Svihlik, and Lion Jody Svihlik. At right are Lion Tom Champley, new member Edgar Ferrer and Lion Carol Ohrn.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Oregon Lions Club donates to Lions Diabetes Campaign, welcomes new member

OREGON — Oregon Lions Club guest speakers from Cedarville Lions club, President Tim Svihlik and his wife, Secretary Jody Svihlik were recently presented with a check for \$500 to support the Lions Diabetes Campaign. As the district Health Services & Diabetes chair, Tim and Jody spoke to the Oregon Lions about the Lions of Illinois Foundation Awareness Campaign's mission, which is to inform the public of the hidden dangers of diabetes.

From March 1-May 31, Lions will be all over Illinois passing out "Risks Strips". These are paper slips listing warning signs of diabetes and referral information for questions about diabetes.

Oregon Lions Club also welcomed new member Edgar Ferrer.

Hack's Auction & Realty Services to offer antique appraisals

OREGON — Founded in 1961, Hack's Auction & Realty Services, Inc. is a third generation family-owned-and-operated business in Pecatonica. A full service, full time, fully insured company licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, Hack's started more than 50 years ago when Henry and Nancy Hackmeister conducted their first auction. Hack's has evolved into a premier auction company in northern Illinois. Greg and Swan, sons of Henry and Nancy, are leading Hack's Auction into the future.

The Oregon Women's Club invites you to join Hack's Auction Staff as they provide their appraisal services on Sunday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$5 fee per small item will be charged as a donation to the Oregon Women's Club. Bring in a family heirloom or antique that you are curious to identify or to find out its worth and Hack's Auction Staff will provide you with an appraisal. Photographs of large items may also be appraised. A written appraisal can be discussed with the Hack's agents.

Allow plenty of time to also enjoy over 40 antique dealers exhibiting their items for sale. Don't forget to enjoy a lunch from the Ladies of Chana United Methodist Church.

The Oregon Women's Club Antique Show and Vintage Market will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. With an entrance fee of \$8. Located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., Oregon, IL 61061, with plenty of free parking and handicapped access. For additional information call 815-985-7550.

It's tax time!!!

Jennifer Lungstrom, CPA, EA

Silene Walters, CPA, MAS

Individual and Business Income Tax prep with no need for an extension. Call today!

WALTERS Accounting Inc.

202 N. Walnut, Stillman Valley
815.645.8979
www.WALTERSTAX.com

ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Human Services Transportation Plan meeting is March 28

MORRIS — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday March 28 at 10 a.m. at Grundy County Administrative Building—1320 Union St, Morris, IL 60450.

Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit.

If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15am-10:30am. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please contact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans.

For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

LOCAL NEWS

LIBRARY: New building has been in the making for 20 years: 'It's going to serve the community well'

From page 1

A referendum passed in June 2022 that allowed the Creston-Dement Public Library District to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building on the land that was donated years ago for just that purpose. The main reason for the desire for a new building was the library outgrowing its current space at 107 S. Main St.

"It took a lot of hard work above and beyond the normal capacity of a volunteer library board," Kroupa said. "We worked with a bunch of professionals all the way along the line. We had wants versus needs as we were starting out. We brought in a library consultant to help us to focus on what we really needed to put in versus what we really thought we wanted to put in. And it helped us to focus

on a library of this size and structure. We've had a lot of tremendous volunteers. We had people here this past weekend to move in all the library shelves. We had 13-14 people from the community that came in. And we were able to get it moved in very, very quickly and easily, so we have a lot of community support to get this going where we're at."

The library project had to undergo a redesign due to an unexpected \$800,000 funding gap due to not receiving a state grant and higher-than-anticipated building costs. The redesigned plans made the project about a third smaller. The redesign caused about a year-long delay.

The building was made smaller and reconfigured, while retaining its planned amenities with the exception of study rooms. The

new design also allows for potential future expansion.

"It's very, very close to our conceptual plan," Kroupa said. "There's always little things different that we could see to do, but very, very close to what we were thinking about and planned. It's going to serve the community well. In fact, since we started to build the building here, we've seen new housing in the area. Because this is one of the driving functions. We got something that attracts people."

Kroupa said despite the prices of building materials rising almost 75 percent following the COVID-19 pandemic, the library's construction was able to be done very close to its original budget.

Library Director Kristi Scherer said the project is stretching funds in every way it can. It was recently

donated furniture pieces from another library and got some of its current pieces reupholstered. The Creston-Dement Public Library also has written grants for its children's area.

"We've strived to try to do the best that we can with the money that we have and with grants and public health and donations and things like that," Scherer said. "We've caused a lot of excitement in the library community. We've received things like 3D printers, sewing machines and a fridge. We'll have more space with the community room. I'm trying to get a hold of the Northern Illinois Food Bank rep for free summer lunch. I'm hoping that comes to fruition for the kids here in town."

Kroupa said that he's overwhelmed when he sees the finished building after

the amount of work that it took. In recent years, the library's longtime space saw increased use, which made a renewed push for a new library in the community.

The new building and property will lend itself well to accessibility, multiple events at once, more programs, a community garden, and less impact from trains.

Kroupa said there are no set plans for a grand opening ceremony, but the board wants to pick a day and involve the entire community.

"There's several of us that go to different churches and people are talking in positive respects about what's going on and see what's happening," Kroupa said. "Now they can see it expanding and growing, and when they get inside, it'll even be more exciting. We've seen strong commu-

nity support."

Scherer said she's excited about more space to do programming and having a storm shelter in the building for people in the community. She likened the experience of the new library to Christmas morning, after waiting 20 years since the land was originally donated.

Kroupa called the whole experience of building a new library "very challenging."

"We made many public presentations to convince people the referendum was a good idea," Kroupa said. "We let people make comments, both positive and negative, to confirm that this is what we as a town and a community need. It was a lot of work, but we got it done. For me, it's almost an out of body experience walking around in the completed building."

NIU expands Digital Marketing Certificate Program with AI course

DEKALB — The Department of Marketing at Northern Illinois University (NIU), in collaboration with the Continuing and Professional Education department, has recently launched a Digital Marketing Certificate Program for ongoing learners. This initiative marks the first certificate program in our College of Business, aimed at equipping professionals with up-to-date skills es-

sential in today's digital landscape.

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is excited to announce the launch of the second course in the program, Artificial Intelligence in Digital Marketing, designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to leverage AI technologies in addressing marketing challenges.

This comprehensive course delves into core

AI concepts such as machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), deep-learning vision analysis, and the utilization of large language models (LLM) such as ChatGPT. Participants will learn to apply these technologies to identify and solve a wide range of marketing problems within the marketing mix framework.

This program offers several key benefits for pro-

fessionals looking to integrate artificial intelligence into digital marketing. Participants will develop an in-depth understanding of AI principles and their applications, building a strong foundation in this rapidly evolving field. The curriculum emphasizes practical application, equipping learners with the skills to implement AI technologies effectively and solve real-world marketing

challenges. Additionally, mastering cutting-edge AI tools and techniques can significantly enhance career prospects, helping professionals stay competitive in the dynamic digital marketing sphere.

This course is ideal for marketing professionals, business owners, and individuals interested in understanding how artificial intelligence can transform digital market-

ing strategies. Whether you're looking to enhance your current marketing efforts or explore new career opportunities, this program offers valuable insights and practical knowledge. By enrolling in NIU's Artificial Intelligence in Digital Marketing course, participants will be well-prepared to navigate and leverage the shifting role of AI in marketing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 7-April 11: The Knights of Columbus Friday Lenten Fish Fry at 226 E. 2nd St. will be held on Fridays, March 7-April 11, all at 4-7 p.m. Dine-in (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 for 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 17: For our program on Monday, March 17, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild will present a program on "Alterations Tips and Tools" by our own Jeannie Brinkmeier. Visitors are welcome; for Visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Save the date! CCQG will present our Quilt Show "Garden of Quilts" on April 11 & 12. Jane Addams Community Center, 430 W. Washington St., Cedarville. Hours for the show are Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$5. Guild meetings are held at the Forrester Grove Church, 7246 Free-

port Road; Forrester, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. to provide ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. For more information call Program Committee Chair Kay Walker, 815-275-2904, or Guild President Jennifer Newcomer, 708-774-3279.

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.

March 24: The Ogle County Historical Society will have

their monthly meeting on Monday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. We are seeking new members and volunteers. Everyone is welcome. Come to the carriage house annex building located behind (east of) the Nash House Museum at 111 N. Sixth St. in Oregon.

April 5: The United Women of Faith of the Ashton Methodist Church are hosting a Kuchen Coffee and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 5 from 8:30-11 a.m. Ashton is known for its delicious homemade kuchen in the favorites of cherry, peach, and prune. Kuchens will be available for sale in the bake sale area in addition to many other baked

delights. The church is located at the corner of North Richardson Avenue and North 4th Street in Ashton. There is ample parking and the church is handicapped accessible. See you on April 5 for kuchen, coffee and fellowshipship.

June 22: The Northern Illinois Bass Masters Kids Fishing Derby is June 22 at 9 a.m. at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club at 3501 S. Sweeney Road in Chana. The event is open to the public. There will be free food, drinks and bait. Everyone will win a prize, from bicycles to fishing poles. All you have to do is bring your pole and go fishing.

Brought to you by these sponsors:



Hank's Repair
Hank Kaiser-Owner
ASE Certified
P.O. Box 31
54 Stephenson St.
German Valley, IL 61039
Cell ph. 815-238-5144
Fax ph. 815-362-2316



On Farm Tire Service




Bushman's Service
815-225-7411
Milledville, IL
Call us anytime!
We're here to help.

712 N Division Ave.
Polo, IL
(815) 946-2886

Open:
Tue - Wed
11AM to 10PM
Thurs - Saturday
4PM to 1AM
Kitchen Open:
5PM to 7PM
FREE In-Town Delivery


THE POLO ROOM
ABSINTHE BAR, RESTAURANT
AND EVENT CENTER
POLO, ILLINOIS


Etnyre
Improving lives by serving infrastructure needs of the world
1333 S. DAYSVILLE ROAD, OREGON, IL 61061
WWW.ETNYRE.COM



FRITZ'S RESTAURANT & BAR
EST. 1991

Serving the Community for 33 years!
Locally owned and operated

Friday 5pm-9pm

Full Menu Served:
Wed, Fri, Sat | 5pm - 9pm

208 N Walnut St
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
815-645-9828


KING BLACKTOP
Serving Ogle, Boone & Winnebago County for over 35 years

815-234-4171
815-234-2225
www.kingblacktop.com

Call For Your FREE Estimate

3499 E Tower Rd
PO Box 652
Byron, IL 61010


Heartland REALTY
www.heartlandrealtyonline.com


Matthew Hermes
Designated Managing Broker
(815) 288-4648
1254 N. Galena Ave., Dixon
www.heartlandrealty.info


OREGON VFW POST #8739

Monday - Lightning 5:30PM
Wednesday - BINGO 5:30PM
Thursday - Trivia 7PM

Food Available Mon, Wed, Thu 4 PM - 7 PM & Fri 4 PM - 8 PM
Open to the Public

1310 Washington St., Oregon | 815-732-6851


Mobile Electronics
ON SITE COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS

2-Way Radio Communication

We are an authorized dealer of Icom & Kenwood radio equipment

Forrester, IL
815-938-2586



OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

211 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068

815-732-2156

www.oglecountylife.com

Ogle County's



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)



Other seafood available / Full menu available
After Lent, Friday Night Fish Fry Buffet will only be the 1st Friday of every month!



1469 N. IL Rt 2
Oregon IL
815-732-6761
Maxsons.net

03032025

VFW
Post 8739



1310 W. Washington St.
Oregon, IL
815-732-6851



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

03032025



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!



208 N. Walnut St.
Stillman Valley
815-645-9828

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

03032025



Stop By These Businesses

and see why they were

VOTED #1 in Ogle County!

**VOTED
BEST**

**HVAC / HEATING & AIR &
PLUMBING COMPANY**



ANDERSON
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.



LENNOX

HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
Innovation never felt so good.™

815.562.8784

email: aphc621@yahoo.com

621 1st Ave. • Rochelle, IL 61068

**VOTED
BEST**

**PAYROLL SERVICES, TAX SERVICES,
ACCOUNTANT AND TAX PROFESSIONAL**



Brown's Tax Service

Carolyn Brown, Jade Brown and
Marilyn Oropeza

Our combined 50+ years of service
means great service for you. Make
an appointment today for Tax
Preparation, Payroll and/or Book-
keeping Services!

361 IL Route 38 | Rochelle, IL

815-561-6861 | carolyn@brownstaxoffice.com

**VOTED
BEST**

**BUTCHER SHOP, BRATS
& BLOODY MARY**

Tues-Fri - 9a-5:30p
Sat - 9a-4p

815-384-3620

headons2go.com

103 N. Main Street | Creston



LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

**VOTED
BEST**

PHYSICAL THERAPY OFFICE



Aaron, Janet
and Marshall
are here to help
you start feeling
better today!

Providing treatment for all
of your physical therapy
needs. No prescription
required. Choose
Northern Rehab
and get back
to the activities
you enjoy.

#CHOOSENORTHERNREHABFIRST

1211 Currency Ct., Suite C, Rochelle

815.562.3299 • www.northernrehabpt.com

**VOTED
BEST**

**ALTERATIONS, SEWING
& REPAIRS**

Stitchery 815

Jen Gottschalk

815-601-0643

Change the Fabric,
Not You!



Alterations and Creations right in Rochelle!
No more traveling for alterations, mending and
whole sewing projects.
Wedding to hemming to memory items!



**VOTED
BEST**

**APPLIANCE REPAIR
& APPLIANCE STORE**



B and W Appliance Repair | 567 W. IL. Rte. 38, Rochelle, IL.



CONQUER PET HAIR LIKE A PRO

MAYTAG® PET PRO WASHER REMOVES **5X MORE** PET HAIR*

Learn more at maytag.com/pets

815-562-6253



**VOTED
BEST**

GAS STATION



**Thank you for voting us
Best Gas Station of Ogle County!**



**VOTED
BEST**

PHYSICAL THERAPY OFFICE



Aaron, Janet
and Marshall
are here to help
you start feeling
better today!

Providing treatment for all
of your physical therapy
needs. No prescription
required. Choose
Northern Rehab
and get back
to the activities
you enjoy.

#CHOOSENORTHERNREHABFIRST

1211 Currency Ct., Suite C, Rochelle

815.562.3299 • www.northernrehabpt.com

**VOTED
BEST**

**ALTERATIONS, SEWING
& REPAIRS**

Stitchery 815

Jen Gottschalk

815-601-0643

Change the Fabric,
Not You!



Alterations and Creations right in Rochelle!
No more traveling for alterations, mending and
whole sewing projects.
Wedding to hemming to memory items!



**VOTED
BEST**

**BANK, CUSTOMER SERVICE, FINANCIAL PLANNING
SERVICES, & MORTGAGE LENDING SERVICES**

Stillman
BANK

Your Local, Independent
Community Bank
Since 1882.

- **Six locations** throughout Ogle & Winnebago Counties
- **Local lending** - decisions, processing, and servicing
- In-house Trust & Wealth Management team allows for **local investment opportunities**
- **Locally owned & headquartered** since 1882
- We develop banking solutions **that fit your needs**



Member
FDIC

www.stillmanbank.com

**VOTED
BEST**

**ALTERATIONS, SEWING
& REPAIRS**

Stitchery 815

Jen Gottschalk

815-601-0643

Change the Fabric,
Not You!



Alterations and Creations right in Rochelle!
No more traveling for alterations, mending and
whole sewing projects.
Wedding to hemming to memory items!



**VOTED
BEST**

SERVICE CLUB

Floyd J. Tilton Post 3878

Where the community meets its veterans

Call to Discuss Eligibility Requirements



815-562-3878

318 4th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068

Public is invited to participate:

Lunch Specials

Tues. - Fri. 11am to 1pm

Queen of Hearts

Tuesdays @ 7pm

No need to be present to win

6 Tickets for \$5

Lightning Bingo

Thursdays @ 6pm

Thank you for supporting us!

Check our website & facebook
for activities and details



LOCAL NEWS

DEATH: Bier was staff member at Oregon Elementary School

From page 1

“While the investigation remains ongoing, search warrants, interviews, and an autopsy have taken place since the initial call, which lead us to believe no danger to the public exists,” Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. “Pending toxicology and continued examination of the evidence, no further information will be released at this time. The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by Illinois State Police Crime Scene, the Office of the Illinois Fire Marshal, the Ogle County Coroner’s Office, and the Peoria County Medical Examiner.”

On Monday, the deceased person was identified as Jill Bier, 67, of Oregon. Bier was a staff member at Oregon Elementary School, which was detailed by Oregon School District Superintendent PJ Caposey in a release to district families and confirmed by VanVickle.

“It is with a heavy heart that I share the tragic news that Jill Bier, a staff member at Oregon Elementary School, has passed away,” Caposey said in the release. “We have been working closely with the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office since Friday, and earlier today, we received confirmation that we could share this information with our staff and families.”

We know this loss will impact many of our students, and we are focused on providing support for them at school tomorrow. Counselors and staff will be available to help students process their emotions, whether they need a quiet space, someone to talk to, or just extra reassurance throughout the day.

Every child will handle this differently, and we encourage you to talk with your child tonight about their feelings. If you believe they need additional support, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us (principals and home room teachers) so we can ensure they have what they need.

This is a heartbreaking moment for our school community, and our priority is helping our students navigate it with care and support. Please know we are here for them — and for you.”



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office has opened a death investigation after receiving a call to an address in the 4,000 block of East Illinois Route 64 in rural Oregon regarding a deceased person on Friday, March 7 at about 9:59 a.m. The Sheriff’s Office provided an update on Monday, March 10.

EMT OF THE YEAR: ‘I’ve always been good at helping other people...’

From page 1

After he was hired by the conservation police, he let his firefighting licenses expire while he worked as an officer for 26 years before getting back into the firefighting field.

“I’m 65 now,” Hunter said. “I know firefighting is a young man’s job, but thankfully I’m in pretty good shape and I work with some wonderful people here to help with the load.”

Hunter and his wife have two daughters, Breanne and Shelby. He said his family supports him “100 percent” and still worries about him despite his decades of experience as a first responder.

Hunter thanked the VFW for the award on March 3.

“My dad was in the Air Force and he was very proud of his service and he always raised me to serve and take care of things,” Hunter said. “He thought I’d be in the military one day, but I took this route instead. He was always proud of this route and I had an uncle who was a firefighter/EMT who encouraged me to do this. It’s a gift I had. I wouldn’t be a great business man or school teacher. But I’ve always been good at helping other people. I’m glad I can still do it. I don’t have a retirement date. All my certifications are still good and I plan to get more. And even after I retire, I still plan on helping out around here. I’ll know when the time comes.”



(PHOTO BY MATT ALFORD)

From left to right: VFW Senior Vice Commander Lee Ossmann, OFD EMT/Firefighter Greg Hunter, VFW Assistant Quartermaster Robert Coulter, and OFD Chief Mike Knoup. Hunter had his award pinned on his chest by his wife, Lyn.

NWI Bird and Nature Alliance annual banquet is April 9

FREEPORT — On Wednesday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance will be hosting its 42nd annual banquet featuring David and Adrienne Olson presenting “Yellowstone Unveiled”.

David and Adrienne Olson, photographers and naturalists, will share their insights and images of the greater Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. David has traveled to Yellowstone now for over 25 years learning its many secrets. Olson Photography of Rockford now conducts tours to the park, and as part of David’s lifelong dedication, he also visits the park to produce new photographs whenever he can. David and Adrienne will share an amazing photo show, fascinating tales and interesting facts that make Yellowstone National Park still one of the most incredible destinations in the world.

The banquet takes place at Highland Community College Student Conference Center in Freeport and includes a full turkey or vegetable lasagna dinner with delightful desserts for only \$32 for adults (kids 12 and under are free). Reservations for the meal must be received by March 29. If you just want to attend the program without the meal the cost is \$5 for adults (free for kids and students). Events starts with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and the speaker will present at 7:30 pm. Further details about the banquet and online registration can be found at www.nwilibirdnaturealliance.org or by calling Tim at 815-835-5109.

Best Choice
SHREDDED
EXTRA SHARP
CHEDDAR
CHEESE
Selected Varieties
6-8 oz
3/\$5

Tostitos
ORIGINAL
TOSTITOS
Selected Varieties
9-13 oz
BOGO

Fritos
ORIGINAL
Fritos
Selected Varieties
9-13 oz
BOGO

Meettos
Crunchy
Selected Varieties
9-13 oz
BOGO

Certified Angus Beef® brand
**TENDERLOIN
FILET MIGNON**
8 oz
10.99^{ea}

Prices Effective: Wednesday, March 19 thru Tuesday, March 25, 2025

3 DAY SALE

**FRI • MARCH 21ST
SAT • MARCH 22ND
SUN • MARCH 23RD**

**Sullivan's Signature
BRATS &
SAUSAGES**
Select Varieties
3.99 lb

**Us Govt Insp
BONELESS
COUNTRY STYLE
PORK RIBS**
1.88 lb

**Us Grade A
CHICKEN HIND
QUARTERS**
Sold In 10 lb bag
69¢ lb

**Panera
Take 'n Bake
SOURDOUGH
BREAD**
16 oz
3.99

**Panera
BREAD SOUP
BOWLS**
2 ct
3.99

**Deli Fresh
EGG ROLLS**
Select Varieties
4 ct
3.99

**EXTRA LARGE
GREEN
GRAPES**
1.89 lb

**Tombstone Or
Digiorno
CLASSIC
CRUST PIZZA**
Select Varieties
12 in
3.99

**Niagara
PURIFIED
WATER**
Select Varieties
8 - 16.9 oz / 24 pk
2.99

**Blue Bunny
PREMIUM
ICE CREAM**
Select Varieties
46 - 48 oz
2/\$7

**Dot's
PRETZELS**
Select Varieties
9.5 oz
3.99

**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

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

**LENTEN
FISH
FRY**
ASH WEDNESDAY
& EVERY FRIDAY
THROUGH LENT
6.99
39.99

Scan QR
Code
to view
entire ad

Available at all 11 Sullivan's Foods including: 101 E HWY 64, MT. MORRIS 815.734.6868 | OPEN 6:30A TO 8P 7 DAYS A WEEK

Like and Follow us on www.facebook.com/sullivanfoods | Check us out or order online at www.sullivanfoods.net | We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct printing errors. All items not available at all stores.

Sullivan's Foods has hired a company called Telecheck to process all checks written at our stores. Telecheck has set guidelines in place for processing checks. Telecheck has a \$300 limit for check writing with purchases. If you have an order larger than \$300, you may need to pay any remaining balance by cash, credit, or debit card.

Princeton holds off Byron in IHSA 2A Sectional Semifinal

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MARENGO — The Byron Tigers looked to be in full control after taking a 10-point lead during the third quarter of the IHSA 2A Marengo Sectional Semifinal against Princeton on March 5.

Cason Newton drained a 3-pointer and scored a transition layup off a Princeton turnover to help Byron take a 27-17 lead in a low-scoring and physical semifinal battle. But a defensive change from Princeton stymied the Byron offense, as the Tigers went roughly seven minutes between the third and fourth quarters without scoring, allowing Princeton to rally back and tie the game.

In an intense finale that saw Princeton's Noah LaPorte and Byron's Ben Hiveley knock down clutch triples for their respective teams, it was the Princeton Tigers who clinched their bid to the sectional championship, holding off the Byron Tigers 46-42. Princeton (21-12, 8-2 Three Rivers), who has now won 12 straight games, will advance to face

Rock Falls for the sectional title on Friday. Newton and Hiveley each led Byron (21-10, 5-4 Big Northern) with 14 points in the loss.

"We didn't know what to expect this season since we were blending a variety of age groups," Byron head coach Matt Huels said. "But for this group to win over 20 games and put themselves one quarter away from a sectional final, it's a testament to them as kids and how they play. This result will sting for a while and it'll motivate them to get back in the gym when the time is right."

Byron and Princeton faced off earlier in the season, with the Princeton Tigers edging the Byron Tigers 53-51 on their home floor. Wednesday's neutral-site sectional semifinal saw Byron take control with its defense early, as the Tigers held Princeton without a point for over four minutes due to their 1-2-2 press and half-court defense. Byron also made life difficult for the 6-foot-6 forward LaPorte, who was largely shut down in the first quarter due to fast double teams.

"When we were man-to-man, we did a good job



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Byron's Caden Considine drives to the basket during the IHSA 2A Boys Basketball Sectional Semifinal against Princeton on Wednesday, March 5. Princeton defeated Byron 46-42 as the Tigers finished 21-10 on the season.

of fronting him and giving help side defense," Huels said. "We were able to get the 1-2-2 going early, but

we also can't get the 1-2-2 going if we don't score the basketball. When they made their run in the third

quarter and we couldn't score, we couldn't get back into our ball press, which was the turning point of

the game."

See **BASKETBALL** page 2

RE/MAX
of Rock Valley

NEW LISTING

900 S 8th Street Oregon \$219,900 Call Erin

Charming and full of character, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch in Oregon, IL, is ready to for move in! Nestled on a corner lot in a peaceful neighborhood with fantastic neighbors, this home offers both comfort and convenience. Inside, you'll find cedar-lined closets, beautiful pergola floors, and an abundance of storage throughout. The finished basement is an entertainer's dream, featuring a wet bar, a separate workshop or office space, and a legal egress window-perfect for adding more bedrooms if desired. Step outside and enjoy the backyard with a garden shed complete with a loft for even more storage or creative space. Don't miss your chance to own this gem-schedule your showing today! Newer roof, newer furnace.

NEW LISTING

5609 N Western Avenue Peoria \$149,900 Call JD

Move in ready! This charming and spacious 3 - bedroom, 2-bath ranch home offers over 1,800 sq. ft. of finished living space and a bright, inviting atmosphere. Hardwood floors flow throughout the main level, which has been freshly painted for a crisp, move-in-ready feel. The full finished basement adds even more functionality with a second full bathroom and a designated laundry room. Outside, enjoy a nearly fully fenced backyard, perfect for relaxation or entertaining on the patio while the detached garage provides additional convenience. Recent updates in 2024 include a brand-new roof, water softener, and electric meter base. A wonderful home with space, character, and modern updates. Make it yours today, before it is too late.

Congratulations
to our
RE/MAX
of Rock Valley **2024**
Award winners

EXECUTIVE CLUB AWARD

Matt Bouback **Jenny Kirchner** **Boone Lockard**

Jessica Lowry **Jamie Pendergrass** **Jen Rybicki** **Stephanie Wendt**

100% CLUB AWARD

Becky Adams **Taylor Miller** **Lori Peterson** **Erin Spence**

PLATINUM CLUB AWARD

Carla Benesh **Gieson Home Team**

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB AWARD

Rebecca Hazzard
Designated Managing Broker/Owner

 Rebecca Hazzard Designated Managing Broker/Owner 815-509-8432	 Carla Benesh 815-985-6235	 Lori Peterson 815-973-2180	 JD Gieson 815-677-1873	 Boone Lockard 815-970-3586	 Jenny Kirchner 815-440-2145	 Jen 773-849-3522	 Taylor Miller 815-751-0943	 Kyle Schipper 309-428-9407	
 Merri Cruz 815-980-7947	 Casey Cline 217-840-8855	 Jamie Pendergrass 815-243-4310	 Ashley Patterson 815-291-6308	 Erin Spence 815-262-5555	 Stephanie Wendt 815-985-2053	 Jenn Goley 630-732-6838	 Becky Adams 815-509-5837	 Matt Bouback 815-505-3827	 Jessica Lowry 815-315-2617

606 E Washington St., Oregon, IL
114 E Everett, Dixon, IL

815-732-9100

RockValleyProperties.com

Each office is independently owned & operated.



SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Byron High School boys basketball team faced Princeton in the IHSA 2A Sectional Semifinal on Wednesday, March 5. At left, Byron's Weston Auker drives around Princeton's Asa Gartin. At right, Byron's Ben Hiveley dribbles into the interior of the Princeton defense.

BASKETBALL: Byron's season concludes in IHSA 2A Sectional Semifinal

From page 1

Hiveley and Newton each buried 3-pointers to help Byron take a 12-5 lead into the second quarter, where both teams struggled to knock down perimeter shots and finish around the basket. Princeton continued its efforts to run offense through its star LaPorte, a Northwestern football commit, but the Tigers stood tall defensively, holding him to five first-half points.

Leading 18-14 at halftime, Byron found its biggest offensive spark of the game early in the third quarter, where the Tigers attacked the holes in Princeton's 2-3 zone defense and capitalized on offensive rebounds to open the quarter on a 9-3 run. Although Princeton made just two field goals in the third quarter, LaPorte began to have a larger impact on the game, drawing a flurry of Byron fouls around the basket and reaching the free-throw line four times, making five.

"They started in a 2-3 zone and we were able to start our offense a little closer to the basket," Huels said. "We were able to make shots, which allowed us to get into the 1-2-2 and create havoc on defense. They switched to the 1-3-1 and we weren't able to score for a long stretch. We weren't able to get things going to the basket and we weren't able to set up our 1-2-2."

The Princeton crowd came alive in the final moments of the third quarter, as Luke Smith drilled a 3-pointer before the buzzer to bring Byron within five points, 33-28, entering the fourth quarter.

With Princeton's 1-3-1 zone defense creating problems for the Byron offense, Princeton tied the game at 33-33 after Asa Gartin finished a layup through contact and completed the 3-point play to the applause of the Princeton fans. LaPorte then drained a 3-pointer moments later, giving Princeton its first lead of the second half and capping off a 13-0 run that stretched between the third and fourth quarters. LaPorte scored 14 of his game-high 19 points in the second half.

"We talked about how the team that makes the last run or the longest run will probably be the team that wins the game," Huels said. "They made the longest run and that's why they won. We were interested to see how physical the game would be allowed to get. I felt like the game was allowed to get physical and in the third quarter, when the game swung, they were allowed to be a little more physical and we didn't do the greatest job of attacking to combat our foul trouble."

Newton brought Byron within one after the junior guard drew a foul on a 3-point attempt in the final minutes of the game. Newton went 2-for-3 from the line to make the score 38-37, but the Princeton Tigers answered after LaPorte caught a pass inside and threw down a two-handed dunk to return the lead to three. Hiveley then drained one of Byron's biggest shots of the night, cashing in a triple from the corner that evened the score at 40-40 with roughly a minute left.

A floater from Princeton's Jordan Reinhardt on the team's next possession enabled the team to retake a slim lead. Byron had opportunities to tie or take the lead in the final moments, but a missed 3-pointer and a pair of missed free throws led to defensive rebounds for Princeton, who ultimately closed the game on a 6-2 run. Reinhardt finished with 12 points, six of which came in the fourth quarter, while Newton scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half for Byron.

Andy Colbert: Stall tactics in basketball

THE stall tactics employed by Eastland in an upset sectional win over Pecatonica remain a hot topic of discussion. One side believes that a shot clock is needed and what Eastland did could be construed as poor gamesmanship.

Proponents of the slow down in play give credit to coach Tyler Zumdahl for brilliantly using IHSA existing rules to his team's benefit. It was a gamble for Zumdahl to employ such a controversial ploy.

But, after losing by 31 points to Pecatonica earlier the season and entering hostile territory at Pec's home gym with state advancement on the line, something out of the ordinary needed to be done.

Radical? Yes. Effective? Double yes.

From beginning to the end, Pecatonica appeared flustered and that frustration was exhibited in poor shooting, both from the floor and free-throw line. The Indians did play tough defense, but that is much easier to execute under duress than one's offense.

I remember my old high school Rochelle trying a similar tactic against a great team in the 1970s, maybe Freeport. It worked for a short while, but the opponent was talented enough to capitalize on any errors Rochelle made and it soon became a runaway win for the superior team.

Watching Eastland adroitly play keep-away from Pec, it soon became apparent that Pec's talent was not going to be enough to force Eastland into a similar submission. The stalling equalized the athleticism and talent.

There were moments I thought Pec would make a run, but never did that materialize, which is quite odd. Nearly all games have runs, but this wasn't a normal game.

If you are Pecatonica and have never experienced a 1-0 quarter and 8-5 halftime score, it has to be a shock to your system.

There was no adapting to it and the longer the chess game went on, the more troublesome it became for Pec.



Andy Colbert

The First National Bank in Amboy Home Equity Specials!

Franny Lilja NMLS# 449810 Amboy	Marion King NMLS# 1493020 Franklin Grove	Sage Arellano NMLS# 1509453 Monroe Center	Annette Early NMLS# 686407 Dixon	Elsa Payne NMLS# 1248405 Amboy
--	---	--	---	---

- Renovations?
- Vacation plans?
- Debt Consolidation?

Ask Us

815-857-3625 x5306

fnbamboy.com

As an impartial fan, I enjoyed this game as much as any I've seen in last several years, primarily because of the environment at Pec and the strategy employed by Eastland. The old saying about there being so much tension in the air, you could cut it with a knife rang true.

Even without a horse in the race, I was tensed up from the drama being played out on the floor. I can't imagine what it was like for fans of both teams.

Friday's game was sandwiched around a Thursday and Saturday appearance downstate by the Pecatonica girls basketball team, culminating in the school's first ever team championship. For that matter, it was the first time any team from Pec made it downstate.

"This is the best experience of my career," Pecatonica athletic director Kevin Kunkel told me before tip off on Friday. "I'm so happy for the kids and the coaches. They are living the dream."

With the girls safely in the state title game and a No. 1-ranked boys team favored to also make it down, things couldn't not have been better in all of Pecatonica at 6:48 p.m. when Kevin and I briefly chatted. Unfortunately, a couple hours later, I watched him stoically carry the sectional title plaque to the scorer's table, one that would not be going to his school.

I wonder what human emotions were like the next day, as the girls played for a state title. Would the sting of losing the sectional be magnified by the fact the girls made it downstate?

Or, would the boys feel solace from cheering for girls. What about the parents, who so much anticipated their sons having the same experience as the girls?

For sure, there was an overflowing of both joy and sadness around town that weekend.

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

Polo's Mumford, Stephenson make NUIC All-Conference Boys Basketball team

POLO — The Northwest Upstate Illini Conference released its All-Conference Boys Basketball roster for the 2024-25 season. Polo's Gus Mumford was selected as a unanimous First-Team All-NUIC honoree, while Polo's J.T. Stephenson earned a Second-Team All-NUIC award.

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS



Byron's Will Julian, Cael O'Horo and Hunter King (left) each medaled in the IWCOA Fresh/Soph & Girls Sectional in Sterling this past weekend. Also participating in the tournament were Oregon's Jordan Lowe, Tyshawn Gordy, Landon Ege, Jayden Berry, Dylen Ware, Sonny Wesselman and Tyler Hendrickson.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Local athletes medal at IWCOA Sterling Sectional

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — Ogle County athletes earned medalist honors during the IWCOA Fresh-Soph & Girls Sectional at Sterling on Sunday. Wrestlers from Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Polo and Stillman Valley advanced to the IWCOA Fresh-Soph & Girls State Championship meet.

Polo High School sent four athletes to the sectional tournament including Zandra Vock, who finished first in the Girls 1115 Division with a 3-0 record. Vock earned three straight falls over Hampshire's Maggie Anderson, Sterling's Noelani Ibarra and Sherrard's Sophia

Bradarich.

Polo's Aubrey Herndon took third in the Girls 130 Division with a 2-1 record, notching falls against Guilford's Layla Roy and Erie's Ayden Grawe. Other Polo wrestlers who competed in the sectional were Tyler Moshure (F/S Boys 132) and Axel Harson (F/S Boys 138).

Oregon High School advanced seven wrestlers to the sectional including Jordan Lowe, who took third in the F/S Boys 106 Division with a 5-1 record. Lowe's five victories included a fall over Burlington Central's Oscar Nelson and technical falls over Oregon's Tyshawn Gordy and Galena's Gabriel Tahcrell. Lowe notched a 1-0

decision against DeKalb's Daniel Sandoval before securing a 4-1 decision against Rock Falls wrestler Scottie Hampton for third place.

Landon Ege took third in the F/S Boys 126 Division with a 4-1 record. Ege's four victories included a 9-1 major decision over Riverdale's Triton Pulfrey as well as a 21-7 major decision over Boylan's Brodin Slabaugh and a 7-5 decision over Freeport's Thomas Olson. Ege sealed his third-place finish with a 14-4 major decision over DeKalb's Tyler Daub in his last match.

Jayden Berry took third in the F/S Boys 150 Division with a 4-1 record.

Berry's four victories included a fall over Rock Island's Daniel Htoo and a 16-0 technical fall over Woodstock North's Trenton Combs. Berry earned a 14-5 major decision against Rock Island's Daniel Htoo before locking down a fall against Freeport's Mathias Rada to finish the tournament in third place.

Rochelle's Hadley Losoya finished third in the F/S Boys 138 Division with a 4-1 record. Losoya's four wins included an 18-3 technical fall over Geneseo's Dawson Hull and a fall over DeKalb's Kameron Sims in the quarterfinals. Losoya took third after a 12-6 decision over DeKalb's James Brown

and an 11-4 decision over Rock Island's Elijah King in the third-place consolation match.

Byron High School advanced three wrestlers to the sectional including Will Julian, who won the F/S Boys 157 Division title with a 3-0 record. Julian pinned Rock Island's Cameron Foley before notching a 19-1 technical fall over Hampshire's Gavin Beauchamp in the semifinals. Julian sealed his sectional championship with a fall over Stillman Valley's Ethan Waugh in the finals.

Cael O'Horo took second in the F/S Boys 150 Division with a 2-1 record, recording falls against Galena's Kingston Sanders

and Freeport's Mathias Rada. Hunter King finished fifth in the F/S Boys 126 Division with a 2-2 record, earning two victories over Freeport's Thomas Olson.

Stillman Valley High School sent two wrestlers to the sectional including Ethan Waugh, who placed second in the F/S Boys 157 Division with a 2-1 record. Waugh scored an 18-0 technical fall over Moline's Connor Morel and a 4-1 decision against Rock Island's Jayden Allison.

More Ogle County wrestlers who competed include Oregon's Tyshawn Gordy, Dylen Ware, Sonny Wesselman and Tyler Hendrickson as well as Stillman Valley's Xander Bell.

Eastland defeats Pecatonica 36-31 in sectional final

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

PECATONICA — If your ears are still ringing an hour after a basketball game is over, you can tell it was an electrifying atmosphere. That was the case for me after covering the highly anticipated sectional final between Pecatonica and Eastland.

The sold-out gym at Pecatonica was loud from start to finish in the 36-31 win by Eastland over the No. 1 ranked team in 1A. With so many twists and turns, it was high drama for the 1,600 fans in attendance.

How about a 1-0 score at the end of the first quarter? How about Eastland taking an 8-5 halftime lead and each team only having one missed shot?

The weirdness kicked in one minute into the game when Pecatonica coach Bobby Heisler told his team to stop wasting energy trying to guard an Eastland team that was intentionally stalling.

Basically, the court turned in a real-life wax museum, as nobody made a move for several minutes with Parker Krogman of Eastland holding on to the ball with one arm. After five minutes, he did make a short pass to teammate Adam Awender.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Potluck with a program

Tuesday, March 18th at 12:00 pm we will have a potluck with a program

"We had a terrible start the first two times (67-36 and 63-55 losses)," Eastland coach Tyler Zumdahl said. "We had to do something different and slow it down."

Even though Eastland turned the ball over on its only two possessions of the first quarter, Pecatonica seemed to be affected by how the game was transpiring.

Trailing 3-0, Eastland made four consecutive baskets before finally missing for the first time with 1:20 left in the second quarter. Meanwhile, Pecatonica went 3-8 from the free throw line and fell behind 8-5.

With points at a premium, missed free throws were crucial and the Indians would finish 10-18 in free throws. Eastland didn't do themselves any favors either with equally poor shooting from the charity stripe.

In the third quarter, Eastland turned the ball over on its first three possessions and Pecatonica took a 13-12 lead. Was this the point where the favored Indians would finally take off?

Nope. As the minutes ticked down and the pressure ratcheting up, Pecatonica appeared tight. Uncharacteristic missed shots (9-for-24) were

evidence of that, as the Indians never were able to play free and easy.

Meanwhile, the Cougars were quite comfortable with its own brand of offensive slow down. The Cougars would go on to shoot 14-for-22, with Zykan Haverland leading the way with 6-for-8, mostly near the basket.

An advantage of stalling is not taking a shot unless it is high percentage. What else worked in Eastland's favor was steady ball handling in the face of Pecatonica's defensive pressure.

"We played smart the whole game," Zumdahl said. "This group was so hungry after last year. The emotions are incredible right now."

Last year, Eastland lost 60-50 in the sectional final to Pecatonica and hadn't beaten the Indians for five years. But, Pecatonica bore the burden of trying to beat Eastland for the third time this year, a feat that is analytically difficult, even for the favored team.

Fate was a cruel to the Indians, who desperately wanted to join the girls teams in the Final Four downstate. The worst of it was losing all-time leading scorer and team leader Cooper Hoffman with 4:19 left in the third quarter.

for sale.

Internet 101

Need some help with basic use on the Internet? The Center will have a class on Monday, March 24th at 10:00 am on Internet 101. Call or stop in to sign up.

On a twisting drive to the basket where he was called for traveling, Hoffman came down on his foot and fell to the floor. Down for a couple minutes, he limped backed to the bench and ended his career with five points, all on free throws.

"You hate to see that," Zumdahl said. "He means so much to their program."

About the only thing the fans on both sides could agree on all night was combining for a standing ovation for Hoffman when he eventually was able to stand after the fall. He did try to come back a couple

times, but left after a minute or so and was seen in a walking boot after the game.

Another example of the breaks going Eastland's way came at the end of the third quarter when senior Brayden Jackson came in for the last three seconds. A rebound of missed Eastland free throw was fumbled by Pec and Jackson alertly grabbed it and scored at the buzzer for a 22-19 cushion.

"That may have been the play of the game," Krogman said.

It was a boost, as the Eastland crowd erupted

and Haverland staked his team to a 26-19 lead early in the fourth quarter. Brody Black (1-for-7), who was hounded all night by the Cougar guards, did make a much-needed 3 to close his team within 26-24.

Immediately afterwards, nobody was guarding Tanner Stern under the basket and he made an easy lay up to give Eastland a four-point edge. With Hoffman on the bench and 6-7 missed shots to close out the game, the Indians never could regain the lead.

KING BLACKTOP

*For All Your Blacktop
and Sealcoat Needs*

- ♦ Installation of NEW Blacktop
- ♦ Parking Lots & Driveways
- ♦ Commercial & Residential
- ♦ Driveway Additions
- ♦ Blacktop Repairs/Patching
- ♦ Sealcoating/Crack Filling



**March Savings! Sign up
NOW for 2025 Season!**

Serving Ogle, Boone & Winnebago County for over 36 years

815-234-4171
or
815-234-2225



www.kingblacktop.com



3499 E TOWER RD
PO BOX 652
BYRON, IL 61010

**Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent
through the
CLASSIFIEDS**

Here's Our Card

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

ACCOUNTING

Jeanette Heesaker, CPA

Masters in Business Administration
and Finance

Certified Managerial Accountant
Accounting and Tax Services
For Business/Individual/Partnership

132 W. Second St., Suite 1 • Byron, IL 61010
(815) 234-8100

AIR CONDITIONING

HEATING

AIR CONDITIONING



Turn to the experts

GAUL'S CLIMATE CONTROL
815-734-7314

Randy Gaul
815-946-2386

604 N. Division
Polo, Illinois 61046

AUTO REPAIR



Hank's Repair

Hank Kaiser-Owner
ASE Certified

P.O. Box 31
54 Stephenson St.
German Valley, IL 61039

Bus. ph. 815-362-3451

Cell ph. 815-238-5144
Fax ph. 815-362-2316

AUTO REPAIR

Tony Kurzac

107 E. Washington St.
Route 64
Oregon, IL 61061
815-312-7089



Sell New & Used Tires/Rims
All Makes & Models
Cars/Truck Service

Trailer Repair
Auto Repair
Lowest Price Around

AUTO REPAIR



Lloyd Duncan
309 N Wesley Ave
Mt Morris IL 61054
779-340-0734

CABINETS

ValleyCraft
Custom Cabinet LLC

Handcrafted quality to last a lifetime

- ◇ Kitchen - Bath - Laundry - Office - and more!
- ◇ Fully Custom, From Design to Installation
- ◇ Free Estimates, Friendly Local Service

Contact Eric
815.973.9951
Fax
815.900.2090

Come visit our showroom
2477 E. IL Hwy 64
Oregon, IL 61061
Appointments Appreciated

COMPLETE SEPTIC SERVICE



- Excavating • Trucking • Hauling
- Septic Installation • Septic Pumping
- Aeration System Installation & Service
- Black Dirt

P.O. Box 352 Byron, IL • 815-234-5625

CONCRETE



CONCRETE INC.

Free Estimates
Fully Insured

Neil Wills

President / Owner

Flatwork / Foundations

815.978.6073

741 Oaks Lane
Byron, IL 61010

CONCRETE



How can we help you?

- Patios
- Floors
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Resealing
- Decorative

Jerold Yoder
815.202.8787

FREE ESTIMATES
jerry@yoderconcrete.us

CONSTRUCTION

Mark Miller Construction

For All Your Building Needs!

Commercial/Residential Work

SERVING OGLE COUNTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

- New Construction • Roofing • Windows • Additions
- Complete Remodeling • Siding • Painting • Interior/Exterior
- Drywall • Flooring • Decks

Free Estimates • Lead Certified

815-761-1626

FIREWOOD

AT'S
FIREWOOD

815-751-2255

ALL HARDWOODS, SEASONED,
DELIVERED, STACKED



HAIR CARE

Leaf River Kutz
122 Main Street <Leaf River II

Men, Women, Kids

HAIR CUTS 815-738-6122



HOME IMPROVEMENT

Insured

INTEGRITY
HOME IMPROVEMENT & RENOVATION, LLC

FREE
ESTIMATES

New Construction • Complete Remodels • Additions • Windows
Doors • Sunrooms • Kitchens • Basements • Baths • Garages

Dan Houston 815.871.5748 • Craig Kosch 815.566.7424

www.integrityhomeimp.com

LAWNCARE



Toby Behmer
Owner/Applicator
Stillman Valley, IL
815-393-6471
toby@turfxil.com

"Your prescription for a healthy yard!"

Fully Licensed
Lawn Treatments
Tree & Ornamental Care
General Pest Control
Mosquito Suppression
Over 15 Years Experience

PAINTING

WALLPAPER

PAINTING

STAINING

FREE
ESTIMATES

K & J
DECORATING, INC.

HANDYMAN
SERVICES

Specializing in painting or staining kitchen
cabinets or woodwork.

Insured Over 40 Years Experience

Ken NO JOB TOO SMALL! Cell (815) 353-5754
Stillman Valley, IL

PAINTING



Tennison Painting

Specializing in:

New Construction
Commercial & Residential
Interior & Exterior • Painting & Staining
Wall & Ceiling Repair • Texturing Walls
& Ceilings • Insured

Ph: (815) 501-2893
Email: jimtennison@gmail.com
www.TennisonPainting.com

PET GROOMING

by
Dun Wright Grooming

**MOBILE
GROOMING**

- Pets Groomed at Your Home
- Less Stress on Yourself and Your Pet
- No More "Separation" Anxiety
- No More Day-Long Waits for Pets

- Cut of Your Choice
(depends on coat condition)
- Specialty/Flea Baths Available
- Bath/Hand Blow-Drying/Toe Nails Clipped



Contact person: 815-440-4779 Pam Wright

STORAGE SHEDS



We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Many Options Available
- Competitive Pricing
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

SOLAR ENERGY

**Paul Holland
Sunder Energy**
Regional Solar Consultant

815-994-2337

Paul.Holland@sunderenergy.com

Instagram: @Solarocrates

TREE CARE



Serving Ogle County Since 1996

- Trimming & Removals • Climbing Specialists • Insect & Disease Control
- Planting Service • Arborist Consulting

Fully Licensed & Insured

732-4710

"Your Trees
Deserve a
Certified
Arborist!"



TREE REMOVAL



**Tree Trimming
Removal
Stump Grinding
Storm Clean Up**

Gabriel Mack

P: 779-251-0254

F: 815-946-4372

TREE SERVICE

**High Top Tree
Service LLC**
Byron, IL

- Tree removal/trimming •
- Storm damage •
- Stump grinding •
- Climbing specialist •

Call or Text:
815-980-0678



WATER SOFTENER



WHEELS



GRANT DEVRIES

Certified Technician

Cell 815-632-7777

Office: 815-632-9999

greggdevries@awrswheelrepair.com

A FULL SERVICE ALLOY WHEEL REPAIR
& REPLACEMENT COMPANY

WWW.AWRSWHEELREPAIR.COM/NWILLINOIS

SPORTS



Oregon Junior High wrestlers Jacksyn Windham (left) and Carson Benesh (right) each finished in first during the IESA State Championship at the NIU Convocation Center this past weekend. Also medaling were Byron's Brooks Auker and Stillman Valley Meridian's Tyler Bell (below).

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Ogle County athletes medal at IESA State Championship

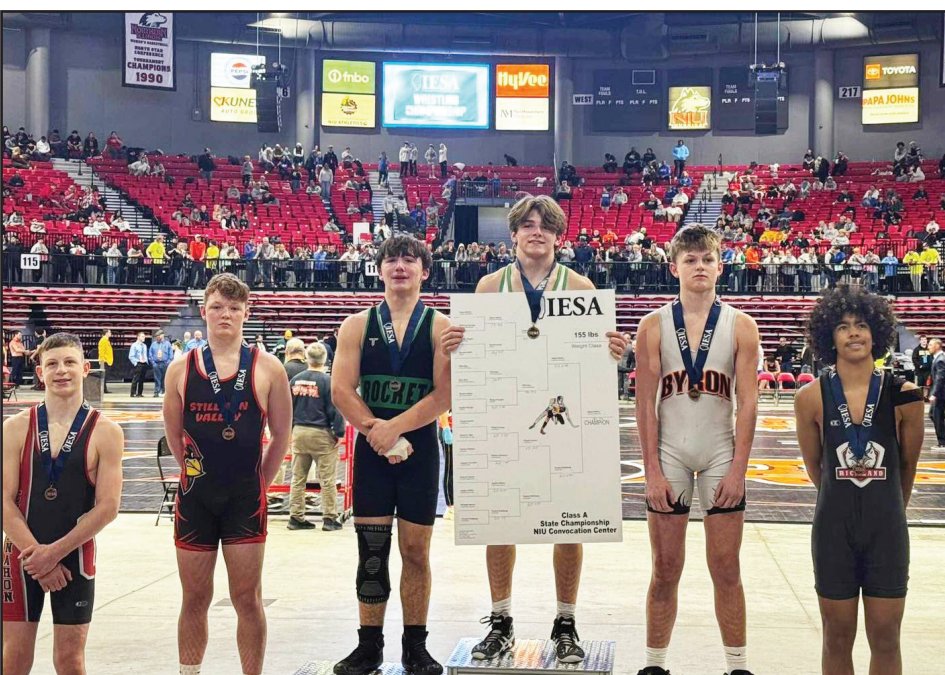
BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB — Ogle County was well represented during the 2025 IESA State Championship at Northern Illinois University's Convocation Center over the weekend, when middle-schoolers from Byron, Oregon, Stillman Valley and Polo earned medalist honors for their wrestling skills. Oregon Junior High qualified six athletes including Carson Benesh and Jacksyn Windham, who each brought home state championships this

season. Benesh took first in the A119 Division with a 4-0 record, notching a fall over Tremont's Rahimsheh Khaksare and a 16-0 technical fall over Vandalia's Hunter Berning to reach the semifinals. After an 8-0 major decision against Prospect Heights MacArthur's Ryder Peterson, Benesh clinched a state championship with a 17-1 technical fall against Herscher Limestone's Ace Eggenberger in the final round of action. Windham finished first in the A215 Division with a 4-0 record. Windham

pinned his way through the quarterfinals, defeating Knoxville Junior High's Bryan Tanner and Vandalia's Aaron Lash before scoring a 15-1 major decision over Westmont Junior High's Camren Herron to reach the championship round. Windham pinned Herscher Limestone's Colton Carson to seal his title. Byron Middle School qualified four athletes including Brooks Auker, who took third in the A155 Division with a 5-1 record over six matches.

See IESA page 6



AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

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

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

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

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

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

CHANA

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

DIXON

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

FORRESTON

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

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 leafriverchurch.org/live-now
6941 N. Mt. Morris Rd., Leaf River, IL 61047
815-738-2205
leafriverbc@gmail.com
leafriverchurch.org

LINDENWOOD

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

101 N. Galena St., P.O. box 67, Lindenwood IL
Regular worship 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
Website: www.goelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS
102 S. Seminary Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054 815-734-4942 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: mtmorriscob@gmail.com

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

OREGON

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

MOUNT MORRIS

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 • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Dave Ragula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 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
Pastor Rev Megan Smick
9:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Study
10 am Worship & Children's Sunday School
In-person or live on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonUMC>
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Meal
All are welcome!

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon 97327-2711 - Office Rev. Eldred George
Webpage: saintbrides.org • E-mail: saint.bride.church@gmail.com
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns
Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

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

Visit our website: www.crossroadsccn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS



Polo Aplington's Maddox Peterson (left) and Stillman Valley Meridian's Bradley Banks (right) were two of the Ogle County wrestlers who medaled during the IESA State Championship at the NIU Convocation Center this past weekend.

IESA: Local middle-schoolers awarded at state tournament

From page 5

Auker's wins included a 9-0 major decision over Clifton Nash's Colton Vaughn in the first round as well as a fall over Fairview Heights Grant's Antonio Hayes, which was the first of Auker's four wins during the wrestlebacks. Auker earned a 1-0 decision over Clinton's Kaidyn Morgan, a for-

feit from Channahon's Thayer Larson and a 9-4 decision against Stillman Valley Meridian's Tyler Bell to end the tournament in third place.

Polo Aplington advanced two wrestlers to state including Maddox Peterson, who placed sixth in the A275 Division with a 3-3 record. Peterson's three victories were against Burr Ridge Gow-

er's Antonio Hidalgo, Rochester's Jaeden Miller and Knoxville Junior High's Lucas Herring.

Stillman Valley Meridian also advanced two wrestlers to state, with Tyler Bell and Bradley Banks each medaling in fourth. Bell finished fourth in the A 155 Division with a 4-2 record, winning four matches in the blood rounds. Bell



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

earned a fall over Farmington Central's Paxton Jostes as well as a 16-11 decision over Knoxville's Callum Johnston and a 12-0 major decision over Clifton Nash's Colton Vaughn. Bell scored an 11-8 sudden victory over Crest Hill Richland's Odin Ben to advance to the third-place consolation bout, where a loss placed him in fourth.

Banks finished fourth in the A 167 Division with a 4-2 record, pinning Coal City's Cody Kozlowski in the opening round before a loss in the quarterfinals led to three straight wins in the wrestlebacks.

Banks notched falls over LeRoy's Collin St. Peters and Vandalia's Jax Carroll, as well as a 14-3 major decision over Harvard Junior High's Cash

Stott, during the blood rounds.

Other state qualifiers who participated in the tournament included Byron's Cohen Considine, Elijah Whitlock and Darien Whitlock as well as Oregon's Wesley Rogers, Kayden Cover, Rico Folk and Deven Alcaraz. Polo's Maddox Busker also competed in the state tournament.



Ogle County youth athletes medal at IKWF State Championship

Eight members of the Stillman Valley Wrestling Club competed in the 2025 IKWF State Championship at the Peoria Civic Center over the weekend. Four athletes earned medalist honors including Evan Ross, who brought home a state title in the Boys Intermediate 55 Division. Brycen Legue finished fourth in the Boys Intermediate 59 Division, Liam Ross took fifth in the Boys Bantam 46 Division and Brinley Wrage placed sixth in the Girls Intermediate 82 Division. Other participating wrestlers were Jordi Collins (Girls Bantam 61), Adaline Strang (Girls Bantam 61), Donovan Shelby (Boys Bantam 84) and Kennedy Collins (Girls Novice 115). Draven Bock of the Oregon Hawk Wrestling Club medaled in fourth place in the Boys Intermediate 108 Division during the state tournament. The Byron Xtreme Wrestling Club sent two wrestlers to the tournament including Joel Ware (Boys Intermediate 148) and Ava Hopper (Girls Novice 68). (Courtesy photos)

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Spice of the Month!
This month's spice is cumin. Pick up a spice kit today to learn more about cumin, some recipes showcasing cumin's flavor, and a sample of the spice.

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.

Pre-Schoolers with Paw Patrol

Thursday, March 27th at 10:00AM: A tech-savvy boy and a group of rescue pups work together to protect their community. Join us as we watch an episode or 2 of our favorite pups! Puffcorn and juice boxes will be provided to enjoy.

Stories With Stacey
Thursdays at 10:00AM: Join Miss Sta-

cey as she continues to teach us about animals through books and crafts!

March Book of the Month

In This Is Happiness by Niall Williams, Faha is a small parish in Ireland. Rain is stopping, electricity is coming to the village, Noel Crowe knows change is coming to the parish. A meandering story of a boy growing up in a different 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

A Shadow In Moscow by Katherine Reay
Bonded In Death by J.D. Robb

Picture Book

Barn In Spring by Chambræ Griffith

DVD
The Forge

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

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.

Planning Your Trip to Disney World

Grab your Mickey Ears, we're going to Disney! Our in-house Disney enthusiast, Kelly, will

walk participants through the trip-planning process so you can organize a vacation well-suited to your family's travel dreams and wishes. Tuesday, March 25, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Smarty Pants: Mouse-trap Machine Balloon Show

A mouse is loose in the library! Ordinary mousetraps can hurt a mouse—or worse! Our mission...to build a better mousetrap that will catch our pesky

mouse without hurting him. We'll learn about the five simple machines—the wheel, lever, pulley, inclined plane and the screw, then put all five machines together to create a Rube Goldberg inspired mousetrap machine. And

since, it's a Smarty Pants show—the entire Mouse-trap Machine will be made of giant balloons! Friday, March 28, 1 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

See page 8

LOCAL NEWS/COMICS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mount Morris Library Hours

The Mount Morris Library is open every day Monday through Saturday. Hours are 11am-7pm, Monday through Thursday, 11am-5pm on Fridays and 10am-2pm on Saturdays. Stop by and see us!

Mount Morris Library is 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!

Lego Night! Thursday, March 20th 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!

Spring Break Activities All Week March 24-28!

Spring break for the kids

means more time doing fun activities at the library! We have a variety of activities planned to keep kids busy and having fun during their time off. Monday will be a drop-in craft-create your own mini-greenhouse, Tuesday will have a Take-n-Make available to make a wind chime. Tuesday will also be a spring Lego Challenge! The bricks will be out and anyone can make a 'Kite Scene' to be put on display for voting! Winner gets a Lego set of their own! Wednesday we will host our weekly Story Time at 11:15. Thursday is Game Night! Stop in with family and friends to play some board and card games, enjoy popcorn and lemonade! All programing is available to everyone! Crafts are while supplies last.

Read with Therapy Dog, Holly

Monday, March 24th. We have an exciting opportunity at the Mount Morris Library with Holly, a local therapy dog. Holly will be here on the 4th 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.

Ink with a Friend Monday, April 14th at 5pm

We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, April 14th 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 3rd!

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois users can access and reserve

passes from many of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library website, 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 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, \$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

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

Rock River Center Activities

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

www.rockrivercenter.org and like us on Facebook.

Activities with Mary

Tues., March 18. Sip & Paint: 1:00 - 1:45. Drumming: 1:45-2:30. Advanced Registration requested

CTC Lab Hour

March 20 - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Registration Required.

Crocheting & Knitting

March 20 - 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Registration Required.

RUMMIKUB

Mondays - 12:15 - 3:15 p.m.

WOOD CARVERS

Tuesdays - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

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

Veteran's Assistance

Your Veteran's Service Officer will now be serving you at: 1001 Pines Road, Oregon, Illinois Fridays

from 9:00 am - 3:00 p.m. By Appointment Only. To schedule your appointment, please call: 815-633-8266 or 217-836-6575. The Veteran's Service Officer serves Veterans of all ages and assists them with applications and other benefits available to them.

SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER

CANCER SUPPORT

GROUP

Meets: 4 times a month Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. 24 Hour Advance Registration Required.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of the month. Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

DIABETICS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOW VISION GROUP

Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Huck's raft-mate

4 Peeve

8 "Phooey!"

12 Docs' bloc

13 List-ending abbr.

14 Bassoon's kin

15 Dyeing vessel

16 Video-streaming brand

17 Radiate

18 Vulnerable spots

21 Physique

22 Youngster

23 "Taste!"

26 Chaps

27 Brit. sports cars

30 Stretches (out)

31 Polite address

32 Hawaiian coast

33 Speck

34 Aunt, in Mexico

35 Nodded off

36 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"

37 Tennis feat

38 Spinning disks used by ceramic artists

45 Latin love

46 Authentic

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

47 Tic-tac-toe loser

48 Hindu royal

49 Bern's river

50 — carte

51 Journey

52 Dance move

53 Tourist's chart

DOWN

1 Coffee, slangily

2 Apple since 1998

3 Calc. or trig

4 Red wine

5 "— you so!"

6 Bogus

7 Befuddle

8 Thesaurus compiler

9 Competent

10 Hammer or sickle

11 Gives a darn?

19 Nile wader

20 Sweetie

23 "Dilbert" engineer

24 MGM rival

25 Still

26 Soccer's Hamm

27 "The Simpsons" barkeep

28 Econ. statistic

29 Plopped down

31 Western ranges

32 Swiss artist Paul

34 "That'll be — day!"

35 Drag

36 Vegas area

37 Cognizant

38 Fraction

39 Sharif of film

40 Author Morrison

41 Pants part

42 Physical

43 Classic Kinks song

44 Bath bar

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE

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

DENNIS THE MENACE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR MR. —

Alice	Cowboy Bob	Joey	Tommy
Aunt Sue	Gina	Margaret	Uncle Al
Barney	Henry	Martha	Walt
Ben	Hot Dog	Ruff	

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. ID tag is reversed. 2. Clip is added to lunch box. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Stair railing is different. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Windowpanes are different.

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

DENNIS THE MENACE

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

Answer

LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

From page 6

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

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Did You Know?

Irving K. and Allen B. Pond were part of an active Chicago Artists' scene that included Lorado Taft, Bert Leston Taylor, Jane Addams and Harriet Monroe during the late 1800's. The Pond brothers were founding members of the Eagle's Nest Art colony and were commissioned in the 1900's to design a new library building for Oregon. It is one of only two Illinois libraries designed by Pond and Pond. The original building blueprints are framed and on display in the Oregon Public Library.

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. or call (815) 732-2724.

Tournament of Books

March 10th – April 4th. 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 14th. Round Two: March 17th-March 21st. Top 4: March 24th-March 28th. Finals: March 31st-April 4th. The winner will be announced shortly after. For more information you can visit our website or stop by in person.

Book Clubs

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



Last week, toddlers (ages 1-4) participated in a color scavenger hunt at Julia Hull District Library.

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.

Cricut Lab: Creating Reusable Stencils



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Thrill your friends with your stencil skills! Experienced Cricut users will learn how to create reusable stencils, including how to alter a design for stencil use and the best cutting prac-

tics for stencil film. BYO Cricut Explore or Maker, mat, cords and device with Cricut app installed. Thursday, April 10, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

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. The 2WBC meets Wednesday, April 9, at 12:30 to discuss Memoirs of a Geisha by Lucy Fisher. Cocktails and Crime will meet April 27, so stop by the Library to find out title, location and time.

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

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, March 18 at 1:30pm or 5:30 pm (Choose your time slot). 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.

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 sing-

ing 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

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. 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

Common Scams and How to Avoid Them

Wednesday, March 26 at noon. Please join us as the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office guides us on the most common scams and how to avoid them. This is a Zoom meeting and registration is not required but encouraged. Join the Zoom Meeting by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89380290696>... Meeting ID:

893 8029 0696 Passcode: 765515.

For Your Mind, Your Magick

Thursday, March 27, 6:30 -8pm. Join certified Hypnotherapist Cyron Moore in this engaging hypnotic meditation session in learning how to manifest and create the life you desire. Through Cyron's guidance, you will explore and incorporate the natural healing power of hypnosis and influence your thoughts into reality. Following the workshop, everyone who registers will receive a recording via email, allowing you to revisit and reinforce the transformation at anytime. This session will be done via zoom and registration is encouraged to receive your free recording via <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfPHxgx4S33ye.../viewform>. If you would like to use the library resources to do the zoom in person, please register on our library page under events at oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Functional Fitness

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

Knit & Crochet

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

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 8.5 x 11 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.

Antiques & Collectibles

Belvidere Collectible Coins

www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion

10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm
~ Call For Directions ~ (815) 547-7111
880 Belvidere Road • Belvidere, IL

THIS & THAT Collectibles

520 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL
815.909.1069
Open 7 days a week
Antiques, MCM, Primitives & Vintage
Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer
Redesign with Prima Retailer

SYCAMORE ANTIQUES

JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS

321 WEST STATE STREET
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

OPEN
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY
815-895-4720

Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!

Call:
Christel Ackland 815-561-2153
Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

On Monday, April 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. a joint meeting of the following school districts: (Amboy, Ashton/Franklin Center, Creston, Eswood, Forrestville Valley, Kings, Meridian, Oregon, Polo, Rochelle Elementary, Rochelle Township High School, and Steward) will take

place at the Ogle County Educational Cooperative office, 417 N. Colfax, Byron, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss each district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private, or parochial schools or are home-schooled within one of the local public school districts for 2025-2026 school year. If you are a parent of a private, parochial or home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of one of the named local public school districts you are urged to attend. To register please call Tammy Moser at the OCEC office 815-234-2722 ext. 1017. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Matt Zilm, Director of the OCEC at 815-234-2722 No. 0311 (March 17, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Education of the Ogle County Education Cooperative will hold a public hearing on April 17, 2025 at 9:15 am at 417 N. Colfax St. Byron, IL 61010 regarding a Life Safety Amendment for paving repairs to the Chana Education Center parking lot.

Work to be funded under Amendment Number #1, Replace parking lot and driveway per Public Act SB-251, modified August 6, 1993.

Whereas, pursuant to the approval of Life Safety Amendment #1 by the Illinois State Board of Education and subject to the conditions of the Illinois School Code as amended by Public Act SB-251, August 6, 1993, Section 17-2.11, the Ogle County Education Cooperative, Ogle County, Illinois wishes to use residual Life Safety Funds to complete this Amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said the Ogle County Education Cooperative, Ogle County, Illinois, by its Board of Education has caused this resolution to be signed by the President and Secretary of said Board of Education, and to be filed with the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools, and the aforementioned amendment submitted March 10, 2025.

Board Secretary - Tammy Moser Ogle County Education Cooperative Board President - Dr. Jason Harper Ogle County Education Cooperative
No. 0312
(March 17, 2025)

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:

REBECCA F. NELSON

Deceased.

Case No: 2025 PR 70

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Rebecca F. Nelson. Letters of Office were issued on March 5, 2025, to David A. Nelson, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Mark Brynteson, 2969 Rolling Meadow Court, Belvidere, IL 61008. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 17, 2025, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS

5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date as stated above shall be barred. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Winnebago County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Rockford, Illinois, or with the estate legal representative, or both. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office-Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Mark D. Brynteson Attorney for Administrator
Prepared by:
Mark Brynteson // ARDC 627884
2969 Rolling Meadow Court
Belvidere, IL 61008
Office: 815-569-4280
Fax: 815-459-4075
Email: mdb@bryntesonlaw.com
No. 0313
(March 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Village of Stillman Valley, Ogle County, Illinois (the "Village") proposes to convey and dispose of certain real property owned by the Village for purposes of the construction and development of a Dollar General project and related improvements thereon. The real property proposed to be conveyed consists of approximately 2.63 acres and is known as Lots 1 & 2 of the Resubdivision of Lot 72 of Homestead Subdivision, Stillman Valley, Illinois (the "Property"). The Property is located in the redevelopment project area of the tax increment financing district known as the IL-72 and Stillman Road Redevelopment Project Area. The conveyance of the Property shall be made pursuant to the terms of a Purchase and Sale Contract approved by the Village Board. The form Purchase and Sale Contract is available for review at Village Hall. All interested parties are invited to make alternate proposals and bids for the purchase and development of said Property. Such proposals must be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk on or before the 14th day of April, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Said alternative bids or proposals shall be addressed to:

Village President and Village Board
Village of Stillman Valley
c/o Village Clerk
120 N. Walnut Street
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084

and shall bear the legend "PROPOSAL - ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF REAL PROPERTY" and the name and address of the bidder.

All bids and alternate proposals received will be publicly read aloud at the regular meeting of the Village Board of the Village at 6:00 p.m. on April 14, 2025, at Village Hall.

This notice is published pursuant to the requirements of the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act of the State of Illinois, as supplemented and amended.
March 11, 2025
Yvonne Dewey
Village Clerk
Village of Stillman Valley, Illinois
No. 0314
(March 17, 2025)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of the Village Clerk, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 until 10:00 AM on 4/9/2025.

Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of the Village Clerk, 120 N. Walnut Street, Stillman Valley, IL 61084 at 10:00 AM on 4/9/2025. Description of Work Location: W. 1st Street & Hillcrest Street Project Length: 1,500' Proposed Improvement: Mill existing Hot-Mix Asphalt pavement of variable thickness and aggregate base a total of three inches (3") on Hillcrest Street and four inches (4") on W. 1st Street, and replace with three inches (3") of Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement on Hillcrest Street and four inches (4") of Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement on W. 1st Street. Removal and replacement of sidewalk curb ramps with ADA compliant sidewalk, removal and replacement of concrete curb and gutter, removal and replacement of identified driveway aprons, manhole adjustment and inlet reconstruction. Project may include undercutting of existing sub-grade to be identified in the field for replacement with aggregate base course.

Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.willetthofmann.com. Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The contract eBidDoc # (Project Number) is 9557762. The Project Manual PDF can be downloaded from the website by depositing twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) by credit card. Said deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

1. Prequalification If checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One orig-

inal shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two originals with the IDOT District Office.

2. 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.

3. The following BLR 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)

4. 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.

5. 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.

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

7. 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.

8. 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. 0315 (March 17, 2025)

NOTICE

The Byron Township Road District will be accepting sealed bids for the following material and services for fiscal year April 1, 2025 thru March 31, 2026: Base Rock, Road Rock, dirt to haul and load, 3/8 chips, pea gravel, hot mix with 3/8 stone, and cold mix.

For Specifications, please contact Mark Rundle, Byron Township Road Commissioner, at 815-234-8438. Sealed bids must be received at the Byron Township Office, 507 Colfax Street, Byron IL by 10:00am on March 28, 2025.

Bids will be opened March 28, 2025 at 10:15am at the Byron Township Office.

Byron Township Road District reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Barbara Rundle Byron Township Clerk No. 0316 (March 17, 2025)

NOTICE TAYLOR TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

Taylor Township 2025 regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

Annual township meeting - April 8 at 7 pm to be followed by the regular meeting.

The meetings are held at the Taylor Township building at 280 West Flagg Road.

For questions, contact Melody Jackovich, Clerk Taylor Township 630-886-3351.

Meeting dates are as follows: April 8 (immediately following annual township meeting), May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9. No. 0317 (March 17, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for

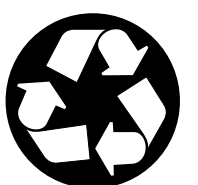
credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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



103 AUCTIONS

Ogle County, IL

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE & EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at 9:30 A.M.

Sale online & onsite at: O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.
104 N Maple Ct
Rochelle, IL 61068

Commercial Property Real Estate in fabulous location! MUST SEE!

Extensive Equipment Listing- check it out!

Real Estate Sells at 9:30 a.m. shop & rack items sell directly after, online & equipment starts at approx. 1:00 p.m

***Must register in advance for online bidding through www.Equipmentfacts.com**

For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com OR skauctions.net

For Information Contact:
Auctioneers
Lenny Bryson 815-946-4120
Cal Kaufman 309-696-9019
Brent Schmidgal 309-202-8378

Owner, O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.
Equipment Question call Dominic O'Rourke 715-562-8254

Attorney, Paul Chadwick 815/562-2156

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
-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**

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

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.

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

203 HELP WANTED

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. Available Monday-Thursday 815-562-4171 (9AM-3PM) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale.
Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District #226

Open Positions

Special Education Paraprofessional
Head Custodian (High School)
2nd Shift Custodian (Middle School)
Groundskeeper

Apply online at 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



03172024

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.

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'

ADVERTISE WITH US

Byron School District #226 2025-2026 School Year Opening

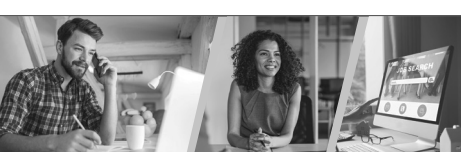
High School Student Services/Guidance Office Secretary

Please apply online at 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



START AN EXCITING NEW JOB WITH THE ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER!

Multimedia Sales Consultant

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

Multimedia Sales Position
Rochelle News-Leader
ATTN: Will McMacken
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com

ROCHELLE News-Leader

RNLHOUSE

ROCHELLE News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

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

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

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

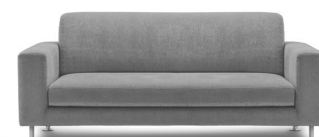
Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

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

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

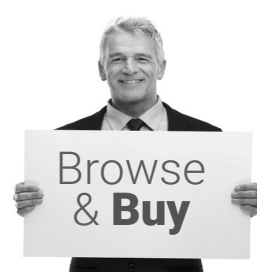
03262023

★ **Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS** ★



Place an Ad:
Rochelle News-Leader
815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156

Subscribe:
Rochelle News-Leader
815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156



All in the Classifieds!

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

NHTSA ad COUNCIL

10 YEARS OF

4/09/2015

HUB STRONG



Contact your sales rep. today!

Chris Grimm
815-561-2125
cgrimm@oglecountylife.com

It has been 10 years! Be part of this very special issue!



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

* Source: America's Newspapers

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

AG WEEK

Illinois state statistician devoted four decades to agriculture statistics

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

FOR some, 40 years of calculating and analyzing numerical data might sound boring.

But for Mark Schleusener, it was a fulfilling career — one that ended following his retirement from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Dec. 31. "I found my tribe early," he told FarmWeek. "NASS is my tribe. It's a bunch of data nerds like me and it was kind of my first real job."

For the past 10 years Schleusener was based in Springfield as Illinois' state statistician. But his journey began in April 1984 as a mathematical statistician, with little agriculture knowledge, in Washington, D.C.

His next stop was the Lincoln, Nebraska, field office for three years where he worked on poultry estimates and trained enumerators to conduct surveys. He took some introductory agriculture courses and built a foundation of knowledge for this future with the agency.

After a few years in Jackson, Mississippi, he went to Madison, Wisconsin, where he earned his master's degree and met his wife, Janette. He then returned to D.C. for seven years before his first term in Springfield in 2002. He spent one year in St. Louis on a special project and has been in Illinois ever since.

He said that year in St. Louis was both the highlight and biggest challenge of his career as he volunteered to be in the group that did the initial data processing for the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

"Our goal was to hire 80

people fresh off the street and teach them how to do NASS statistician work," Schleusener said. "We had never done this before, so we were kind of writing the rule book, not just following the rule book."

He said recruiting, training and mentoring new employees while working on the census was tiring, but also his fondest memory as several of those new recruits still work for NASS today. "That has been a 10-year relationship where they came in new and I was the experienced person and I'm still working with them," he said. "And that's maybe the big look back on my career — maybe more so than the work itself, it was the people and the places."

Schleusener said another highlight was recruiting college students at career fairs and educating attendees during trade shows at events like Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting, Illinois Beef Expo and the Everything Local Conference, just to name some of his favorites.

"These farmers with many, many crops behind them, they're practically a mechanic, agronomist, veterinarian, weather forecaster and businessman or businesswoman," Schleusener said. "They wear a lot of different hats to do their job and they're dealing with prices that change and weather that's unpredictable and those people are impressive to me."

Schleusener said the biggest change throughout his career was the switch to computer-assisted telephone interviewing for NASS surveys in the mid-1980s.

He said the computer program helps guide the

interviewer through the survey and routes the next question based on the previous response.

"Also, if an unusual number is recorded or someone keys in the data and makes a mistake, the computer program can catch that right away, and you can clarify and fix the incorrect information."

The way NASS shares information has also changed over the years with the addition of multiple media platforms such as audio files, YouTube videos and webinars.

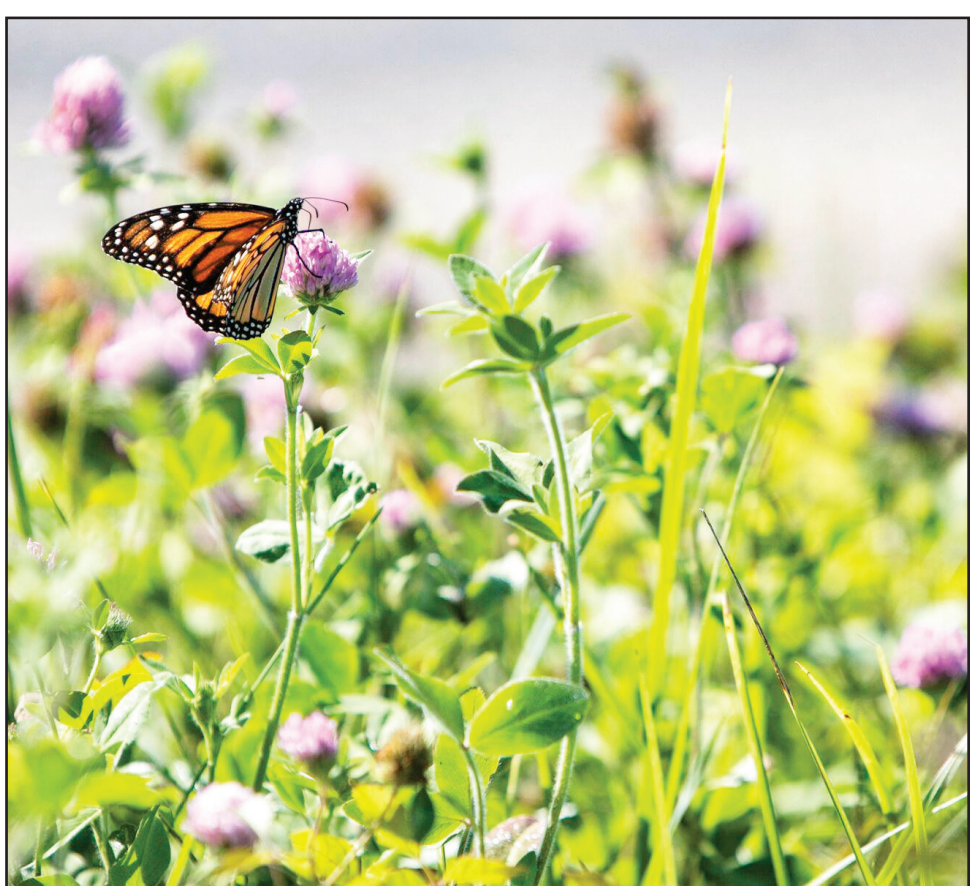
While Schleusener is looking forward to spending more time on the golf course and traveling to destinations like the Grand Canyon, he said he is proud to have worked for an agency that contributes to the nation's ag industry in a way that maybe isn't always recognizable.

"I'll give an example," he said. "If there's a terrible freeze that devastates the Florida strawberry crop, it's going to show up in one of our reports and people that are in the business will see those reports."

Then a produce buyer for a grocery chain knows to look for strawberries in another area because there won't be enough from Florida and people who transport produce know to start adjusting their routes.

"The reports that we do at NASS help supply and demand, infrastructure and transportation to function well, so we've all got something to eat," Schleusener said.

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday, Dec. 12, proposed to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species and designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Monarch butterflies proposed as threatened species

BY TAMMIE SLOUP
FARMWEEK

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing federal protections for the monarch butterfly.

The service Thursday, Dec. 12, proposed to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species and designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

According to a notice in the Federal Register, USFWS determined the monarch butterfly meets the definition of a threatened species due to the ongoing impacts from loss and degradation of habitat, exposure to insecticides and the effects of climate change.

"To improve future conditions so that the monarch migratory pop-

ulations stabilize and grow, we need to (1) achieve a significant increase in the availability of milkweed and nectar plants in monarch breeding and migratory areas; (2) protect and enhance overwintering habitat; (3) avoid and minimize impacts to monarchs and their habitat from insecticides and herbicides; and (4) maintain public support for the conservation of monarch butterflies," it is written in the notice.

"Because of the monarch butterfly's general habitat use and wide distribution, all sectors of society, including the general public, have an opportunity to participate in a broad range of conservation efforts throughout the species' range."

The listing proposal is accompanied by a pro-

posed 4(d) rule that offers species-specific protections and flexibilities to encourage conservation and a proposed "critical habitat" designation for the species at its overwintering grounds in 4,395 acres in coastal California. Federal agencies are prohibited from destroying or modifying areas with that designation.

Two informational meetings and public hearings also have been scheduled. Comments can be submitted to the Federal Register through March 12.

For more information, visit bit.ly/3OQ4ZIT.

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

Proud Supporter of our local farmers!

atauctionservices@gmail.com
815-297-4595
Travis Cunningham,
Auctioneer IL Lic. #441.002600

HANK'S REPAIR

Hank Kaiser, Owner

- General Automotive
- Tires
- Install Jasper Engines & Transmissions
- A.S.E. Certified

54 Stephenson St.
German Valley
815-362-3451

**YOUR FARM...
YOUR FAMILY...
YOUR FUTURE...**

OGLE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Serving Agriculture in Ogle County since 1917

421 Pines Rd.
Oregon, IL 61061

MARTIN & COMPANY 2456 E. Pleasant Grove Rd., Oregon
815-732-2422
info@martincoinc.net

EXCAVATION • AGGREGATE/RECYCLING • ASPHALT/PAVING

Bushman's Service

Call us anytime!
We're here to help.

On Farm Tire Service **815-225-7411**
Milledville, IL

BRADFORD VICTOR-ADAMS

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
Member Owned and Operated

Providing insurance coverage for local homes and farms since 1869

Our Contact Information
120 W. South Street, Franklin Grove
815-456-2334 www.bradfordmutual.com

Pfeiffer Farms
FRESH MARKET

**ALL LOCAL ITEMS & MEAT
FRESH FROM OUR FARM!**

Ground beef is always on special & kept at an affordable price to serve our local families better.

We stock:
locally grown & raised meats, fruits & vegetables (in season) as well as milk, eggs, honey, ice cream, yogurt, spices, pies, breads, and cookies.

Denny Pfeiffer
2511 Reynolds Rd. Ashton, IL • **815-761-6074**
Hours: Thurs/Fri. 9-5:30 | Sat. 8:30-4:30
PFEIFFERFARMS.COM

Rochelle Foods

CHECK OUT OUR JOB POSTINGS TODAY!

Rochelle Foods

1001 S. Main Street | Rochelle
815-562-4141 | rochellefoodsjobs.com

Reputable. Hardworking. Reliable.
just like my "H"

**Land Management
Land Brokerage
Land Auctions
Land Consulting**

Ray L. Brownfield ALC AFM
Designated Managing Broker
Accredited Land Consultant
Accredited Farm Manager
630.258.4800 | ray@landprollc.us

Land Pro
2681 US Hwy 34 | Oswego IL 60543 | landprollc.us

AG WEEK

Illinois meat processors doing more with less

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

HIGHER production and equipment costs have meat processors finding ways to do more with less.
Chris Young, executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors, said when the Biden administration shut down the Keystone Pipeline it had ripple effects.
“Most people don’t realize, but a lot of things that we do deal with petroleum like the plastics that we vacuum package with, as well as transportation to then get those finished products out to the consumer,” Young told DeLoss Jahnke of the RFD Radio Network. “So those are just layers of costs and hopefully we’ll see some of that turn around now that we’re back to drilling again.”
During the Illinois Association of Meat Processors’ (IAMP) 50th anniversary convention in Effingham, Young said increased costs squeeze profit margins for association members.
“Most of our folks

are in small towns and they are making products and selling them to their neighbors, and they want to make them as cost effective as possible,” Young said. “And that’s tough because the profitability lines keep shrinking because of those things.”
Meat processors like Dale Pfundstein, owner of The Butcher Shop in Sterling, are thinking outside of the box to utilize and market every piece of the market animal.
Pfundstein said they have had success selling beef bacon, cut from the brisket.
“We’re trying to get more into the carnivore diet,” he said. “People get tired of eating steak all the time, so then they’re looking for something different and beef bacon is a little bit different.”
He said the beef bacon is leaner than pork and they often slice more fat off after it is smoked.
“We take the point and cut it right down the center, so it’s not as thick and it’s more sliceable,” Pfundstein said.
He said processors also slow cook large pieces of fat to turn into tallow for



Illinois meat processors continue to find success with growing interest for products such as beef bacon.

Demand, HPAI drive record egg prices

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

CONSUMERS are experiencing the highest egg prices in history driven by increased demand and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which could keep the market elevated for a while.
The latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the average retail egg price at \$4.90 per dozen nationwide.
“That’s an all-time high

and a lot more expensive than what consumers are typically dealing with,” Brian Earnest, lead animal protein analyst for CoBank told FarmWeek. “I think back 10 years ago when it was pretty common to see \$1 per dozen or less.”
He said HPAI is one of the main causes, noting the current outbreak has had more of a year-round impact than the previous outbreak in 2015.
“Now it has been found in all 50 states and has had

an impact to supply every month since February of 2022,” Earnest said.
As a result, there are 8% fewer egg laying hens in U.S. production compared to two years ago, and Earnest said consumer demand has also shifted in that time frame.
“We’ve seen big growth in demand of cage free eggs,” he said, using California as example of a state that has elected to go completely cage-free.
“There’s roughly 39 million residents in California and there were roughly 9 million table egg laying hens that were depopulated as a result of bird flu in California,” he said. “Their ability to feed their residents eggs that were produced within the state was severely impacted.”
But Earnest said even without HPAI, a boost in demand would still have prices somewhat elevated, noting that eggs have become a staple item for innovation in quick-service restaurant entrees, and

consumers have latched on to emerging trends like all-day breakfast.
“We moved from consuming roughly 275 eggs per capita annually in the U.S. in the 2015-time frame to nearly 300 by the time we got to 2020, so that’s a pretty big increase in consumption,” Earnest said.
He said lingering impacts from demand could prolong the higher price environment through Easter and even Mother’s Day.
“We may be seeing a peak in terms of shelf prices here in the next 3-4 months, but the summer months typically bring softer demand to the egg case,” he said. “That’s when I think the industry has an opportunity to get caught back up.”
The decrease in supply has left shelves temporarily bare in some regions.
“I think the West Coast might be feeling a little bit more of an impact than what the Midwest would be seeing just due to prox-



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and demand are driving up egg prices to historical highs.

imity of where major production is,” Earnest said.
But eggs are still being produced, he said optimistically.
“Overall, the system works pretty well,” Earnest said. “If it can work through these market deficiencies, I think we’ll start seeing price ration demand a little bit and then work towards inventorying where there are empty shelves.”
As poultry producers ramp up biosecurity

measures and migration season winds down, he is hopeful concerns will ease in the summer months.
“But for now, we’re continuing to monitor a very difficult situation for farmers and consumers alike,” Earnest said.
This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

PARTS DAYS 2025
FEBRUARY 3 - MARCH 31

30%
OFF FLEET GUARD
FILTERS + COOLANTS

20%
OFF SELECT TILLAGE

20%
OFF OEM FILTERS
NEW FOR 2025!

10%
OFF MOST PARTS

928 South Division Polo, IL 61064
(815) 946-2393 | www.partsdays.com

We Are An Authorized Dealer Of Icom
& Kenwood Radio Equipment

2-Way Radio Communication

Forreston, IL • 815-938-2586

Delicious, Quality Raw Milk
Fresh at the farm!

Every Day 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM
& 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
(Please bring your own containers. 24 hours Notice Required.)

387 S. Malta Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068
815-762-6867 • PreciousPastures.com

Steward
815.396.2248

Profit from our experience

• Field Management Services

• Crop Protection Application

• Spring Planting Advice

• Identification of Insects & Weeds

• Crop Scouting

• Custom Application

• Soil Sampling

• Global Positioning Application

Grain • Agronomy • Trucking
11 Locations to Serve You!

We proudly support all area FFA
Chapters and their Members!

Big enough to serve you,
small enough to know you!

maplehurstfarms.com | (815) 562-8723

Keeping Your Company Healthy

rochellehospital.com No Place Like It 815-562-2181

PROFESSIONAL LAND SERVICES

Contact
Dave Casey
Agricultural Drainage Contractor
Design, Investigate, Installation & Repairs

5180 S. Queens Rd
Rochelle, IL 61068
Mobile: 815.970.7358
countrysidepls@gmail.com