



OHS soccer team wins tournament

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team won the Harvard Invite on March 22. **Section B**

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OCR Draw Down event held

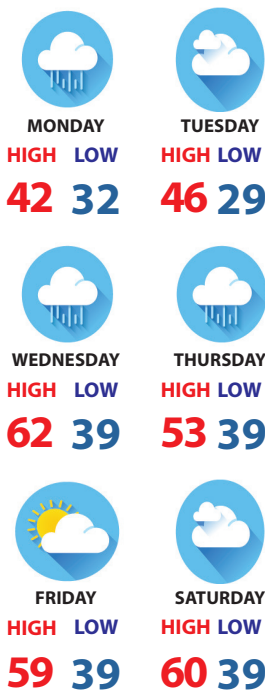
The Ogle County Republicans held their annual Draw Down event. **Page 3**



First Friday event set for April 4

The Oregon VFW's next First Friday event is set for April 4. **Page 12**

WEATHER



OBITUARIES

- Joanne M. Spangler
- Rosalinda L. Rienstra
- Linda Stranberg
- Steven Eric Cowan
- Wilfred 'Bill' Murray

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Polo Foods
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings

BrightFarms to suspend operations at Rochelle greenhouse facility

Location opened in 2016, expanded in 2020

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — BrightFarms will be suspending operations at its Rochelle greenhouse facility later this year, a March 5 Cox Enterprises press release said. BrightFarms is owned by Cox Enterprises.

BrightFarms operates high-tech, high-efficiency hydroponic farms in the indoor farming industry and in or near the communities it serves to eliminate transportation time, distance, and complexity from the food supply chain. It offers fresh lettuce options, from classic greens to crunchy mixes and salad kits, available in more than 6,300 retail stores across the central, eastern and southwest regions of the United States.

BrightFarms will be suspending its operations in Rochelle along with locations in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania; and Hender-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

BrightFarms will be suspending operations at its Rochelle greenhouse facility later this year, a March 5 Cox Enterprises press release said. BrightFarms is owned by Cox Enterprises.

sonville, North Carolina later this year as it “focuses on scaling and operating its new, high-tech, state-of-the-art greenhouse hubs,” the press release said.

The decision follows a significant expansion phase by BrightFarms, marked by the opening of three larger state-of-the-art greenhouses in 2024, located in Yorkville, Illinois; Lorena, Texas; and Macon, Georgia.

BrightFarms’ Rochelle facility spans 160,000 square feet and produces one million pounds of produce per year, serving Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.

See BRIGHTFARMS page 12



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

In an effort to keep the community informed and safe, Rochelle Community Hospital recently released information on measles, as the United States is currently experiencing its largest measles outbreak in decades.

RCH releases information on measles amid largest outbreak in U.S. in decades

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In an effort to keep the community informed and safe, Rochelle Community Hospital recently released information on measles, as the United States is currently experiencing its largest measles outbreak in decades.

Dr. Kendall Vogeler of

the RCH Family Healthcare Clinic spoke with the RochelleNews-Leader and Ogle County Life about measles on March 20. Measles is an acute respiratory illness that is highly contagious and can be deadly. In the early decades of the 20th century, thousands of fatal measles infections were reported each year.

See RCH page 2

102nd Annual RFD Social Organization Fireman’s Ball is April 5 ‘We like getting everyone together and interacting with the community’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization will host its 102nd Annual Fireman’s Ball on Saturday, April 5 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill at 1207 W. Gurler Road in Rochelle.

The theme of the night will be 90s Country Music. Attendees are asked to wear their cowboy hats, boots and belt buckles. Entertainment will be provided by Back Country Roads. The event is open to the public. Entry is \$10 and tickets will be available at the door.

The event will also include silent auction items, door prizes and a best dressed prize, raffles, games, all-you-can-eat appetizers, \$20 commemorative cups, and drink specials.

See BALL page 11



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization will host its 102nd Annual Fireman’s Ball on Saturday, April 5 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill at 1207 W. Gurler Road in Rochelle.

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LOCAL NEWS

ROCHELLE: ‘I don’t believe we will see measles cases locally. Our area is pretty well protected’

From page 1

Measles was eradicated in the U.S. in 2000.

“There are no cases of measles in Ogle County or the greater Rockford area that have been reported,”

Vogeler said. “As of March 13, the two largest areas are still Texas and New Mexico. There are a total of 15 states that have had Measles outbreaks. The closest one to us would probably be Kentucky. To date, there’s

301 total reported Measles cases and 95 percent of those people were either unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status.”

Measles is still very common in other parts of the world. The recent surge likely began due to people traveling in and out of the country. Most of the current measles cases in the U.S. are unvaccinated children and young adults. It is widely believed the measles outbreak will continue to spread across the country.

The most important populations measles is a concern for are infants and children. One to three in 1,000 children contracting measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain) concurrent with the measles infection. 10-15 percent of those children will die and a further 25 percent of patients will be left with permanent brain damage or deafness.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing. The virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.

“A 90 percent exposure rate is a scary thing and something to be prepared for,” Vogeler said. “And even if someone has had Measles in the past, they can still get Measles, but it will be a less serious version of that.”

Symptoms of measles appear 7-14 days after contact with the virus and typically include high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth 2-3 days after symptoms begin. Measles rash appears 3-5 days after the first symptoms. Infected people can spread measles to others from four days before through four days after the rash appears.

Once people have been exposed to measles, it can incubate in their body 6-21 days with an average of 13 days. After people are exposed, they reach a state



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Measles is an acute respiratory illness that is highly contagious and can be deadly. In the early decades of the 20th century, thousands of fatal measles infections were reported each year.

where they start to have symptoms. People can have fevers up as high as 105 degrees. Other symptoms are fatigue, and pink eye with no discharge.

“The rash will be a flat red circular rash that turns white when you push on it,” Vogeler said. “It’s not necessarily itchy. It will begin by the hairline by the face and work its way down into the back and arms. The rash will not be on palms or soles of feet. Other symptoms are swollen lymph nodes or sore throat at that time. People typically start feeling better about 48 hours after the rash. The rash will get darker and then fade within a week.”

Measles is caused by a virus, so there’s no specific medical treatment for it. The virus must run its course.

Children that get vaccinated against measles get MMR vaccines when they’re between 12-15 months old and again when they’re 4-6 years old. If you have received those vaccines, you should not need another dose, Vogeler said. Those that received a measles vaccine during the years of 1963-1967 may need another dose due to lower potency in measles vaccines during that time. Those with questions can check vaccine records or get a blood draw to determine their need.

“MMR vaccines are still recommended to be given to infants at 12-15 months old unless they are 6-11 months old and there are plans for that child to be taken out of the country,” Vogeler said. “That is the policy because measles is

not common in the U.S. The issue is still minor enough for that to be the case.”

Vogeler does not believe measles cases will be seen in Rochelle or the Ogle County area, due to vaccination rates. In the 2023-2024 school year, the 26 schools in Ogle County as a whole had a 95.6 rate of vaccine coverage for measles. Herd immunity protects the unvaccinated when that number is at least 85-95 percent, Vogeler said.

“We were taught about measles in medical school as more of a hypothetical topic,” Vogeler said. “I’ve never seen a patient with measles in person. It’s good as a refresher to know what to look for and what precautions are in place to ensure that we don’t have a measles outbreak here locally. We have good data that

says Ogle County is doing pretty well to prevent that. But we are prepared if someone comes in with those symptoms to make sure that they are isolated and people are protected.”

To get a measles vaccine, contact local pharmacies and the local health department. The Ogle County and Lee County Health Departments have vaccines available. If measles did come to the area, the community would be made aware of it through the health department.

Learn more about measles by visiting the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the measles and your health, contact your primary care provider.



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PAG’s Crimes of the Heart is May 2-4

MT. MORRIS—This spring the Performing Arts Guild of Mt. Morris will present *Crimes of the Heart*. Written by Beth Henley, *Crimes of the Heart* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The play

is set in the south and focuses on the lives of the eccentric Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe. It searches how the influences in each of their pasts are reflected in their present lives and

where they want to be in the future. The play addresses the emotions of sisterhood and family relationships, both humorous and thoughtful.

Performances will be held on Friday through Sunday, May 2-4 at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove Theater, 500 Evergreen Lane, Mt. Morris. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. There will be open seating on a first come first serve basis. Doors open a half hour before show time. For tickets call 815.734.2103 or order

online at www.performingartsguild.com.

Auditions were held in February and we are pleased to announce the cast as follows: Mary Mead-Cantrell will play the part of Meg Magrath, Ranae Taylor as Babe Botrelle, Mary Cheatwood as Lenny Magrath, Natalie Coy as Chick Boyle, Pete Raum as Doc Porter and Dennis Cheatwood as Barnette Lloyd.

Crimes of the Heart is to be directed by Priscilla Osborne and Trudy Whalen with Karen Urish as the producer.



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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Ogle County Republican Party recently hosted their Annual Draw Down at Kennay Farms Distillery in Rochelle.

Ogle County Republicans host annual draw down

ROCHELLE — The Ogle County Republican Party recently hosted their Annual Draw Down at Kennay Farms Distillery in Rochelle. “We packed them in on Thursday night, March 20 to the first floor of Kennay Farms Distilling for our annual Ogle County GOP Draw Down, and it was a ton of fun, as always,” Mike Koolidge, chairman of the Ogle County Republican Central Committee, said. “We couldn’t ask for better hosts than Rick &

Doris Kennay, who’ve been huge supporters of Ogle County Republicans for years. In all, we gave away a total of over \$5,000 in winnings to raffle ticket purchasers, including the grand prize \$2,000 winner, Sylvia Garza of Rochelle.” It was a fun and fast-moving event which occurred over an Italian-themed dinner of delicious pizza, caesar salad and dough nuggets. The tables were decorated, as was the venue with Republican paraphernalia, Trump signs,

and Ogle GOP-themed cookies. As was expected, all the Draw Down tickets sold out well in advance of the event. “We sold out of draw down tickets again, as we always do, and it was overwhelmingly a group effort,” Koolidge said. “Our executive board, consisting of Kaleb Kennay - vice chairman, Kevin Colbert - treasurer, George Wilhelmssen - secretary, Karl Hanson - events coordinator, Tricia Goodwin - PC recruitment, and Joseph

Simms - PC recruitment all put in countless hours both selling tickets in the weeks prior and putting the night together. I could not ask for a better team.” “This is our first big public event since Donald Trump has returned to the White House, and we’ve never seen such grassroots passion and enthusiasm from all the incredible things our new administration has been able to accomplish in such a short time. Trump’s early successes have definitely been

a huge reason why we have so many new faces joining our party,” Koolidge said. “We’ve doubled our number of precinct committeemen in just one year, but we still have some vacancies. I’d encourage anyone wanting to get involved to reach out to us right away if they want to keep Ogle County red and be a part of the statewide mission to turn Illinois into a swing state...and eventually red as well!” In addition to Koolidge, other speakers in attendance

were State Senators Li Arelano and Andrew Chesney, and candidate for Rock Valley Board of Trustees Jermarion Simmons. The Ogle County Republicans meet the last Tuesday of every month in Memorial Hall on the third floor of Ogle County Courthouse in Oregon. Organized in 1989, The organization’s website can be found at <https://www.oglecountygop.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OgleCountyRepublicans>.

Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announces St. Patrick’s Day enforcement results

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announced it issued 103 total citations during the St. Patrick’s Day enforcement period. Citations

were issued for various offenses including: One arrest for driving under the influence, 11 arrests for suspended, revoked or no valid driver’s licenses;

19 citations for uninsured motorists; 34 citations for speeding violations; 36 citations for other violations; two citations for cannabis violations and

three citations for seat belt violations. “We strongly enforce traffic laws for one reason – to save lives,” Sheriff Brian VanVickle said.

The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office joined forces with state and local law enforcement and highway safety partners in the St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign.

The safety effort was funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Wed on the Rock scheduled for May 4 in Oregon

OREGON — Calling all engaged couples! Wed on the Rock, Ogle County’s newest wedding showcase, is making its debut, bringing together the best wedding vendors in Northern Illinois for an unforgettable event designed to make wedding planning effortless and convenient. This inaugural showcase will take place on Sunday, May 4 at The River’s Edge Experience in Oregon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission to this brand-new event is free! Whether you’re newly engaged or finalizing the finishing touches for your big day, Wed on the Rock is the perfect place to meet top-tier wedding professionals, discover the latest trends, and gather fresh ideas for your dream wedding.

From breathtaking floral arrangements and stunning bridal gowns to expert photographers and gourmet catering, Wed on the Rock features a curated selection of industry experts ready to bring your vision to life.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with some of the best wedding vendors in Northern Illinois, take advantage of exclusive event promotions, and even win exciting giveaways! “Planning a wedding

can feel overwhelming, but Wed on the Rock will make it easy and enjoyable by connecting couples with trusted local vendors in one convenient location,” Grace Druen, event organizer and Ogle County wedding photographer,

said. “This event goes beyond just wedding planning — it’s about creating unforgettable moments and turning wedding dreams into reality.” For more information, visit www.mysavinggracephotography.com/wed-on-the-rock.

Let us know you’re coming! Join our Facebook event and RSVP to stay updated on all the latest details and vendor announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1593zX3aCG/>.

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LOCAL NEWS



Rochelle American Legion Post 403 names Essay Contest winners at local schools

Winners of the Rochelle American Legion Post 403 Essay Contest from Rochelle Township High School (top left), St. Paul Lutheran School (top right), Creston School (middle left), Eswood School (middle right), Kings School (bottom left) and Steward School (bottom right) were presented with a certificate of achievement, prize money and a token for a free ice cream at Culver's restaurant in Rochelle. The topic for the American Legion Essay Contest was "What is My Favorite National Memorial or Monument." RTHS winners were Derek Swartz (third place), Magdalene Good (first place) and Kathryn Groves (second place). St. Paul winners were Hailey Chapman (second place) and Elijah Good (first place). Creston's winner was Layla Block. Eswood's winners were Camden Alsup (first place) and Lincoln Alsup (second place). Kings winners were Ashlyn McAdam (second place) and Angeline Laguna (first place). Steward winners were Benjamin Hays (first place) and Barbara Palmer (second place). Winners are pictured above with Chuck Roberts (commander, Post 403), John Gruben (youth activities officer, former Post commander) and Steve Korth (adjutant, Post 403). (Courtesy photos)

Ogle County youth rank high at the Northwest Regional Horse Competition

DIXON — Five Ogle County 4-H local youth competed in the Northwest Regional Competition for Illinois 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology earlier this month and were rewarded for their efforts. This event was held at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.

The 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting. These contests provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators. Youths work as a team to answer questions and compete against other teams in the same class. They also work

individually to answer questions. Some 4-H'ers also complete a written exam based on their knowledge.

The Ogle County 4-H Junior Horse Bowl team placed first out of nine teams and will compete at the Illinois State 4-H Horse Bowl contest next month. The Junior team members are Adalyn Bocker, Kenzie Hongsermeier, Lily Hongsermeier, and Stella Lombardozzi. Addison Diehl is also a team member but wasn't at the Regional competition. In Junior Individual points, Adalyn ranked second, Lily ranked fifth, and Kenzie was eighth.

Addison Yordy competed for her first year in the Senior Horse Bowl



Ogle County 4-H Junior Horse Bowl and Hippology team members (left) pictured left to right: Kenzie Hongsermeier, Lily Hongsermeier, Adalyn Bocker, Stella Lombardozzi, and Addison Yordy. Ogle County 4-H Junior Horse Bowl Regional champions (right) pictured left to right: Adalyn Bocker, Stella Lombardozzi, Kenzie Hongsermeier, and Lily Hongsermeier.

division and was placed on the Bureau County team. She scored fourth place overall for Senior Individual points. She also placed first in the In-

termediate Horse Judging portion.

In Hippology, Kenzie Hongsermeier placed fifth in the Junior division. Addison Yordy placed

second, and Adalyn Bocker placed third in the Intermediate division. Adalyn also placed third overall in the Intermediate Oral Questions. In April, all

three girls will compete at the Illinois State 4-H Hippology contest.

Congratulations to all, and good luck with the state contests.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

U.S. Army Field Band to perform at NIU April 6

DEKALB—The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus will perform a free concert, Sunday, April 6 at 7 p.m. in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall in the NIU Music Building.

Tickets can be reserved at ArmyFieldBand.com/tickets.

The theme of the concert is *Sea to Shining Sea*.

The United States Army Field Band from Washington, D.C., is the official touring musical representative of the U.S. Army. Their mission is to connect with Americans, share

Army stories, and honor veterans as the musical ambassadors of the Army. These active-duty soldiers tour nationally and internationally, performing for live audiences in large concert venues, while reaching hundreds of millions of enthusiastic followers online. Through performances in communities across the United States, The U.S. Army Field Band fosters a positive relationship with the American people, supports diplomatic efforts around the world and inspires future generations to serve.

From coast to coast, come along for a musical celebration as The U.S. Army Field Band presents, *Sea to Shining Sea*. Pack up the family van and hit the road behind those famous tour buses as the Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus tell enduring stories of veterans, friendships, and the amazingly picturesque, and maybe sometimes bizarrely quirky, places that make America a road-tripper's dream. Through exciting music and stunning visuals, be inspired to set out on your own journey exploring our great nation



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Tickets can be reserved at ArmyFieldBand.com/tickets.

while honoring all those who answered the call to

serve it.

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at ArmyFieldBand.com/tickets.

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
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On April 15, 1945, British troops liberated the German Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where they discovered thousands of dead and rotting corpses, and many more thousands of sick and starving prisoners confined to severely overcrowded and dirty compounds. The prisoners were suffering from acute typhus, typhoid and tuberculosis due to a lack of running water. More than 30,000 others had died in the previous months, many from typhus, but even more from starvation.

* On April 16, 1964, The Rolling Stones' debut album, "The Rolling Stones," issued in the U.S. as "England's Newest Hit Makers," was released. The band consisted of lead singer Mick Jagger, rhythm guitarist Brian Jones, lead guitarist Keith Richards, bassist Bill Wyman and drummer Charlie

Watts.

* On April 17, 1985, the U.S. government announced a campaign to increase organ donation awareness with the hope of making the procedure as widespread as donating blood, following similar campaigns from other countries around the world as organ transplants became more common.

* On April 18, 1997, major floods in Grand Forks, N.D., caused by the Red River's breaching a dike, necessitated the evacuation of 50,000 residents from their homes. In some areas, only the roofs of their houses were visible.

* On April 21, 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace pilot popularly known as the "Red Baron" and credited with 80 confirmed air combat victories, was killed in action during World War I.

Letter to Editor: The SAVE Act

DEAR editor, As the current administration chainsaws federal spending at the expense of gutting valuable programs like Medicaid; Legislation like the SAVE Act is redundant and unnecessary. Introduced by Texas Republican Chip Roy, the Safeguard Voter Eligibility Act is unnecessary as it is already illegal for immigrants to vote. The SAVE Act if passed is a bill that would require all Americans to provide a birth certificate with matching photo to ID or passport every time they register or re-register to vote with address changes.

The SAVE Act will hurt rural voters and women by making registering and re-registering to vote more difficult.

1. It would eliminate mail in registration and voter registration drives. Voters would be required to produce documents "in person" before the deadline

2. The Real ID driver's license in Illinois does not prove citizenship. Only five states have a Real ID that proves citizenship.

3. A passport will work but only about half of the US citizens have a passport.

4. It will make it harder for married women to vote. About 79% of women in traditional marriage take the name of their spouse. The Safe Act Requires that the voter's last names match their birth certificates).

5. Since 1996 it has been a federal crime with punishment by fine and jail and risks deportation for a non-citizen to vote in a federal election.

6. The bill will involve more costly red tape.

7. A provision in the bill that would subject election workers to potential incarceration if they accidentally register a voter who fails to present proper documentation of citizenship.

I used Early Voting to vote in the April election. It was quick, safe and efficient. Do you know where a legal copy of your birth certificate is? Married women do you have a passport?

Theresa Fritz,
Stillman Valley

Letter: Thanks from Stroh family

DEAR editor, The family of Glenn E. Stroh Jr. wishes to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, donations and messages sent via the funeral home.

Shepherd Premier Senior Living and Transi-

tions Hospice gave excellent care to our beloved husband, father and grandfather along with Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home. His suffering is over. Thank you.

Patricia Stroh,
Oregon

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 municipal elections have the greatest impact on our daily lives

IT'S always inspiring to witness high voter turnout during a Presidential election as people come together to make their voices heard and choose our nation's leader. But imagine if we could bring that same energy and enthusiasm to local municipal consolidated elections, where the decisions made have the greatest impact on our daily lives. Local elections shape our communities and influence everything from schools to local infrastructure to public services.

This year's consolidated municipal election is on Tuesday, April 1, and early voting and vote-by-mail balloting are already underway. If you're a registered voter, I encourage you to mark this important date on your calendar and make a plan for voting—whether it's early, by mail, or in person on Election Day. If you're not yet registered, there's still time to get involved. Do not delay in getting registered to vote, and make sure your voice is heard loud and clear in this

upcoming election. Contact your County Clerk right away to get started.

While low voter turnout, typically between 10% and 20%, has been a challenge in past local municipal elections, we have the power to change that. When more people vote, we have the opportunity to make sure that our leaders truly reflect the needs and desires of our communities. When fewer people vote, however, it allows special interest groups to have a larger influence, and decisions may not fully represent the values of the broader community.

Local government decisions have a direct impact on our lives, especially when it comes to how our tax dollars are spent. A significant portion of your taxes goes toward funding local services like schools, libraries, and other vital community functions. These services touch every part of our daily lives, and the individuals we elect to local boards have the power to shape how those funds are allocated.

In the face of challenges from state government, our local leaders act as protectors of our communities, helping ensure that the values we hold dear are upheld. These leaders are instrumental in shaping our children's education, maintaining our towns, and ensuring that our local government serves the people. It's crucial that we elect leaders who are qualified, principled, and committed to our shared priorities.

Take library boards, for example. When asked, many people may not know who serves on their local library board, but these individuals make decisions that significantly impact the community. When residents are actively involved, they can ensure that local boards reflect their values and priorities. For instance, just a year and a half ago, the Talcott Free Library Board in Rockton made headlines for hosting a Drag Queen show and Q & A session funded by taxpayer dollars. We need to make sure that those who oppose this type

of programming, especially for kids, are having their voices heard during the spring municipal consolidated elections.

In short, every vote counts. By participating in local elections, we ensure that decisions about our schools, our taxes, and the future of our community reflect the priorities of those who live here. Your vote is a powerful tool for positive change, and it is an opportunity to shape the future in a way that aligns with your value system.

Voting is not only a right; it's a responsibility. Let's embrace the opportunity to make a meaningful impact. This April 1, and in every municipal consolidated election that follows, let's prioritize using our ballot to make our communities stronger, safer, and more united. Your vote matters, and it has the power to shape the future of our communities for the better!

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

Managing the fear of loneliness

SOMETIME or another we will experience a time when we are alone. Some people fear of being alone for various reasons.

The first step is to become comfortable with yourself and having the self-confidence that you will be able to manage being by yourself.

With this in mind, here are eight suggestions that a person can use so that the fear of loneliness doesn't become a major issue in their life.

1. Find an activity that you enjoy doing: Joining a group activity can be a great way to meet people. Doing something that you like to do will make you happy and the fact that you will be around different people will increase your chances of making friends.

2. Spend your time with a pet: Animals are a

great source of companionship. Volunteer at your local animal shelter to help those animals who are in need. Another option is to consider adopting a pet. Regardless, spending time with your favorite pet or animal will overcome your loneliness.

3. Help others through community service: There are many people out there who could benefit from your time and talents. Helping others can give you a sense of pride and accomplishment and help you not to focus on your loneliness. You can also increase your chances of meeting others with similar interests.

4. It could be worse: Imagine that you are married or stuck in a relationship that you can't get out of and also makes you miserable on a daily basis. Being in an unhappy relationship can be very depressing, so

remind yourself the next time you feel a little lonely. This will help put some things in perspective.

5. Spending time with God can help: Spending time with God and asking God for help in your time of loneliness can be of great comfort. You never know how God will work in your life. Including God in your everyday living can help reduce your loneliness. Talk to a priest or minister for some guidance.

6. The important thing is to be active: Sitting around and doing nothing will not make things any better whether it is dealing with the fear of being alone or something else. Take it one day at a time and try to make the effort of being active with others in your community.

7. Things can change: Nothing remains the same and events change all of

the time. Even if the thing that you feared does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.

8. You're not the only one who is alone: Remember that everyone deals with loneliness sometime in their life. Focus on your life and don't compare yourself to others. Continue to seek friendships with other people and don't feel sorry for yourself. There are all kinds of people in various circumstances so don't assume that you are the only one who is alone.

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

Letter to Editor: Dale Carnegie

DEAR editor, Dale Carnegie, born into poverty on a farm in Missouri, was American writer and teacher of courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, corporate training, public speaking and interpersonal skills. He wrote a book: *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and others. Dale Carnegie Course evolved. ... By 1914, he was earning \$500 (about \$15,700 today) every week. By time of Carnegie's death (1955), his book had sold five million copies in 31 languages, and there had been 450,000 graduates of his Dale Carnegie Institute. (*Wikipedia*) Now over 30 million copies of that book have been sold, and his in-person courses are still popular.. Carnegie's formula: 1) Begin with praise and honest appreciation. 2) Call attention to people's mistakes indirectly. 3) Talk about your own mistakes before criticizing another person. 4) Ask questions instead of giving direct orders. 5) Let the other person save face. 6) Be hearty in your approbation and lavish in your praise. 7) Give the other person a fine

reputation to live up to. 8) Use encouragement. Make the fault easy to correct. 9) Make the other person happy about doing what you suggest.

Did Donald Trump read this book or take this course? Apparently not.

President Donald Trump walked into Department of Justice and labeled his courtroom opponents "scum," judges "corrupt" and prosecutors who investigated him "deranged." (many sources) Listing Trump's quotes of this kind of rant against people of our country could fill pages of this newspaper. But how does Trump talk to people outside this country? Trump said border between Canada and US was arbitrary, saying Canada should be 51st U.S. state. News is full of Trump's steady flow of threats and insults at Canadians, and how Canadians are angry about that. Canadian Foreign Minister Joly plans to welcome her G7 counterparts with a warning: "If the U.S. can do this to us, their closest friend, then nobody is safe." (many sources)

Trump said repeatedly that he wants to "take back" the Panama Canal. Panamanians response has been restrained, by their reaction is easy to imagine. Trump has said repeatedly that he is going to seize Greenland. Leaders of Greenland's five parliamentary parties said in a joint statement: "We as party leaders find this behavior unacceptable towards friends and allies in a defense alliance" (many sources). Trump: "The Germans are bad, very bad... Look at the millions of cars they sell in U.S. Terrible. We'll stop that." (DW) Trump said Ukraine started war which now has Russia deep into Ukraine territory. Trump and Vance verbally whippedlashed Ukraine Prime Minister Zelenskyy in White House. Trump: He "won't be around long" without agreeing to Trump's cease-fire deal. Reports are that Ukrainians now have very dim view of Trump. European Union: Trump said EU was created to "screw over the US". (France24, more).

Trump's statements, his tariffs and his Ukraine stance have widely antagonized people in Europe. A French politician's proposal that France take back Statue of Liberty, as U.S. no longer displays democracy for which French donated it to U.S., is widely circulating in Europe. "Trump falsely accused the South African government of a rights violation against white Afrikaner farmers... South African government has pushed back, saying U.S. criticism is driven by misinformation." (AP News)

Who does Trump praise? Trump says Putin is "highly respected" (ABC News). "Trump has a history of positive and admiring comments about Putin." (Reuters) Trump's ties to Russia are long and deep (sources too numerous to list). Carnegie: "Instead of condemning people, let's try to understand them... That's a lot more profitable than criticism, and it breeds sympathy, tolerance and kindness." That approach is unknown to Trump (except for Putin).

Henry Tideman,
Oregon

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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Consider this: What you want the USA to be

EVERYONE knows there is government waste in these United States. We should always look for this and remove it wherever we can. We should not, however, cut the entirety of a program, administrative office, or department without discussing the reasons that this spending exists. But that is just what DOGE has been doing. We should instead drill down to the problem then correct it. To my knowledge, staffing has been cut according to what has been found in files without DOGE having any knowledge from this staff as to what it is for or how it is used. DOGE has had to rehire supervision when they find out from outside sources what some programs were for. For instance, supervisors over our nuclear stockpile, managers of the bird flu, managers of the Veterans Crisis Line, people who run the 9/11 health programs, people on the front lines of public health responses, and FDA employees oversee-

ing medical devices, food ingredients and other key areas. You can find all these and more in an article by Jennifer Bendery dated Feb. 22, 2025, at "www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-doge-federal-workers-fired-rehired_n_67b89cb3e4b09eb937701aa4" That is the problem when you take a single person, that feels he knows all about technology, and a bunch of young, very bright, people who are very eager, maybe too eager, to please their boss, and put them in a room together. Everyone starts to feel that they can create programming to "look" for waste; then cuts in jobs and funding happen without any real knowledge of what they are cutting. This causes chaos for no good reason. My bet is that the programs they develop are doing the determination and that any review of documents does not happen. Take for instance USAID. DOGE and President Trump have said that this office is not needed.

Information provided by Fox News at "www.wfiwradio.com/2025/02/04/white-house-flags-top-usaid-boondoggles-under-elon-musks-microscope/" shows that many programs funded by USAID are, indeed, questionable. These programs total \$9.65 million. Yet USAID itself had a budget of \$21.7 billion in 2024 and this is 0.3% of the federal budget. These programs constitute .045% of USAID's 2024 budget. Now this does not mean that this small of an expenditure should not be investigated, but it does mean we should try to look for larger expenses first. And I hope these, and a few others were not used to determine whether an agency should be eliminated. Even if there were another \$500 million worth of programs questioned, this would come to only 2.4% of USAID's budget. Still small and not a reason to cut an agency.



Reed Harris

So, where are the real savings? The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) might be a place to start. Rather than letting it expire at the end of 2025, the Republicans want to extend it. This Act has not inspired many jobs that I can observe. It has, however, given breaks to individuals and families, small and large businesses. A good way to bring in a large revenue influx would be to let this Act expire for individuals, families, and large businesses making over \$500,000. For individuals, families, and small businesses making \$500,000 and less, make the Act permanent. The \$500,000 number could be adjusted higher if there are more small businesses being left out. I cannot tell you how much this would save each year, but I have no doubt the savings would be substantial. Maybe it's time to tell our congress that we want them to do

something for middle- and low-income people (as I mentioned above) and let the large corporations and well-to-do people pay their fair share. After all, we have been giving to the rich through a trickle-down philosophy for 45 years. Are you able to remember an event, during that time, where trickle-up has occurred? In other gloomy news, President Trump had President Zelenskyy in the Oval office for a meeting that turned very heated. This meeting should have been a private one and should never have had the media present. It is my feeling that it was intended to show the public how President Trump and Vice President Vance can be bullies to a leader of the free world. Yes, we all want peace for Ukraine, but to say that the only way to it is to capitulate to the United States is wrong. In my 73 years, I have never heard a President of the United States, in helping another country, want anything in return.

In addition, to demand peace with Russia because Russia has been wronged, is way out there, not to mention being totally wrong. We have reduced ourselves from a country that had a good part of the world aspiring to be us to a country that no longer has that standing. We have aligned ourselves with Russia, a dictatorship with fake elections. Is this our aspiration now? Have we fallen to the bottom of a hill with a long hard climb to get back to the top or do we want to be there at the bottom hiding behind that hill? Are we looking to align with Russia instead of doing the work to climb once again? I'll let you decide. Here is an article by Rebecca Shabad and Nnamdi Egwuonwu dated February 28, 2025 on CNN with a video of the confrontation. It's at "www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/zelenskyy-trump-white-house-russia-peace-talks-rare-earth-minerals-rcna194118". What do you want the United States of America to be?

Travel tips: Dos and don'ts for Spring Break

WITH Spring Break approaching, I thought I'd share some essential travel tips to make your journey smoother. I recently listened to a podcast where three travel writers discussed their biggest pet peeves at airports and on airplanes. Inspired by that, here are my top travel dos and don'ts! Dress appropriately: Many travelers make the mistake of wearing difficult-to-remove shoes, excessive metal accessories, or clothing that is more suited for the bedroom than the airport. Keep in mind: You'll have to remove your shoes at security. Choose footwear that's easy to slip on and off. Airplanes are typically cold, so dress in layers. Avoid excessive jewelry or metal accessories that could slow you down at security. Know what you can bring in your carry-on: Security regulations have been in place since 2001, yet every day, TSA agents have to remove prohibited items from

passengers' luggage. Avoid unnecessary delays by remembering: Liquids must follow the 3-1-1 rule—no gallon-sized shampoos! Anything that remotely resembles a weapon should be left at home. Save yourself and those behind you the hassle by packing only approved items. Seat assignments: Plan ahead: If you want a specific seat or need to sit with someone, pay for a seat assignment. Don't expect others to move for you. Current regulations ensure that small children are seated with a parent, but beyond that, seating arrangements are not guaranteed. If someone has paid for a specific seat, they are not obligated to give it up for your convenience. Be mindful of smells: Bringing your own snacks is a great way to save money, but consider the odor factor. Avoid strong-smelling foods like tuna or egg salad, which can make the entire cabin

unpleasant. Be aware that some passengers have severe nut allergies—opt for alternatives like dried fruit, cheese, crackers, granola bars, or sandwiches. Respect others' ears: Not all planes have seat-back entertainment, so downloading movies or shows on your device is a great idea. However: Always use headphones—no one else wants to hear your videos or music. If you don't have headphones, keep the volume off. Noise-canceling headphones are a fantastic investment for frequent travelers. Traveling with kids: I've traveled with my kids since they were three months old, so I understand the challenges. The key is preparation: Bring entertainment (with headphones), books, small toys, and plenty of snacks. Pack comfort items like a favorite blanket



Silene Walters

or stuffed animal. Talk to your child beforehand about what to expect at the airport and on the flight. If their ears hurt during takeoff or landing, have gum, a bottle, or candy ready to help with pressure relief. Seat etiquette: One of the most contentious aspects of air travel! Middle seat rule: If you're in the middle seat, you get both armrests. Reclining your seat: Before reclining, check with the person behind you. If they are eating or working, be considerate. Size considerations: If you need extra space, purchase a second seat rather than expecting someone to share theirs. If you're tall, pay for a bulkhead or extra-legroom seat instead of jamming your knees into the seat in front of you. Personal space: Men—keep your legs within your seat area. Spreading them wide and invading your neighbor's space is

inconsiderate. Follow crew instructions: Flight attendants and gate agents have the authority to remove you from the flight if you fail to comply with instructions. Your expensive handbag isn't exempt from stowage rules — store it properly. Seatbelts are mandatory, regardless of personal opinions. Delays often happen because of a single stubborn passenger — don't be that person. The most powerful person at the airport: The gate agent holds the most power. Be polite to them! If you're rude, they can deny you boarding. If you're kind, you might even score an upgrade. Flight attendants also have the ability to report unruly passengers, leading to potential removal or even placement on the no-fly list. Know your rights: Many travel disputes arise from passengers misunderstanding airline policies. If your flight is canceled or delayed due

to weather or air traffic control, the airline is not required to compensate you. Travel insurance or a credit card with built-in travel protection can save you money in these situations. Luggage tips: Pack light—checked bag fees are high! Your carry-on must meet the airline's size requirements, or you'll have to check it. Be courteous with overhead bin space: Store only one item in the overhead bin. Hats, jackets, backpacks, and purses should go under the seat in front of you. Enjoy your spring break! I'll be working, but I just found some incredibly cheap tickets to Brazil for the summer! I wasn't planning on going this year, but I couldn't pass up such a great deal. *Silene Walters is a CPA, the owner of Walters Accounting Inc in Stillman Valley. When she is not preparing taxes she travels with her husband George and shares her experiences on <https://www.facebook.com/dreamof-traveling>*

Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit is the right call for the state

IN high-pressure moments, when everything is on the line, leaders must be able to make the right call. As March Madness takes hold this spring, Illinois lawmakers are encouraged to make the tough call regarding affordable housing. Growing up in a family of eight children in Southeast Missouri, I knew what it meant to struggle. We didn't have indoor plumbing until 1966, when my mother moved us to Alton, Illinois, in search of a better life. That experience shaped my understanding of the critical need for safe, affordable housing — something too many families in our state still lack today. Throughout my career

in education, including decades as a school superintendent in the Metro East, I have advocated for families from all backgrounds. I often made tough decisions to ensure children had access to stable housing and health care — essentials for academic success. I've seen firsthand how a safe and affordable home can change a child's future. Many may also know me from my time on the basketball court, where I refereed 12 NCAA Final Fours and high-profile international games. Officiating taught me that leadership requires making the right call, even when it's unpopular. The same principle applies to public policy. I urge Illinois lawmakers to support the Build Illinois Homes

Tax Credit — a bright, innovative solution to our state's affordable housing crisis. I believe this legislation could be a game-changer. It bridges financing gaps, providing the final push developers need to move projects forward. This tax credit is a low-risk investment for taxpayers. Private investors supply the funds upfront, and the state issues credits only after developments are completed and families move in. It's a fiscally responsible way to create much-needed housing while spurring economic growth. I recognize the profound impact affordable housing has on commu-

nities and the complex challenges in securing financing for these developments. This spring, the Sunnybrook Community in Alton will open its doors, offering 40 affordable homes to help sustain Madison County's growing workforce near St. Louis. Beyond providing much-needed housing, this project has driven millions of dollars in local investment, created high-quality jobs in construction, and strengthened local businesses with up to \$4 million in material purchases from area suppliers. Sunnybrook became a reality thanks to a one-time grant from the

state that leveraged existing private investment and was bolstered by federal housing tax credits. However, many other promising affordable housing developments across Illinois remain stalled due to financing gaps. Without renewed investment from Springfield, these shovel-ready affordable housing developments might never break ground, leaving communities without desperately needed housing. The Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit will close those financing gaps by making the critical commitment for developers and investors to give these developments the green light. More than half of the states nationally have adopted credits

like Build Illinois Homes to drive affordable housing investment. During these trying times, people need safe, affordable housing and education, health care, and social service support. All work together to lift people and their communities. I want to commend Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois legislators for prioritizing affordable housing and encourage them to support the Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit. This is the right call for working families, communities, and the future of our state. Let's make the right call and give Illinois families the homes they deserve. *Ed Hightower is a retired educator and college basketball referee who lives in Edwardsville.*



Ed Hightower

LOCAL NEWS



Stillman Valley Lions Club inducts new members, Lions/Leos Spaghetti Fundraiser event held

Dan Holsinger and Barb Patzner (pictured at left) were recently inducted into the Stillman Valley Lions Club by District Governor Lonna Bentley and assistant Kristy Hahn. Bentley swore in the new officers of the SV Lions Club in an installation ceremony. The Stillman Valley Lions/Leos spaghetti fundraiser recently took place and went very well. Thank you to the community for supporting this event. Thank you to the Wooden Nickel for supporting this supper. The proceeds will go to various charities in the area. Pictured at right are Lions Dan Janes, Ron Morris, Carol Hoekstra, Dan Holsinger, Apprentice Leos Gwen and August Bierman. (Courtesy photos)



McCombie legislation to address CWD clears House committees

SPRINGFIELD—Two pieces of legislation introduced by House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) to address the concerns with sharpshooting to manage Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), the disease of the central nervous system in deer, secured unanimous

approval in House committees on Tuesday. House Bill 2339 would automatically phase out the sharpshooting program in any county that has not had a confirmed CWD case in three years. The bill passed the Agriculture & Conservation Committee by a vote

of 12-0. House Bill 2340 encourages responsible hunting by allowing special deer, turkey, and combination hunting licenses for landowners with at least 20 acres compared to 40 acres in counties where CWD has been identified. The bill passed the Agri-

culture & Conservation Committee by a vote of 9-0. “We are one step closer to achieving our goal to end sharpshooting to manage Chronic Wasting Disease. This effort is a credit to the significant public input I received in recent months that inspired the solutions

proposed by my legislation,” said McCombie. Since its first detection in a Boone County deer in 2002, state efforts to manage the disease have had a lasting impact, especially in Leader McCombie’s northwest Illinois district. As a result, McCombie sought public

feedback through a survey and community outreach, which culminated in the legislative package she filed in January to produce state-based solutions. House Bills 2339 and 2340 now advance to the full House of Representatives for a final vote.

Northern Rehab hosting community collection for Safe Passage from April 1-18

ROCHELLE—Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is hosting a Community Collection for Safe Passage in DeKalb from April 1-18. Community members are encouraged to donate essential items to help individuals and families affected by domestic


violence. Donations can be dropped off at any Northern Rehab location in DeKalb (3266 Sycamore Road), Genoa (540 E. Main St.) and Rochelle (1211 Currency Court) during business hours. Items most needed include shampoo and conditioner for all types of

hair, children’s body wash, toilet paper, paper towels, new bath and hand towels, new twin sized blankets for children and adults, new flip flops—all sizes, new women and children’s underwear—all sizes, new sports bras—all sizes, phone chargers, earbuds/headphones,

and gift cards to Walmart, Walgreens or gas cards to assist with medication and transportation needs. Safe Passage is DeKalb County’s only domestic violence crisis center, providing vital resources, shelter, and support to those in need. By participating in this collection drive, the community can make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors. Northern Rehab is committed to giving back to

our community, and this collection drive is a way to support the important work of Safe Passage. Northern Rehab invites everyone to join us in helping provide much-needed resources to individuals and families in crisis. For more information about the collection drive, including donation drop-off locations and hours, visit northernrehabpt.com/northern-rehab-hosts-community-collection-for-safe-passage/.

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists, voted DeKalb County’s Best Physical Therapists for 13 consecutive years and Ogle County’s Best Physical Therapist for 6 years, is a physical therapist owned and operated physical therapy practice dedicated to providing clients with the very best one-on-one customized care and has built a solid reputation and strong relationships within the communities they serve.



Tom Atchison


for
**Marion Township
Road Commissioner**

Allow me to introduce myself and highlight my qualifications for the position of Road Commissioner of Marion Township.

- ✓ **As a lifelong resident of Stillman Valley, I possess an in-depth knowledge of our area, which, combined with my extensive construction expertise, makes me an ideal candidate for this role.**
- ✓ **During my 37-year career as a heavy equipment operator at Rockford Blacktop Construction Company, I acquired valuable experience in road maintenance, drainage installation and snow removal**
- ✓ **Following my retirement from Local 150 Operating Engineers in February 2023, I am now available to dedicate my expertise to serving the community 24/7.**

Please keep me in mind when voting comes around this April to keep our roads safe for our township.

Thank you,
Tom Atchison



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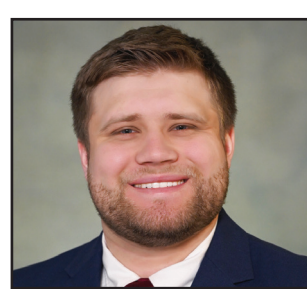
Paid for by: Supporters of Tom Atchison

Lagerhausen joins Stillman Bank as ag banking representative

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Logan Lagerhausen as ag banking representative. In his position, Logan will be involved with all phases of agricultural lending. He will be located primarily in the bank’s Stillman Valley office, 101 E. Main St., but will assist customers at all six Stillman Bank locations. Logan graduated from Stillman Valley High School and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness with an emphasis in Agricultural Engineering and Technol-

ogy from the University of Wisconsin Platteville. “We are excited to welcome Logan to our banking team,” Thomas R. Hughes, Stillman Bank president and CEO, said. “His education and background in agribusiness will play a key role in his ability to serve new and existing customers.” For more information on Lagerhausen or to find out more about Stillman Bank’s products and services, please contact (815) 645.2266 or visit www.stillmanbank.com. Stillman Bank is an inde-

pendently owned community bank founded in 1882. The bank has approximately \$595 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.



Logan Lagerhausen

McCombie calls for nominations for annual Women to Watch event

SPRINGFIELD – House Minority Leader and State Representative Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) is calling on residents throughout her 89th legislative district to nominate a female leader to attend the annual House Republican Women to Watch event in the Capitol. The event on April 22, is organized by Leader McCombie, and includes a full day of recognizing the work of the attendees, celebrating their

accomplishments, and networking among emerging women leaders across the state. “This annual event is an opportunity for lawmakers to celebrate women leaders from all corners of our state. It is encouraging to know our state is well served throughout all communities, and having us all together makes for a wonderful day of recognition,” McCombie said. To nominate a resident,

email mccombie@ilhousegop.org with “Women to Watch Nomination” in the subject line and include the following information in the email body: the name of the nominee, your relation to the nominee, nominee background, and reason why they should be chosen to attend. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, April 4. With questions, residents can call Leader McCombie district office at 815-291-8989.

Byron’s King named to Blackhawk Technical College President’s High Honors list

JANESVILLE — Brayden King of Byron (electric power distribution) was among the Black-

hawk Technical College students named to the President’s High Honors list (4.0 GPA) and President’s

Honors (3.5 GPA or higher) for Fall 2024. Students on both lists were enrolled in six or more credit hours.

LOCAL NEWS

Illinois Extension to train new wave of community compost leaders

OREGON — Composting plays a vital role in creating sustainable communities, from reducing waste to enriching soil. This spring, learn to be a composting leader with University of Illinois Extension’s Compost Ambassador program.

The five-week training program, which began in Cook, Lake, and McHenry counties in 2022 and has since expanded to central Illinois, including Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties, returns with an enhanced hybrid curriculum designed to create knowledgeable home and community composters and provide community education. Virtual sessions run on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning April 2.

“Composting is a practical way for everyone to make a positive environmental impact right in their own backyard,” says Gemini Bhalsod, Extension horticulture educator. “Our ambassadors learn the science of composting and become advocates for sustainable practices in their communities.”

Participants will explore composting fundamentals, home systems, scientific principles, quality testing, and community engagement through interactive online sessions and hands-on activities. The program includes access to Learn at Extension’s virtual classroom for supplemental materials and peer connections.

The training culminates in demonstration workshops provided at three different locations: Prairie State College, University of Illinois Student Farm, and University of Illinois Extension’s Lake County Office, where local participants will build compost piles, explore different systems, and connect with fellow composting enthusiasts. Lunch is provided.

The course fee is \$40, and registration is required. Participants can register at go.illinois.edu/CompostLeader. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Alex Landberg at landberg@illinois.edu. Feel free to call the Ogle County Extension office at 815-732-2191 for more information.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

For his March 2025 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight B’lush Salon in Sterling. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.

Rep. Fritts honors B’lush Salon for March Local Business Highlight

STERLING – For his March 2025 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight B’lush Salon in Sterling. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.

“This month, I chose to highlight B’lush Salon in Sterling,” Fritts said. “B’lush Salon is a locally owned and operated salon that provides incredible service to their customers. They are also very involved with efforts to support and improve our local community.”

B’lush Salon has been owned and operated by Janette and Chris Garza for eight years. Janette attended Educators of Beauty in Sterling and has been doing hair for 28 years.

Fritts continued, “One thing that struck me when touring this business is how much it feels like family. These seven stylists who work here foster an incredible environment and community and I think their hard work deserves to be recognized.”

B’lush Salon is located at 806 E. 3rd St. in Sterling. For more information or to book an appointment, you can find B’lush Salon on Facebook.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit Rep-Fritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Illinois House Republican Leader Tony McCombie recently passed legislation in the Illinois House Insurance Committee to prohibit co-pays for sexual assault exams.

McCombie moves bill to protect victims of sexual assault

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois House Republican Leader Tony McCombie recently passed legislation in the Illinois House Insurance Committee to prohibit co-pays for sexual assault exams. McCombie presented the measure, calling it a commonsense bill to further protect sexual assault victims.

“This bill will help victims of sexual assault, giving assurance that they do not have to carry an added burden. They should not be victimized on any level,” said Leader McCombie.

The piece of legislation, HB2805, has gained bipartisan support, including the backing of Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D-Hillside), and will now move forward in the Illinois House for further confirmation.



Ogle County 4-H families give back to Liberty Village
Ogle County 4-H families donated craft items to Liberty Village of Rochelle. The Activities Department will be able to use the items in group activities and distribute items to the residents. Pictured left to right: Colleen Woodruff, activity director and Rachel Toth, activity assistant. (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
------------------------	----------

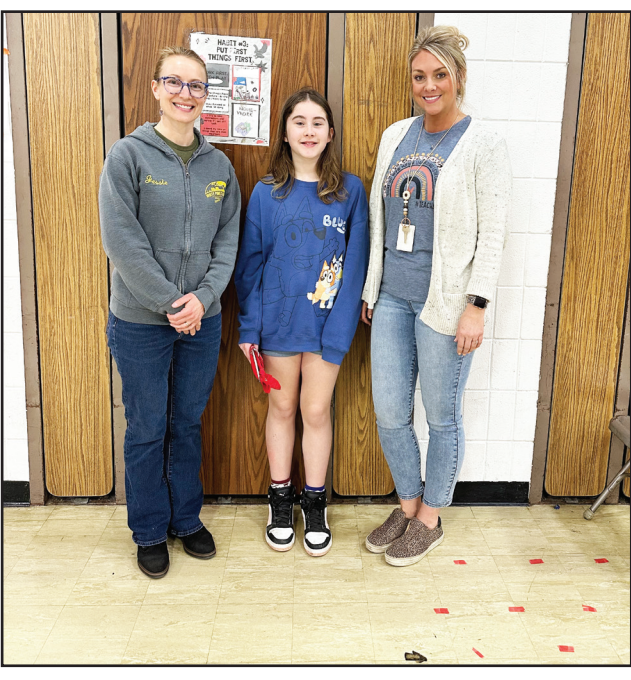
Veterans’ Services

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

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS) The White Pines Ranch in Oregon recently offered a week of summer camp to a fourth grade student for free this summer. Students interested in the opportunity wrote an essay describing why they would like an opportunity to go to camp. An essay was chosen at random. The winner selected was Adelynn Arnold from Mrs. Cover's fourth grade class at Oregon Elementary School. Pictured are Mrs. Hafer, ranch manager; Adelynn Arnold, and Mrs. Cover, fourth grade teacher.

Arnold wins a week of summer camp at White Pines Ranch

OREGON — The White Pines Ranch in Oregon recently offered a week of summer camp to a fourth grade student for free this summer. Students interested in the opportunity wrote an essay describing why they would like an opportunity to go to camp. An essay was chosen at random.

The winner selected was Adelynn Arnold from Mrs. Cover's fourth grade class at Oregon Elementary

School. She is very excited and has never been to camp before. Students had to explain why they would like an opportunity to go to camp, what they would be looking forward to doing there, and why they should be chosen. Students spent class time exploring the Ranch website and discussing what they could gain as a leader from attending camp. Several finalists from each fourth grade class

were brought together and one was chosen as the winner! Some students who participated in the essay writing were unaware that we had a beautiful summer and weekend camp right here in our own town. Even if they didn't win, many expressed their excitement to visit, try horseback riding on the weekends, or visit the camp another time. Adelynn will be attending camp this

June during their "Three Happy Holidays" theme week. An anonymous donor generously helped provide this opportunity, hoping a student would get an experience they might not have otherwise had.

All of the essays written were given to Mrs. Hafer, Outdoor Education coordinator/manager, so the owners of the ranch can read and enjoy them. Most of the fourth grade

students have never experienced going to a summer camp or the activities that this camp offers, like horseback riding, archery, hiking, fossil hunting, and campfires with friends, but best of all, no technology! Camp is a time for kids to unplug and enjoy the outdoors with new friends.

"Hopefully this writing experience and our exploration of what kids can experience at summer camp will encourage

more families to seek out this opportunity," Cover said. "Having spent many years at the ranch myself teaching outdoor ed, I know first-hand how fortunate kids are who get to experience a week at the White Pines Ranch. While working at the Ranch, I looked forward to spending my weekends with horses, excited kids, and great people. We hope Adelynn makes memories that last a lifetime!"

McCombie announces Spring Photo Contest

SAVANNA — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) is launching her fifth annual Spring Photo Contest for residents throughout her 89th Legislative District. The Leader is calling on residents to capture compelling photos of people, landscapes, or landmarks throughout northwest

Illinois to showcase the beauty of spring.

"Every year I am impressed with the photo selection that comes from this contest," McCombie said. "Our community has a lot to offer and to be able to show it off in photos and showcase the amazing talent we have is a win-win."

To participate, interested area residents can submit a photo that best represents the people and places of the 89th District — including any statues and monuments. The winning photos will be displayed in Rep. McCombie's Springfield and Savanna offices.

Rep. McCombie will

choose winning entries and invite the photographers for an unveiling at the Savanna office. The winning photos will be on display for the rest of the 104th General Assembly.

The contest rules are as follows:

Participants are asked to submit their photos by email to mcombiephoto-

contest@gmail.com.

Photos must be taken in the 89th District.

Photos must be taken during this spring.

Photos are due ASAP and winners will be announced on June 21.

Photos must be sent in high resolution.

In the email, please include the photographer's

name, home address, email, phone number, and where the photograph was taken.

An 89th District map can be found on Rep. McCombie's website at repmccombie.com. Participants seeking more info can call the district office at (815) 291-8989.

Performing Arts Guild scholarship applications due April 10

OREGON — Scholarship applications for the Performing Arts Guild are now available at the OHS guidance

office or can be downloaded from the website at: www.performing-artsguild.com

These scholarships

are limited to individuals living in Mt Morris and Oregon or attending the Oregon School District #220. Applications are

open to anyone interested in studying the arts.

This includes, but is not limited to, performing, directing, teaching dra-

ma, music, visual arts, technical crafts, set design, etc.

Scholarship application deadline is April

10, 2025.

Scholarships will be awarded in May during the OHS Honors Night Assembly.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 Rich-

ardson 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 fellowship.

April 19: The Mr. Mor-

ris Moose Lodge 1551 will host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 19 from 9-11 a.m. There will be pancakes, scrambled eggs, and biscuits and gravy. The event is free to all. Donations are welcome.

The Easter Egg Hunt starts at 11:30 a.m.

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.

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LOCAL NEWS

RFD: 102nd Annual Fireman's Ball set for April 5 in Rochelle

From page 1

There will be a special vacation raffle during the event by Magical Vacation Planner. Tickets are \$10 for a chance to win a \$2,000 vacation voucher. The emcee of the evening will be Rochelle's very own comedian, actor, writer, and podcast personality Daniel Van Kirk.

The RFD Social Organization is still accepting donations, silent auction items, and table sponsors for the event. RFD Lt. Tyler Carls asked the community to come out and celebrate a Rochelle firefighter tradition.

"This year we're going back to a themed event," Carls said. "We had success several years ago with a Roaring 20s theme and everyone got dressed up. We're excited to have it at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill and we encourage everyone to come out dressed in 90s Country music attire."

The first RFD Fireman's Ball was held Feb. 22, 1922 at Woodman's Hall near Cherry Avenue and Lincoln Highway to gather funds in case of an emergency for any fireman who may be injured, disabled or contract an

illness. The Fireman's Ball is now the RFD Social Organization's main fundraising event. The organization supports funding community projects including the Battle of the Badges to benefit the Community Action Network, a Rochelle Township High School scholarship for two years of paid tuition to Kishwaukee College, the sponsorship of a Rochelle Little League team, and firefighter benevolence.

"The mission of RFD's Social Organization is to be a positive outlet for us to continue to grow camaraderie and give back to the community," Carls said. "We can socialize outside of work and provide for the greater good for the community with things like pork chops sales and sponsoring teams. We like to be engaged with the community. And it's important to have that brotherhood and sisterhood bond among our firefighters."

The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce has been assisting the RFD Social Organization with raising silent auction items, which has yielded a lot of community support, Carls said.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Fireman's Ball is now the RFD Social Organization's main fundraising event. The organization supports funding community projects including the Battle of the Badges to benefit the Community Action Network, a Rochelle Township High School scholarship for two years of paid tuition to Kishwaukee College, the sponsorship of a Rochelle Little League team, and firefighter benevolence.

"Our local businesses in town have always supported us," Carls said. "We always feel that support, both when we're on the job or when we're doing events like this. We typically get item donations or monetary donations." Carls said he enjoys

getting firefighters from RFD and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District together each year at the Fireman's Ball, and early on in the night each year, appreciation is shown for firefighters and their accomplishments and milestones from that year.

The Fireman's Ball offers a unique opportunity for firefighter/paramedics to spend time with community members during a celebration.

"We like getting everyone together and interacting with the community," Carls said. "Unfortunately,

usually when we interact with members of the public it's on one of the worst days of their life because an emergency has happened. Events like this allow us to interact with the public on a positive note. That's a good thing."

2025 Health Science Pathway Endorsement Symposium at SVCC is April 4

DIXON — The Regional Office of Education #47 (ROE 47) and Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) are hosting the Health Science Pathway Endorsement Symposium on Friday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SVCC. This event will inspire high school students pursuing healthcare careers and celebrate pathway student achievements.

Addressing the healthcare workforce shortage: Illinois faces a critical shortage of healthcare professionals, particularly in rural areas, impacting access to essential services. Many counties in northwestern Illinois are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in primary care, dental care, and mental health (Source: HRSA). The demand for nurses, emergency responders, dental providers, home health aides, and long-term care professionals continues to grow, with

workforce gaps straining rural healthcare systems (Source: National Rural Health Association). To address these shortages, ROE 47, SVCC, and local healthcare providers are working together to build a strong pipeline for future healthcare professionals through pathway endorsement programs. These programs provide students with early exposure, hands-on experience, college credit, and foundational skills needed

for careers in healthcare. Explore the future of healthcare: Student attendees will: Gain insights from professionals in nursing, emergency response, radiology, sonography, home health, respiratory, and physical therapy. Engage in hands-on labs in SVCC's state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. Explore careers through interactive breakout sessions and a college fair. Network with local health-

care professionals and fellow students. Celebrate students who have earned healthcare-related endorsements. Participating school districts: This event is made possible through the generous support of CGH Medical Center, OSF St. Katherine's Hospital, and Sauk Valley College. The collaborative efforts of numerous school districts, including Dixon USD #170, Rock Falls THSD #301, Morrison

CUSD #6, River Bend CUSD #2, Amboy CUSD #272, Sterling CUSD #5, Ashton Franklin Center CUSD #275, Forrestville Valley #221, Byron CUSD #226, Rochelle CUSD #231, Oregon CUSD #220, Polo CUSD #222, Newman Central Catholic High School and Eastland CUSD #308 underscore the shared commitment to addressing the provider shortage and building stronger, healthier communities.



Pictured in front of the building are 4-H members, front row: Hazel Friday and Finn Slattery, back row: Kaden Lingbeck, David Wehler and Henry Hodson. Pictured inside are Wehler, Hodson, Friday and Lingbeck and Slattery.

Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club tours Hough's Maple Lane Farm

MT. MORRIS — On March 10, the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club went on a trip to the Hough's Maple Lane Farm. We were able to tour the area where the sap is

processed. We were able to taste the sap before processing. Then we watched the sap as it boiled and tasted some maple syrup that had just been made. We learned that maple

syrup only comes from North America because these maple trees are the only ones that have sweet water like sap. Trees can only be tapped when they reach a 10-inch diameter

which takes many years. It takes at least 43 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup. Real, pure maple syrup straight from the trees has many antioxidants and is a

good source of calcium, iron and the B vitamin, thiamine. Once the buds on the trees start to open the maple syrup making has ended because the sap can no longer be used.

Our group had fun and enjoyed the tour. If you would like more information on the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club, please contact Nickie Lingbeck at (815) 275-2492.

Dame honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates for performance

ROCHELLE — Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is proud to announce that Cathie Dame was honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real

Estate Affiliates, Inc., for her exceptional real estate performance in 2024. Dame received the Executive Club level honor, which is given to those who achieved specified

production requirements in gross commission income or units closed in 2024. "We are very proud of all our affiliates and their agents for everything they were able to accomplish this

past year," said Bill Scavone, president of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. "We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable agents who went above and be-

yond to offer exceptional service to their clients." Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate. For more information about

Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals, please contact Carrie Ottum at (815) 561-8595 or CAR-RIE@SIGNATURE-REALESTATEPRO.COM.

LOCAL NEWS

BRIGHTFARMS: Greenhouse facility in Rochelle to suspend operations later this year

From page 1

The Lorena, Yorkville and Macon facilities will each span 480,000 square feet and will each produce six million pounds of produce yearly. BrightFarms recently started shipping from its new Macon facility after openings in Lorena and Yorkville, the press release said.

Cox Enterprises called its greenhouses in Rochelle, Selinsgrove and Hendersonville its “early stage facilities” in the March 5 press release. BrightFarms was acquired by Cox Enterprises in 2021.

“As the market demand for indoor-grown greens continues to rapidly grow, our larger and more efficient farms will continue to serve our customers with the strong quality and consistency we are known for,” Abby Prior, chief commercial officer of BrightFarms, said in a Feb. 26 press release.

BrightFarms opened its Rochelle greenhouse in 2016 to serve midwest markets like Chicago and Milwaukee. Rochelle was chosen due to its proximity to those midwest markets and the ease of traffic and ordinances that isn’t seen in larger cities.

BrightFarms completed a 40 percent expansion to its Rochelle location in 2020, to bring its workforce to around 40 employees, BrightFarms CEO Steve Platt told Jeff Helfrich of the Rochelle News-Leader in 2020.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

BrightFarms opened its Rochelle greenhouse in 2016 to serve midwest markets like Chicago and Milwaukee. Rochelle was chosen due to its proximity to those midwest markets and the ease of traffic and ordinances that isn’t seen in larger cities.

First Fridays Open Mic is April 4

OREGON — The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW on Friday, April 4. This indoor event attracts many talented performers, but musicians and singers of all skill levels find acceptance from its supportive audience.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, although a jar is available for donations. Performers can sign up for time slots on a first-come-first-serve basis, so it’s best to arrive by 6 p.m. or earlier. Interested parties who have questions can contact Jerry Tice, at 815-449-2660.

The VFW is located at 1310 W. Washington St. in Oregon. It provides ample parking, along with the



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW on Friday, April 4.

availability of a restaurant and bar within the building. A fish fry runs from 4-8 p.m.

The following text can accompany the photo. Louise Price and John Dickson are frequent performers at First Fridays. Louise performs Irish folk songs as well as popular modern music. John provides instrumentals and a repertoire of popular music.



Total lunar eclipse over Oregon

Ogle County Life reader John Dickson took this picture of a total lunar eclipse over Oregon on March 14. There was a thin cloud layer keeping the image subdued, Dickson said. (Courtesy photo)

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Oregon Hawks finish first at 2025 Harvard Girls Soccer Invitational

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team finished first in the Harvard Invitational on Saturday, March 22. The Hawks defeated Rockford Auburn 5-0 and played to a 2-2 draw against Harvard. Oregon won the tiebreaker on goals allowed. The team includes Aireal Schutz, Anna Stender, Mikaila Ellison, Cassie Krup, Ava Eckstein Carreno, Melanie Carillo, Christine Ramirez Dzwierzynski, Addison Rufer, Bezzali Cadenas, Shaylee Davis, Alyssa Romero, Andrea Chavez Jimenez, Sarah Eckardt, Sophia Stombaugh, Savana Rasner, Mia Guajardo, Alicia Nava Portilla, Mili Zavala, Noelle Girton, Lillyanna Ortiz, Arianna Hammer and Aniyah Sarver. The team is coached by Seger Larson, Tiffany Rufer and Danny Chisamore. (Courtesy photo)

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3101 Island View Dr., Rock Falls
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This charming 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom ranch home offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Rock River, with a walkout lower level that opens right onto a spacious patio-perfect for enjoying the scenery. The home features an attached 2-car garage, convenient main floor laundry, and a lower level designed for versatility, complete with a second kitchen and cozy fireplace. A boathouse adds even more value, providing easy river access. With endless potential to make it your own, this riverfront retreat is a rare opportunity!

NEW
PRICE



107 S. 5th Avenue, Forreston
\$139,900 Call Stephanie

Discover Charm and Convenience! Step into this delightful 3-bedroom, 1-bath Craftsman Bungalow, where timeless character meets modern comfort. Imagine mornings on the charming covered front porch, complete with a classic porch swing, or evenings spent on the spacious deck, accessible through the formal dining room-perfect for entertaining. Inside, enjoy versatile living spaces that can be tailored to suit your needs. Most of the main level features updated flooring and fresh paint, adding a modern touch to this classic home. One of the three bedrooms is currently styled as a walk-in closet, but all rooms come with generously sized closets for ample storage. Outside, the large backyard offers endless possibilities, complete with a storage shed for all your tools and toys. The attached 2-car heated garage ensures year-round comfort. Plus, all appliances are included-making this home move-in ready!

NEW
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510 4th Ave., Dixon
\$123,000 Call Jennifer Rybicki

Welcome home! This charming and cozy, 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home in the heart of Dixon, offers 1101 sq ft of comfortable living space. Featuring a delightful four-season porch, this home provides the perfect spot to relax year-round. The fenced-in yard offers privacy and space for outdoor activities, while the partial basement includes a versatile additional room, ideal for a home office, playroom, or extra storage. Located in a prime location close to local amenities, schools, and parks, this home blends convenience with classic charm. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

NEW
PRICE



433 River Bluff Drive, Dixon
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Enjoy breathtaking river views from this beautifully maintained 4-bed, 3-bath ranch with over 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. Ideally located between Dixon & Sterling, this home sits along a wide, deep stretch of water-perfect for boating, fishing, and all water activities. Inside, the thoughtfully designed layout offers space for everyone. The master suite provides a private retreat with a walk-in shower, while the custom kitchen-featuring Quartz countertops and water views-flows seamlessly into a cozy living area with a stunning stone fireplace. A formal dining room and additional living space, filled with natural light, make entertaining effortless. The walk-out lower level expands your living space with an additional office, family room, bedroom and full bath, plus plenty of storage space. No matter the season, the four-season porch ensures you can always take in the views. Practicality meets comfort with main-floor laundry, a spacious 2-car garage, whole-home generator, and a durable steel seawall. Move in just in time to enjoy the perennial landscaping and make the most of summer! Don't wait-make this riverfront retreat yours today!



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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

Andy Colbert: Evolution of state basketball

WITH the popularity of the NCAA March Madness tournament, the IHSA made a wise choice a couple years ago in moving its championships to the weekend before. With most people engaged in the college game because of the drama and bracketology, our high school tournament lost some of its luster.

The hardcore IHSA basketball fans will always be there, but there are fewer and fewer of those left, especially as evidenced by waning crowds at the state finals over the past few decades.

I was just visiting with a friend from Shabbona who told of his experience going the tournament with a bunch of his high school buddies many, many years ago. It was quite common for basketball players all over Illinois to make the pilgrimage to Assembly Hall to watch the IHSA finals.

Alas, that era has passed us by. Certainly, there are some kids from school not competing downstate that still attend, but not in the

throngs as before.

It is not that important anymore. Priorities change.

Even in Indiana, purported to be the hotbed of high school basketball for the entire country. They do not draw as many fans to their tournament as previously. Some claim the decline can be attributed to changing from one-class system to multiple classes, like what was done in Illinois in 1972.

No, that's not it. The purists can still cling to notion of romanticism of a one-class system all they want, but a bigger factor in lower attendance is lack of the casual fan that showed up because of his or her joy of prep basketball.

Nowadays, most fans are more interested in their team alone, not the actual tournament. In the old days, fans would stay for the full smorgasbord of game.

On Saturday night, I found myself in Indiana making a 300-mile trip home after doing an ultra-trail race, Turning the radio on, a state semifinal boys basketball game was

on and I was surprised to learn that all games leading up to the championship are played in high school gyms.

Here in Illinois, we even have super sectionals in college arenas. It isn't until the actual championship in Indiana that a huge arena is used, that being Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers.

It is a one-day affair, with championships only. That makes so much more sense than the way Illinois drags it out over three days, including meaningless third-place contests.

Speaking of sports in other states, another trail race took me to Florida this winter and I had the chance to visit an early spiritual mentor of mine, Bob Hawkins from Sterling. Bob and his wife Sue live in The Villages and they graciously gave me a tour of this lifestyle community for the 55-plus crowd.

What's that got to do

with sports, you say?

Even though people in The Villages (82,000 pop.) are generally too old to have children of school age, nor any full-time residents less than 19 years of age allowed, there is a K-12 school system.

It is a charter school set up for employees who work in The Villages. Driving by the high school, it looked like a small college campus. Of course some of that can be attributed to modern construction.

The difference between a charter school like The Villages and a public school like we have here in

Ogle County is that ours' are based on geographic boundaries, whereas The Villages is established from workplace boundaries.

If an employee works inside The Villages, they are entitled to send their children to the charter school rather than the public school inside the geographic boundary they live in. With over 4,000

students enrolled in K-12, there must be an advantage to it.

Both academics and sports are stressed and many of The Villages transplants attend those activities to support the kids and also see high-quality performances. For example, the boys basketball team took second place in 3A (out of seven classes) for Florida.

On a side note, while living in Sterling, Bob and Sue annually attended the IHSA state tournament and said the Florida tournament doesn't have the same enthusiasm to it. To be sure, though our state basketball championships isn't what it used to be, there will always be a strong element of interest.

Back to college basketball.

Some fans are disappointed that March Madness did not render any major upsets leading into the Sweet Sixteen. In the past, there has been a team or two that captures the nation's imagination by making the final 16 as an underdog.

However, that same

weekend, college wrestling world was rocked by an upset that some are calling the greatest ever. In front of 18,000 rabid fans in Philadelphia, including President Trump, Wyatt Hendrickson edged Olympic gold medalist and two-time NCAA champion Gable Steveson on Minnesota.

Steveson hadn't lost a college match since 2019 and was considered unbeatable.

I will put Hendrickson's 285-pound upset as perhaps the second most significant in college wrestling. The best wrestler ever in this country, Dan Gable of Iowa, was on his way to an undefeated high school and college career before losing in his final match of his senior year to Larry Owings of the University of Washington.

Gable did make amends for the loss by not allowing a single point in winning the gold medal at the 1972 Olympics.

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

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon softball team shuts out River Ridge/ Scales Mound

The Oregon High School varsity softball team earned a 6-0 shutout win over River Ridge/ Scales Mound on Friday, March 21. Isabella Berg pitched three innings and struck out eight batters, while Brooke Halverson and Emma Schlichtmann combined for five strikeouts over five innings of relief. Halverson went 1-for-2 with a home run and one RBI, while Olivia Ortega went 1-for-2 with one double and one run scored. Lola Schwarz went 1-for-3 with a triple and one RBI.

Oregon softball team takes down Pearl City
The Oregon High School varsity softball team took down Pearl City

9-2 on Saturday, March 22. Isabella Berg started in the circle and pitched six innings while striking out 12 batters and allowing only two hits. Ella Dannhorn went 2-for-3 with a home run, one double, three runs and one RBI. Lola Schwarz and Alexi Czochara each finished with one hit and two RBIs.

Polo baseball team falls against Galena
The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 11-1 against Galena on Monday, March 24. Korbin Cavanaugh went 2-for-2 with two singles, while Dawson Foster walked and scored one run to lead the Marcos in the loss.

Forreston softball team drops game with River Ridge/ Scales Mound
The Forreston High School varsity softball team dropped its game with River Ridge/ Scales Mound on Monday, March 24. The Cardinals fell 8-4 despite a strong pitching performance from Aubrey Sanders, who threw five and two-thirds innings while striking out 10 batters and allowing just three hits. Sanders also went 1-for-3 with one triple and

two RBIs for the Cardinal offense.

Polo softball team loses against Galena
The Polo High School varsity softball team lost 9-1 against Galena on Monday, March 24. Cheyenna Wilkins went 2-for-3 with one run and one double for the Lady Marcos. Wilkins also pitched five innings and struck out seven batters.

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

National Library Week

Stop into the Bertolet Memorial Library April 7th-12th for National Library Week. See all the activities we have to offer in the library, pick out books and movies to borrow, and take a guess at our guessing jars.

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.

Stories With Stacey

Thursdays at 10:00AM: Join Miss Stacey as she continues to teach us about animals through books and crafts!

April Take & Make

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

National Library Week

April 6th - April 12th. Be sure to stop in during National Library Week to see all your library has to offer. While you're here be sure to enter for one of our

giveaway baskets and/or try to win one of our ever popular guess-me jars. We hope to see you soon!

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Join us each week for

Craft

Stop by the circulation desk to pick up the material needed to make an adorable frog.

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

Faith's Mountain Home by Misty M Beller (LP)
Far From Home by Danielle Steel

Chapter Book

Answers To Dog by Pete Hautman

Picture Book

The Three Little Super-pigs and the Great Easter Egg Hunt by Claire Evans

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LOCAL NEWS

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.

Vietnam Veteran's Café at Rock River Center
April 1 – 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. RSVP to 815-732-2499

CROCHETTING/KNITTING CLUB – April 3
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

CRAFT GROUP on April 7
9:00 – 10:00 A.M. Project: Wooden Easter Ornament

OUTING OF THE MONTH - April 10

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ogle County Mini Food Center Pantry

Adonation 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
The 2WBC meets Wednesday, April 9, at 12:30 to discuss Memoirs of a Geisha by Lucy Fisher. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet April 15 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss Drag-

Frank Llyod Wright "Laurent House". Lunch Afterward. Register by April 8

RUMMIKUB
Mondays -12:15 – 3:15 p.m.

LINE DANCING
Tuesday and Thursday - 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

WOOD CARVERS
Tuesdays – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES
Wednesdays - 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Benefit Access Program
The Benefit Access Program allows you to get a discount on your license plate sticker. The cost of your sticker could be as low as \$10.00. To qualify, you must meet income guidelines as follows: You must be 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the current year; or You

must be 16 years of age or older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year. Your annual income* must be less than: \$33,562 for a 1-person household. \$44,533 for a 2-person household. \$55,500 for a 3-person household. You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application.

Property Tax Assessment Freeze

This exemption "freezes" your assessed value at a certain level and base year, depending on what year you originally applied. Your future real estate tax bills are calculated at this "frozen" assessed value, thereby slowing the increase of your property taxes. You must re-apply for this exemption every year. Although your assessed value is frozen under this exemption, tax bills can continue to increase if spending by any of the local

units of government (like schools, cities, parks, etc.) goes up. Also, please be aware that you may, later in the year, receive a "change of assessment notice" if the township assessor has re-evaluated your property. This will in no way affect your status under this senior assessment freeze exemption. Real estate taxes are calculated on your "frozen" assessed value. To qualify, you must meet guidelines as follows: You must be 65 or older, own and use the property as your principal residence. Your total income, and the income of any other individuals using the property as their principal residence, must be less than \$65,000.

Homestead 65

This annual exemption is available for a single-family property that is occupied as the principal residence of a person, who is 65 years

of age or older during the assessment year. The person must be the owner, or a lessee with an ownership interest in the property who is liable for the payment of the property taxes. The amount of the exemption is a \$5,000 reduction in the EAV of the property.

DAY TRIP TO SEE "MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET" with Rock River Center

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET, Presented at Stolp Island Theatre. Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Four Legends. One Night. Music History Made. LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS: MAY 1, 2025. On December 4, 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins had a chance encounter at Sun Studio in Memphis. What transpired was one of the greatest impromptu jam sessions in music history.

The music that filled the studio that fateful night delves into the foundation of Blues, Country, Rock and Rockabilly, including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Walk the Line," "Great Balls of Fire," and more. LUNCH: On your own @ Two Brothers Roundhouse. Trip Cost (includes RT transportation and Live Performance): \$110.00 Members / \$115.00 Non-Members. Reservation Information: Prepaid reservations can be made at Rock River Center, 810 S 10th St, Oregon or by mail. Your reservation and payment must be received by the deadline. Rock River Center gift certificates are accepted as payment. Make your reservations early as seating is limited and shows sell out quickly. Please call the Center at 815-732-3252 or toll free 1-800-541-5479 for more information

onfall by L.R. Lam. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, April 16, at 1 pm to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Books on Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss The Last Apothecary by Sarah Penner. Cocktails and Crime will meet April 27, so stop by the Library to find out title, location and time.

Where to Start: Declutter Your Home and Finances

Tuesday, April 8, 2 pm. Do you feel overwhelmed trying to organize your stuff? Do you have a filing cabinet spilling over with financial paperwork? During this program, we will explore reasons for clutter and how it makes you feel, understand what financial documents need to be kept while discussing options to discard sensitive documents, Learn the benefits of decluttering and minimizing, and identify strategies to create a plan to clear your clutter. No registration necessary. Hosted by the Illinois Extension - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson

Thursday, April 10, 7 pm. Celebrate Earth Month with Black Forager, Alexis Nikole Nelson. A forager, outdoor educator, chef, and influencer based in Ohio, Nelson uses her platforms to yell, sing and celebrate all the edible plants hiding in plain sight. She invites all to come on her foraging journey with her via @alexisnikole (TikTok)

and @blackforager (Instagram). Through her search for freely accessible edible plants, she peels back historical layers on African American and Indigenous food traditions that have traditionally been repressed and empowers those living in food deserts with greater self-sufficiency. Nelson has also cooked up quite a few awards, receiving the James Beard Award for "Best Social Media" 2022, being chosen as a "TikTok Tastemaker" for Forbes 30 Under 30 list, and honored as part of Fortune Magazine's Creator 25 in 2021. With 5 million followers joining, Alexis takes audiences into the woods and to the oceans in search of edible plants and tasty recipes to enrich their palates and the planet. As Alexis would say, happy snacking, don't die! Nelson will be joined in conversation by Natalie Evans, a wild edible foods instructor based in Chicago. ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. Registration link: https://bit.ly/ILP_AlexisNikoleNelson

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, April 15 at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (Choose your time slot). Ombre Vases. April showers bring May flowers, so you need vases! This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Lego Club

Monday, April 21 at 1 pm (2nd grade & up) (No School). Get together and spend some recreational time building! There will be a limited number of vintage

kit instructions available, so if you make it, you can take it! (First come, first serve) The club is designed to provide an enjoyable activity (FUN) that stimulates and develops spatial intelligence. Registration is required.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, April 21 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

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 <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com>.

Knit & Crochet

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

Photo Printer at the library!

The library 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 Curious Why by Angela DiTerlizzi. At the StoryWalk is The Story of the Easter Bunny by Katherine Tegen.



Oregon Lions Club holds annual dessert auction

The Oregon Lions Club is always having fun while taking care of business! March 13 was the clubs annual dessert auction! Members showed off and baked their favorites! This years auction, as always, was a huge success! Lion James Brown and Lion Mitch Logan did an outstanding job leading the auction! (Courtesy photo)

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LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Special Hours
The Byron Public Library will be closed on Sunday, April 20 in observance of the Easter holiday. We will reopen for our regular hours on Monday, April 21. We wish all of our patrons a safe and happy Easter!

Movie Showing: Easter Parade
Wednesday, April 9. 1 – 3:00 pm. Fred Astaire and Judy Garland star in this classic movie musical featuring 17 songs by Irving Berlin. When famous dancer Don Hew-

es' partner, Nadine Hale deserts him, he makes a bet that he can make any chorus girl into a star. Space is limited, so please call 815-234-5107 to register.

Shitake Mushroom Cultivation—The Basics
Thursday, April 24. 6 – 7:00 pm. Join Hunter Le Duc for an engaging program where you'll learn the art and science of cultivating shiitake mushrooms. The shiitake is an edible mushroom native to East Asia that is used in many dishes

across the world. Please call 815-234-5107 to register.

Creative Studio
Our Creative Studio is open on Sunday afternoons and two evenings a week, so stop by for monthly crafts and to use our maker space equipment! Crafts out on the tables are free of charge, while some other projects will incur a cost depending on materials. Middle school and high school youth can use some of the materials while with an adult, or during Teen

Time. Creative Studio hours: Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

Check out Our Mobile App
Did you know that there is an easy way to use the library from your phone? Just download the PrairieCat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your

library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery
The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when

your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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

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.

Toddler Time: Spring Sensory Bins

Explore the wonders of Spring! This month, we'll explore a variety of sensory bins with a seasonal twist. Friday,

April 4, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Get Growing: Plant Swap Drop-In

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

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cricut Lab: Creating Reusable Stencils

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 practices 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.

Stem Lab: Building

Challenge

Calling all young scientists and engineers! Miss Kelly will provide the surprise materials and building challenges... and you will provide the creativity! Monday, April 21, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Genealogy Basics: Military and Veterans' Records

Learn to use Ancestry Library Edition to explore records related to military service, how to use them to reconstruct an ances-

tor's service experiences and then place them within a wider historical context. We'll also cover how to request service records from the government. Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

European Travel: When in Rome

Whether you're headed to Italy for the pasta or a pilgrimage, Ancient Rome is a city you can savor. Join frequent fliers, Joanna and Wayne, as they dive into the heart of Rome: its unique

neighborhoods, attractions, art and cuisine. Monday, April 28, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Email for Beginners

So, you have an email address...now what? Learn the ins and outs of sending emails, clearing out your inbox and avoiding the dreaded SCAMS and SPAM. Feel free to bring your handheld device and follow along or ask questions after. Tuesday, April 29, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Make Easter cards using the art form of Zentangle on March 28th at 11:00 am. All supplies provided and

the cost is \$10 each. Please call to reserve your space.

Book Club
Join our Book Club!

The first Monday of the month, April 7th at 11:00 am. Stop in the Mt. Morris Library and pick up the book and

come to The Center for a discussion.

Cookbook Club

The first Tuesday of the month, April 8th will

be our Cookbook Club. Get your recipe at the Mt. Morris Library and bring your dish to The Center to share.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonemfamilychurch@gmail.com
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 Resinski.
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: uch@comcast.net
Website: unitedchurchofbyron.org
Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spelloius
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
915-535-6990 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 Marv Jacobs
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: goelimchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.goelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"By God's grace in Christ, we LIVE, LOVE, and SERVE"
All are welcome here!
9:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all, followed by fellowship hour
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)
102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org
www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia 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 Ehrler
Worship Services: Saturday 5:30 PM; Worship Sunday 9:30 AM . Sunday Church School - follows Worship Service (Sept.-May) Chime Choir
Wednesday 6:00 PM

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church

MOUNT MORRIS

EDCCOGministries@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 Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each 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 9732-7211 - 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: stpaulinalcoregonil.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
polo@crossroadscn.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st .

Visit our website: www.crossroadscn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

Pastor Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns | Associate Pastor David Bogner
207 W Roosevelt Road (Rte 72), Stillman Valley.
815-645-2526 | www.theredbrickchurch.org
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.valleycav.org
Sunday Morning 9am "Gather" for learning & conversation, 10:15am Worship both onsite and online at facebook.com/VECCFSV
Home of Valley Covenant Preschool 815-645-8882 Director Jill Huber
Bible Studies, Youth Group, Bread of Life Food Pantry
Please visit website for more information or contact the church office M-F 9am-2pm

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On March 18 at 7:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 13,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Justin E. Johnson, 34, of Dixon was arrested for driving while license suspended, and an active Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Johnson was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and no front registration. Johnson was released on a notice to appear with a return court date for the warrant, and driving while license suspended.

On March 19 at approximately 12:36 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop to the entrance of the Orchard Hills Landfill in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Efrain Garcia-Ortega, 32, of Davis Junction under arrest for no valid license, obstructing identification, and four active Boone County warrants. Garcia-Ortega was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear on the Ogle County charges and held in lieu of bond on the Boone County warrants.

On March 20 at approximately 7:08 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 6,700 block of South Lowell Park Road. After investigation, deputies learned a gray Ford F-150, driven by Sean

Cline, 26, of Dixon, was traveling northbound on Lowell Park Road when Cline lost control of his vehicle on the icy road and traveled into the southbound lane. Cline then struck a black Volkswagen van, driven by David Dahl, 69, of Polo, which was traveling southbound on Lowell Park Road. Dixon Rural EMS and Polo EMS transported two minor juveniles that were in the van to OSF Saint Katharine Hospital for minor injuries. Cline was issued a citation for too fast for conditions. Polo Police Department assisted with the accident.

On March 20 at 8:26 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on North Kennedy Hill Road at the intersection with East Short Road. As a result, deputies arrested Tara R. Moorman, 40, of Roscoe for driving while license revoked. Moorman was additionally issued citations for no front registration, and operating an uninsured vehicle. Moorman was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear bond with a future court date. Deputies were assisted by the Byron Police Department.

On March 20 at approximately 9:42 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Pecatonica Road. After further investigation Travis Tryggstad, 36, of Leaf

River, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Tryggstad was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration. Tryggstad was released on a notice to appear bond.

On March 21 at approximately 4:29 p.m. deputies were advised of a black Ford Focus driving all over North Illinois Route 26 south of Forreston. They then learned the Ford struck a mailbox in the 3,000 block of North Illinois Route 26 before coming to a stop in the ditch. After an investigation, it was learned that the female driver was having a medical episode, which caused the crash. The driver was uninjured from the collision. The driver was transported to an area hospital for her medical issues. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Polo Fire and EMS and Forreston Police Department.

On March 22 at approximately 1:25 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Caron Road and School Avenue. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Andrew F. Emberson Jr., 19, of Polo, for criminal damage to property and no valid driver's license. Emberson was also cited for improper turn at an intersection and operating uninsured motor vehicle. Emberson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was charged

and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 22 at 6:45 a.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. Subsequent to the stop, the Fazili Alonda, 28, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license revoked and suspended registration. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed, and later released on a notice to appear at a later time in Oregon.

On March 23 at approximately 11:17 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Creekside Drive. After further investigation, Tyese J. Rush, 23, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Rush was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and speeding. Rush was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 23 at approximately 6:55 p.m. deputies responded to the 2,000 block of South Chamberlain Road for a suspicious subject. After an investigation, deputies arrested Angel B. Vazquez, 20, of Rochelle for criminal trespass to real property. Vazquez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was charged and given a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 24 at approx-



imately 11:20 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Margarette Fuller Road. After investigation, deputies placed Caleb Valentine, 35, of Sterling, under arrest for no valid driver's license. Valentine was also issued a citation for no insurance and given a warning for not having a front license plate. Valentine was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear pending a future court appearance.

On March 24 at approximately 7:52 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of West Montague Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Nick Olson, 26, of Leaf River, for driving while license suspended. Olson was released on a notice to appear bond.

On March 24 at approx-

imately 8:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Freeport Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Carlos Ramirez, 24, of Fitchburg, Wisconsin under arrest for driving with no valid license. Ramirez was additionally cited for suspended registration, no insurance, and speeding. Ramirez was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On March 24 at approximately 5:22 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 5,000 block of South Mill Pond Road for a disturbance. After an investigation, Rhiannon J. Waters, 42, of Rochelle, was arrested for disorderly conduct. Waters was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

BYRON POLICE REPORT

Feb. 22
At 4:45 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Richard J. Glover III, 44, of Rockford a citation for driving while license is suspended. Glover was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released on a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Blackhawk.

Feb. 23
At 4:40 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Sean M. Grennan, 45, Byron a citation for speeding 41 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 800 block of North Colfax.

Feb. 25
At 5 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Coroy J. Esteban, 55, Rockford citations for speeding 37 in a 30 miles per hour zone and operating a motor vehicle with no valid driver's license. Esteban was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released on a notice to appear. These violations occurred at North Illinois Route 2 and Creekside Drive.

At 9:57 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Amy L. Lewis, 53, Byron citations for speeding over the statutory limit and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. These violations occurred in the 700 block of North

Colfax.

Feb. 27
At 2:12 p.m. Byron Police Department issued David S. Gatz, 61, Byron a citation for speeding 54 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8,000 block of North Barker Road.

At 9:11 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Mary A. Stern, 50, Sterling a citation for speeding, 45 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

March 2
At 12:17 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Cayden N. Yianibas, 18, Byron a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Maple.

At 8:22 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Taylor L. Shepard, 32, Rock Falls a citation for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended. This violation occurred in the 200 block of Blackhawk.

At 10 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Shani D. McCollom, 54, Forreston citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration, operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance, and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. These violations occurred

in the 1,200 block of West Blackhawk.

At 11:10 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Joshua E. Goodwin, 30, Rock Falls citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. These violations occurred at Union and Blackhawk.

March 3
At 3:30 a.m. Byron Police Department issued William L. Addoh-Kondi, 22, Belvidere a citation for speeding, 75 in a 55 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred at Blackhawk and Old State.

At 2:42 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Matthew D. Coyne, 49, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle while driver's license is revoked. Coyne was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred at Chestnut and 4th.

At 11:40 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Kenneth D. Wills, 73, Stillman Valley a citation for disobeying an official traffic control device. This violation occurred at Colfax and Blackhawk.

March 4
At 11:28 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Carl A. Anderson, 69, Winnebago a citation for operating a vehicle with a

revoked driver's license. Anderson was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred at Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford.

At 2:08 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Danny Diaz, 31, Machesney Park a citation for speeding, 62 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,000 block of Blackhawk.

At 5:05 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 500 block of North Colfax involving a 2018 GMC driven by Heather J. Capriola, 41, Pecatonica and a 2021 Jeep driven by Molly M. Johnson, 27, Forreston. There were no injuries and no citations issued.

March 5
At 2:56 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 16-year-old female of Byron a citation for passing a school bus while loading and/or unloading. This violation occurred in the 800 block of Colfax.

At 3 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Richard A. Provencher, 78, Byron, a citation for passing a school bus while loading and/or unloading. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Colfax.

March 12
At 9:49 a.m. Byron

Police Department arrested Adam W. Mangrum, 47, Byron for disorderly conduct. Mangrum was transported to the hospital and given a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Colfax.

At 11:28 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle car accident in the 100 block of West Blackhawk, involving a 2022 Ford, driven by Michael H. Donahue, 42, Orin and a 2022 Chevrolet driven by Edwin S. Bishop III, 37, of Sycamore. There were no injuries and no citations issued.

At 11:28 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Samantha R. Norup, 30, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 400 block of East Blackhawk.

March 13
At 5:19 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Ali A. Abdwlmagid, 36, East Moline for speeding, 49 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of West Blackhawk.

At 5:22 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle car accident at Colfax and Blackhawk, involving a 2014 Chevy driven by Theodore R. Gorsuch

III, 35, Byron and a 2025 Hyundai driven by Jeanette L. Larson 41, Byron. There were no injuries and no citations from this incident.

March 14
At 4:22 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Elmo Jackson 45, Kansas City, Missouri a citation for speeding, 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 900 block of West Blackhawk.

At 3 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Aiden B. Ahmer, 26, Cherry Valley a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation took place in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

March 16
At 8:52 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Ashley M. Mejia, 33, Harmon citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle while license is revoked. These violations occurred on the 100 block of Lincoln.

March 17
At 7:48 a.m. Byron Police Department took a 14-year-old mail into limited custody due to domestic battery, and he was released to parents.

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

MT. MORRIS POLICE REPORT

MT. MORRIS — On February 28, 2025, at approximately 11:25 a.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of West Hitt Street and North Mulberry Avenue. After a brief investigation, Larry Jameson, 77, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for failure to yield at intersection.

On Feb. 28 at approximately 3:20 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a two-vehicle accident that occurred near the intersection of West Lincoln Street and South Wesley Avenue. After a brief

investigation, a female juvenile, 16, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

On March 2 at approximately 11:50 a.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Hitt Street. After an investigation, Katrina A. Miller, 39, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with battery and criminal trespass to vehicle. Miller was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released with a notice to appear.

On March 3 at approximately 7:25 p.m. Mt.

Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of East Front Street after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Randall S. Holcomb II, 25, Mt. Morris, was issued a citation for expired registration.

On March 10 at approximately 5:40 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a single-vehicle motorcycle crash in the 10 block of West Hitt Street. After a brief investigation, Jonathan J. Garcia-Estrada, 22, Mt. Morris, was transported to OSF Hospital with minor injuries. Garcia-Estrada was cited for driver's license

classification violation/motorcycle and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Garcia-Estrada was given a notice to appear.

On March 14 at approximately 8:45 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of West Hitt Street after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Sean R. Tergerson, 45, Mt. Morris, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving under the influence/BAC > .08, illegal squealing of tires, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Tergerson was transported to the Ogle County Jail

where he was released with a notice to appear.

On March 19 at approximately 3:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 400 block of East Hitt Street. After an investigation, the driver, Maureen E. Nicolls, 48, Stillman Valley, was issued citations for leaving the scene of property damage accident, driving too fast for conditions, and failure to report accident. Nicolls was given a notice to appear.

On March 19 at approximately 10:55 p.m. Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 10 block

of South Ogle Avenue after observing a traffic violation. The driver, Adrian S. Quijano, 36, Rockford, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, expired registration, and unlawful possession of cannabis in passenger area of motor vehicle. Quijano was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Highland Boyer Colloquium seeks to ‘solve the puzzle of rare earth metals’

FREEPORT — Join Highland Community College for the 30th Annual Boyer Colloquium, “Solving the Puzzle of Rare Earth Metals,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 in room H-201 of the Student/Conference Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport. This free presentation will also be offered via Zoom™.

Historian and storyteller Roger Turner of Philadelphia’s Science History Institute, will explore the unseen world of rare earth metals while delving into their fascinating effects on global trade, politics and national security—from the Manhattan Project to China today.

“I’m excited to have Roger introduce us to these lesser-known members of the periodic table that actually impact rural Midwest life every day, from wind turbines to electric cars to the phones we use,” said Brendan Dutmer, dean of Natural Science and Mathematics. “As a sought-after

resource, rare earth metals are at the center of a larger discussion, so it’s a particularly relevant topic locally and globally.”

Students in Highland’s chemistry program and related sciences will have the opportunity to attend a closed presentation from Turner earlier in the day on campus.

“Critical metals are back in the news in a big way, but we can’t make wise decisions unless we understand where these materials come from and how they’re processed. At the Science History Institute, we’ve been integrating art and science with history to help Americans better understand these metals. I’m looking forward to thinking through the ethical and environmental debates with the audience,” said Turner.

The Boyer Colloquium, an annual event sponsored by the late Dr. M.E. Boyer, was created in 1994 to help students and communities understand the importance of the



Historian and storyteller, Roger Turner of Philadelphia’s Science History Institute, will explore the unseen world of rare earth metals on April 16 at Highland Community College.

inter-relationships between ethics, economics and ecology. The Boyer Colloquium Committee believes that if commu-

nities comprehend issues, the history of previous decisions and the ramifications of prior actions, they will be better positioned to

make informed decisions. The evening colloquium is free and open to both Highland’s campus and the community. For

more information about the Boyer Colloquium, visit highland.edu/boyer for the Zoom™ link or call 815-599-3493.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Goal
4 Hosp. hook-ups
7 "Peter Pan" pooch
11 "Pygmalion" writer
13 Use a straw
14 Bone-dry
15 Teeny bit
16 Capita lead-in
17 Makes lace
18 Tic
20 Laptop connection
22 Deli choice
24 Radiated
28 Reach
32 Battery part
33 King of the jungle
34 Dog's foot
36 Similar
37 Canal vessel
39 iPads, e.g.
41 "In America" writer Susan
43 — Perignon
44 Partially mine
46 Chip choice
50 First light
53 Suitable
55 Roller coaster feature
56 "Sounds!"
57 Three, in Rome
58 Links org.
59 Pear variety
60 Storm center

DOWN

1 Tag sale words
2 Breakfast chain
3 — Hari
4 AOL, for one
5 Perspective
6 Parsley piece
7 Site of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
8 Coach Parseghian
9 Quibble
10 Billboards
12 Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale
19 Astronaut Jemison
21 Ga. neighbor
23 Super Bowl VIP
25 Stirred
26 Tend texts
27 Cozy rooms
28 Priestly vestments
29 Pisa farewell
30 Trumpet
31 Chow down
35 Bankroll
38 Vichy water
40 "— voyage!"
42 Shred, as cheese
45 Agile
47 Mimic
48 Swine
49 October birthstone
50 Cotillion celeb
51 Previously
52 Existed
54 Golf peg

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MAGIC MAZE ● — OVER —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A DOUBLE BOGEY IN GOLF

All the map	Eggs easy	Get with	Moon Miami
All with	End end	Go big	Not yet
Come here	Fried easy	Hand fist	Voice IP
Do again	Get it	Head heels	

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door is taller. 2. Toolbox is moved. 3. Man is taller. 4. Corner is moved. 5. Ladder rung is missing. 6. Line in doorway is moved.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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

Answer

— King Crossword —

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —

Answers

— King Crossword —

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

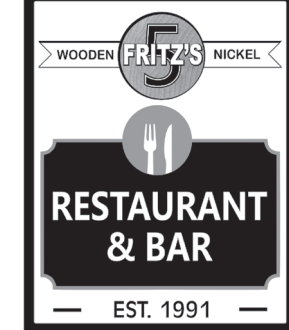
Friday's Dates

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!



EST. 1991

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

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

03032025

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

**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, Belvi-
dere, 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 publica-
tion, 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 Win-
nebago County Circuit
Clerk-Probate Divi-
sion 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 deliv-
ered to the estate legal
representative and to
his/her attorney with-
in ten days after it has
been filed.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed bids will be
received by the Ogle
County Highway De-
partment, Oregon, Il-
linois, until 2:00 P.M.
April 4, 2025 for the fol-
lowing Sections:
1. 25-00000-02-GM
2025 County Seal Coat
2. 25-XX000-00-GM
2025 Township Seal
Coat
3. 25-26000-00-GM
Star Road Pulverization
4. 23-03121-00-BR
Mill Rd Bridge Deck Re-
placement
Proposals are avail-
able at the Ogle County
Highway Department,
1989 South IL Rt. 2,
Oregon, IL between
the hours of 7:00 A.M.
and 3:30 P.M. Mon-
day - Friday. The Road
and Bridge Committee
reserves the right to ac-
cept or reject any or all
bids.
No. 0324
(March 24 and 31,
2025)

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

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
WALTER DALE COIL,
Deceased
NO. 2025 PR 12
CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of
the death of Walter
Dale Coil of Mt. Morris,
Illinois. Letters of office
were issued on Feb-
ruary 28, 2025 to Wal-
ter Eugene Coil of Mt.
Morris, Illinois, whose
attorney is Douglas P.
Floski, of Floski Law
Office, LLC, at 220 W.

Third Street, P. O. Box
1007, Byron, Illinois, 61
010-1 007.

CLAIMS against the es-
tate may be filed in the
office of the Clerk of the
Court at Ogle County
Judicial Center, 106
South 5th Street, Ore-
gon, Illinois, 61061, or
with the representative,
or both, within 6 months
from the first publication
of this Notice, or with-
in 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 Illi-
nois Probate Act, 1975,
as amended, whichever
date is later. Any claim
not filed within that peri-
od is barred.
Copies of claims filed
with the Clerk must be
mailed or delivered to
the estate legal repre-
sentative and to the at-
torney within 10 days
after the claim has been
filed.
WALTER EUGENE
COIL, Administrator
No. 0326
(March 24, 31 and April
7, 2025)

NOTICE

Sealed bids will be re-
ceived for the following
project by the City of
Byron, at City Hall, 232
W 2nd Street, Byron,
Illinois, until 11:00 A.M.
on April 2, 2025: Streets
2025 HMA Overlay.
Proposals are available
electronically at www.fehrgraham.com for a non-refund-
able fee of \$25, also
available at Fehr Gra-
ham, 515 Lincoln High-
way, Rochelle, IL 61068
for a non-refundable fee
of \$100.00 between the
hours of 8:00 A.M. and
4:30 P.M. Monday - Fri-
day.
The City of Byron re-
serves the right to ac-
cept or reject and or all
bids.
No. 0334
(Mar. 24 and 31, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given
that a Tentative Budget
and Appropriation Or-
dinance for the Rock-
vale Road District,
Ogle County, Illinois,
for the fiscal year be-
ginning April 1, 2025,
and ending March 31,
2026, will be on file and
conveniently available
to public inspection at
Rockvale Townhall from
and after 8:00 P.M., on
March 17, 2025.
Notice is further given
hereby that a public
hearing on said Budget
and Appropriation Or-
dinance will be at 7:30
P.M., April 21, 2025, at
Rockvale Townhall and
that final action on this
ordinance will be taken
at the public hearing.
Dated this 17 day of
March, 2025.
Ron Snodgrass
Supervisor
Karen Wolber
Clerk
No. 0340
(March 31, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given
that a Tentative Budget
and Appropriation Or-
dinance for the Town-
ship of Rockvale, in the
County of Ogle, State
of Illinois, for the fiscal
year beginning April
1, 2025, and ending
March 31, 2026, will be
on file and convenient-
ly available to public
inspection at Rockvale
Townhall from and after
8:00 P.M., on March 17,
2025.
Notice is further given
hereby that a public
hearing on said Budget
and Appropriation Or-
dinance will be at 7:30
P.M., April 21, 2025, at
Rockvale Townhall and
that final action on this
ordinance will be taken
at a meeting to be held
at Rockvale Townhall
at 7:30 P.M., April 21,
2025.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3
per Bundle. Available Monday-

Dated this 17 day of
March, 2025.
Ron Snodgrass
Supervisor
Karen Wolber
Clerk
No. 0341
(March 31, 2025)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

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

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Drivers Wanted**
\$500 Sign on bonus
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Local Trucking
Company seeking
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815-938-3644
Please
leave message.
09052022

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ANTIQUES WANTED:
I pay cash for antiques;
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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
to make any such
preferences, limitation or
discrimination. We will
not knowingly accept any
advertising for real estate
which is in violation of
the law. All persons are
hereby informed that
dwellings advertised are
available on an equal
opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

103 AUCTIONS

**WILLIAM E. HAMMOND
REAL ESTATE AUCTION**
SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH—1:00 P.M.
202 W. FOURTH ST., LEAF RIVER, IL 61047
Older 2-Story Home & Modern Metal Shop/
Storage Building on (2) Lots. Please Call Hack's
for Details or a Private Showing.

Hack's Auction & Realty Service
Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneers
Pecatonica, IL 815-239-1436
www.hacksauction.com
I.A.F.L. #44000128

103 AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
312 E Dixon St Polo, IL 61064
Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
2-Story House with garage on Corner Lot!
Go to www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com to view
FULL SALE BILL, PHOTOS and terms & conditions.

William R. Samuel Estate
Trish Bolen, Administrator | M. Tom Suits, Attorney

For Information or to view property, contact:
Mark Ebert-Auctioneer 815-440-2183 | Lenny Bryson-Auctioneer 815-946-4120

CHANA 64 AUCTION

Sunday, April 6th
10:00 a.m.
(No small livestock to be sold)
Antiques, Collectibles and Primitives
More merchandising still in boxing.
Dress for the weather. Will be in small
barn.
Hay racks outside.
Taking reservations for good/clean Spring
consignments.
Cash or Check. NO Credit cards
10% Buyers Premium
Check out photos on "AuctionZip" or on
our Facebook Page.

For more information,
Call 815-830-3898

CHANA AUCTION
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, IL 61015
815-830-3898
Good clean consignments always welcomed.

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

511
STORAGE UNITS

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.

Become a Subscriber!

103 AUCTIONS

**WILLIAM E. HAMMOND
REAL ESTATE AUCTION**
SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH—1:00 P.M.
202 W. FOURTH ST., LEAF RIVER, IL 61047
Older 2-Story Home & Modern Metal Shop/
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Hack's Auction & Realty Service
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www.hacksauction.com
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Taking reservations for good/clean Spring
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Cash or Check. NO Credit cards
10% Buyers Premium
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our Facebook Page.

For more information,
Call 815-830-3898

CHANA AUCTION
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, IL 61015
815-830-3898
Good clean consignments always welcomed.

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

511
STORAGE UNITS

GET HIRED

Full-Time & Part-Time
Openings Available Now
Check out the Help Wanted
section of the Classifieds

Start earning now!

103 AUCTIONS

**PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION –
EVERT (SAM) & JEAN KUMP, OWNERS**
908 MADISON STREET, OREGON, IL 61061
Thursday, April 3rd 8AM to
Sunday, April 6th 5PM
This is an Online Auction.
Please visit <https://aandtauctions.com>
for full sale viewing beginning 4/2/2025.

Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.
Personal Property: Household items; furniture (antique and
modern) including chest of drawers, dressers, bed frame &
bed set, couch, and more; kitchen items including dishware,
pots & pans, etc.; Refrigerator; washer & dryer set (stack-
able); various antiques & collectibles-including vintage
tins and more; pocket knives; garage full of tools, including
Craftsman tool boxes & tools, various brands of tools in-
cluding drill bits, wrenches, sockets, hand tools, hardware,
and more; lots of unlisted items-this is a partial listing-many
items on this sale!
Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing @
8am on 4/2/2025. If you wish for more information on an
item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T
Auction Services directly.
Pick-Up: will be held on Thursday, April 10th from 4-7pm at
the sale site listed above.
Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There
will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold.
Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit
card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card
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Travis Cunningham,
Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600
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Real Estate Live Onsite Auction For Thelma Messer Estate

Saturday April 19, 2025, 11:00 am
LIVE ONSITE AUCTION at: 207 E Center St., Mt. Morris IL 60154
Open house Thursday April 3rd from 5:00-7:00 pm
Auctioneer Note: Attention home buyers or investment buyers! Check this nice
two-story home out. Single family or a possible duplex with separate entrance. This
home needs some TLC but could be a beautiful home the woodwork is beautiful.

This home has 3 BR, 2 Full baths, Living room, Dining room, Kitchen, Basement, Two
car detached garage w/two car attached canopy, Garden shed, Nice size lot, Central
air and Gas forced heat, Water softener, Enclosed back porch, Blacktop driveway.

Terms: This home is being sold AS-IS WHERE IS with no contingencies. Buyer must
have all financing arranged prior to closing. Successful buyer will be required to
sign a purchase agreement at the conclusion of the auction. Buyer will be required
to put down \$8500.000 cash or cashier's check at the time of signing the purchase
agreement. Closing will be 30 days or sooner. If buyer is unable to close, they will
forfeit their earnest monies.

**Any questions or private showing please contact O.D. Holley at Advanced Auction &
Appraisal at 815-218-0705.**

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Opportunities in

the "About Us"

Section

All openings

are listed there

with additional

information

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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

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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

Going once... going twice...

SOLD!

The benefits of purchasing cattle from a live auction

A live auction can be a great place to source cattle. If you're on the fence about going to a cattle auction in your area, here are four good reasons to attend.

1. You'll have access to a variety of animals. You'll be able to view and bid on a large variety of cattle of different breeds and pedigrees. If you buy cattle privately, you'll have to visit numerous farms to see the same kind of selection.

2. You'll get good value for your money. At a cattle auction, you'll be able to negotiate a fair price for the cattle you want. Conversely, if you buy cattle from a private farmer, they set the price and often won't consider negotiating.

3. You'll be certain of your investment. If you purchase cattle from a live auction, the animals come with health papers. This allows you to rest assured knowing the cattle you buy are in good health. These papers aren't required when selling cattle privately.

4. You'll be able to network. Attending a cattle auction will give you the opportunity to get to know other people and organizations in the agricultural industry. This can be useful for promoting and expanding your business.

If you're still hesitant about attending a live cattle auction, don't be afraid to ask the more seasoned farmers in your area for their advice.

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You're there for them. We're here for you.

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

AARP

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9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Ogle County First

1 Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising. These community-minded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches – just to name a few. Shouldn't we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!

2 High rate of return. For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Ogle County, IL.

3 Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust. Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.

4 Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns. You don't have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.

5 No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor. You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live

here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?

6 Time is money. It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!

7 Customer service after the sale is invaluable. Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?

8 Keeping it local encourages community growth. By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.

9 One word: Jobs. When you do business of any kind in Ogle County, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

OGLE COUNTY
LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS

Oregon Public Library Eagle's Nest Art Gallery has new paintings

OREGON — The Eagle's Nest Art Gallery recently benefited from retired Northern Illinois University geology professor, Jonathan Berg's donation of three paintings. The paintings are all works by the same artist, Henry Howard Bagg. Two are local scenes representative of Bagg's early work: Black Hawk Bluff in 1887, and Castle Rock Bluff in 1888. The third painting depicts the 1927 transatlantic flight of the Spirit of St. Louis. As Bagg died in 1928, this was certainly one of his last paintings. According to Berg, both of the landscapes were originally owned by Benjamin Franklin Sheets. Colonel Sheets was an active citizen in 19th century Oregon. A town digni-

tary, Sheets delivered the speech at the 1880 dedication of Margaret Fuller Island. Before he became a prominent Nebraska artist, H.H. Bagg lived in the greater Chicago area. Here he painted landscapes and rubbed elbows with students and faculty of Chicago's Art Institute. He paid frequent visits to scenic Oregon and gave painting lessons locally. This pair of historic landscape paintings confirms that the Rock River in Oregon has long fascinated artists; a decade before Art-Institute-affiliated artists chose Oregon as the site of their colony, H.H. Bagg fixed his artist's eye on the bluff where Lorado Taft's statue of Black Hawk would one day stand.

Currently the two local landscapes are on display at the Oregon Public Library District's Eagle's Nest Art Gallery. In case you did not know, Oregon is home to some of Illinois' best art. The library's upper floor was originally designed to display art and was officially dedicated in 1918 as the Eagle's Nest Art Gallery. Many of the works hanging in the gallery today were donated by members of the historically significant Eagle's Nest Art Colony, which was locally active between 1898 and 1942. Today, people come from the world over to visit Oregon's Eagle's Nest Art Gallery and see works by renowned artists such as Lorado Taft, Ralph Clarkson, Oliver Dennett Grover, and Nellie Verne Walker. One of



(COURTESY PHOTO) The Eagle's Nest Art Gallery recently benefited from retired Northern Illinois University geology professor, Jonathan Berg's donation of three paintings.

the gallery's most well-known works is Joaquín Sorolla Bastida's portrait of Ralph Clarkson, which has been featured in international exhibits. Come by the library and see these local treasures for yourself. (Hours Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)



Polo Lions Club hosts zone meeting

On March 24 at the Barnacopia, the Polo Lions Club hosted a zone meeting. A zone meeting is when the clubs in the same district meet, have a meal, have a guest speaker and get to know the other clubs. This meeting had Lions members from German Valley, Leaf River, Oregon and Polo. The guest speaker was Dr. Lori Cortez from Sauk Valley College and she spoke about SVCC's Impact Program (earned tuition). Students becoming freshman in their high school can earn tuition and fees up to three years by completing 25 hours of volunteerism all four years of high school at Sauk Valley Community College that live in Sauk's district. The counties in Sauk's district are: Bureau, Carroll, Henry, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside. This was very informative and some of the Lions had great questions for Lori. (Courtesy photos)

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SEE PAGE 3!

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