

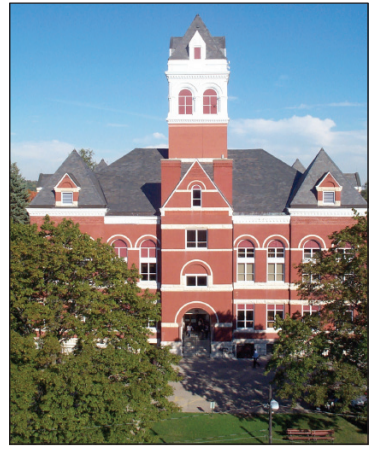
Track athletes medal at state

Ogle County track and field athletes medaled at the 2025 ITT Indoor State Meet. **Section B**

Ogle County

LIFE

Rock Valley Shopper





10 years of Hub Strong


Tornadoes stormed through the Rochelle area 10 years ago this month. **Pages 5-8**




Polo PEO honors members

The Polo P.E.O. Chapter recently recognized its 50-plus year members. **Page 12**


WEATHER




MONDAY
HIGH LOW
42 28




TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
41 24




WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
47 28



THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
54 36



FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
57 40



SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
56 37

OBITUARIES

- Doris Rosenbalm
- Kenneth Ray Robbins Sr.
- Linda Sue Gillette
- Paul N. Branscomb
- Judith Carol Martin Hollenbeck
- Thomas Purple Sr.

See pages 3-4

INSERTS

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

Proposition for Mt. Morris Fire Station passes

Ogle County saw 18.7 percent turnout, 6,450 ballots cast on April 1

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — During the April 1 Consolidated Election, a proposition for the Mt. Morris Fire Protection District to issue \$4.5 million in bonds to build and equip a new fire station passed with 66.67 percent of the vote (438 votes in favor, 219 votes against).

In 2023, the MMFPD Board purchased land for the new firehouse site in the 10 block of South McKendrie Avenue. Previous structures were demolished for the project. The site was chosen due to its proximity to the district's service area and access to utilities such as water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and fiber optic lines.


The district's current facility is a century old and has seen issues with housing newer, larger emergency vehicles. After the new facility is in operation, the old facility would be put up for sale.

The project for the new fire station has seen community support and donations in recent years.

Another proposition for the Leaf River Fire Protection District to create a new tax rate for emergency and rescue crews and equipment purposes failed, with 192 votes against it and 168 votes in favor of it.

The new tax rate would have been an additional tax of .10 percent on taxable property. The proposition would have increased funding from approximately \$139,022 to \$174,606. The property tax increase on a home with a \$100,000 valuation would have been about \$33.33.

Results of contested races in the Ogle County



(PHOTO BY CHRIS GRIMM)

During the April 1 Consolidated Election, a proposition for the Mt. Morris Fire Protection District to issue \$4.5 million in bonds to build and equip a new fire station passed with 66.67 percent of the vote (438 votes in favor, 219 votes against).

area are listed below.

In the race for City of Polo mayor, Mark Scholl (431 votes, 81.78 percent) unseated incumbent Doug Knapp (96 votes, 18.22 percent). In Polo's ward 2

alderperson race, Jim Busser (115 votes, 66.09 percent) defeated Jeff Short (59 votes, 33.91 percent).

See **ELECTION RESULTS** page 2

Byron CUSD 226's stadium, PE center, aquatic center to receive renovations

'Some of these spaces haven't been touched in 30 to 40 years'

BYRON — The Byron School District is moving forward with significant repairs to some of its oldest spaces as they make strides to complete their long-term Capital Improvement Plan. The district's plan was developed through the strategic planning process. Members of the community focus groups and the buildings and ground task force helped identify and prioritize essential projects throughout the entire district. Members were asked to consider a variety of criteria such as cost effectiveness, handicap accessibility, safety conditions, and the potential for multi-use.

"Some of these spaces haven't been touched in 30 to 40 years so the equipment and materials needed to make repairs is no longer



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Byron School District is moving forward with significant repairs to some of its oldest spaces as they make strides to complete their long-term Capital Improvement Plan.

available," Byron Activities Director Jeff Milburn said. "We're proud of the history that has taken place here and we want to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity to achieve excellence—these renovations will help do that."

The district is addressing the extensive list bit by bit. One of the most prominent spaces, Everett Stine Stadium, hosts two of Byron's highly decorated programs, football and track & field.

See **RENOVATIONS** page 3



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, March 27 a ribbon cutting was held at 506 Lincoln Ave. in Rochelle for HitHub By Bennie Baseball.

Ribbon cutting held March 27 in Rochelle for HitHub by Bennie Baseball

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, March 27 a ribbon cutting was held at 506 Lincoln Ave. in Rochelle for HitHub By Bennie Baseball. The training facility offers batting cage, plyo wall and pitching machine rentals along with baseball/softball instruction and facility rentals for team practices and parties.

See **BENNIE BASEBALL** page 10



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LOCAL NEWS

ELECTION RESULTS: Over 6,000 local voters cast ballots in Ogle County

From page 1

In the race for City of Byron ward 4 alderperson, Mittzi Fulrath (32 votes, 50.79 percent) narrowly defeated Kelly Neslund (31 votes, 49.21 percent) by one vote.

In a race for two Oregon city council member seats, Josiah Flanagan (314 votes, 42.49 percent) and Tim Krug (216 votes, 29.23 percent) claimed seats, defeating Kurt Wilson (209 votes, 28.28 percent).

In the race for three Village of Forreton Board of Trustees four-year seats, Mark Schweertman (110 votes, 19.78 percent), Vickye Norris (104 votes, 18.71 percent) and Brittany Busker (101 votes, 18.17 percent) were victorious over Kenneth Toms (88 votes, 15.83 percent), Mahmoud Zayed (84 votes, 15.11 percent) and Jeff Freeze (69 votes, 12.41 percent).

Ogle County saw seven contested township races, including Mark Rundle (387

votes, 62.92 percent) defeating Jordan D. Thibodeau (228 votes, 37.07 percent) for Byron Township highway commissioner.

For Leaf River Township highway commissioner, Tyler Wiltfang (262 votes, 63.75 percent) defeated Anthony Peterson (149 votes, 36.25 percent).

For Lynnville Township highway commissioner, Richard Drendel (85 votes, 47.49 percent) defeated David Mayer (53 votes, 29.61 percent) and Anthony



(PHOTO BY CHRIS GRIMM)

Ogle County as a whole saw an 18.7 percent voter turnout, with 6,450 ballots cast out of 34,449 total voters. 4,685 ballots were cast at the polls, 602 early ballots were cast, and 1,163 vote by mail ballots were cast.

Musselman (41 votes, 22.91 percent).

For Marion Township highway commissioner, Thomas Atchison (405 votes, 61.09 percent) defeated Nathan Summers (258 votes, 38.91 percent). In the race for four Marion Township trustee spots, Robert A. Behmer (550 votes, 25.08 percent), Dana Werckle (525 votes, 23.94 percent), Douglas E. Boyd (448 votes, 20.43 percent) and Arthur E. Smith (419 votes, 19.11 percent) were victorious over William Hagemann (251 votes, 11.45 percent).

For Mt. Morris Township supervisor, Cary Bennett (333 votes, 59.89 percent) defeated John Thompson (223 votes, 40.11 percent).

For Oregon-Nashua Township highway commissioner, Tim Leary (356 votes, 51.22 percent) defeated Joseph T. Ring (339 votes, 48.78 percent).

The Ogle County area

saw three contested school board races, including seven people seeking a total of six seats on the Meridian CUSD No. 223 Board of Education. Elected to two-year terms were John W. Smith III (678 votes, 47.05 percent) and Tim M. DeVries (763 votes, 52.95 percent). Elected to four-year terms were Cassie Jennings (651 votes, 20.81 percent), Alysia Behmer (724 votes, 23.15 percent), Matthew Rhodes (679 votes, 21.71 percent) and Jill L. Huber (648 votes, 20.72 percent). Falling short Tuesday was Roger Morrow (426 votes, 13.62 percent).

The Oregon CUSD No. 220 Board of Education saw four, four-year terms available with three candidates on the ballot earning board member positions: Mindy Nesemeier (1,206 votes, 34.57 percent), Michael Guzman (1,202 votes, 34.45 percent) and Bryan Wills (1,081 votes, 30.98 percent).

The potential of another candidate getting onto the board for the additional open spot through write-in votes will be determined after election results become official.

For three open four-year terms on the Byron CUSD No. 226 Board of Education, Christine Lynde (571 votes, 28.45 percent), Beth Shenberger (514 votes, 25.61 percent) and Jason D. Mondello (465 votes, 23.17 percent) earned board member positions over Hannah Miller-Hosseini (457 votes, 22.77 percent).

Ogle County as a whole saw an 18.7 percent voter turnout, with 6,450 ballots cast out of 34,449 total voters. 4,685 ballots were cast at the polls, 602 early ballots were cast, and 1,163 vote by mail ballots were cast.

The results of the April 1 consolidated election will be considered unofficial for the coming weeks until the results are certified.



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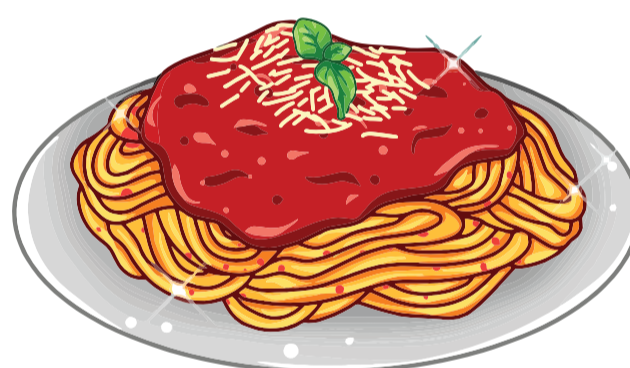
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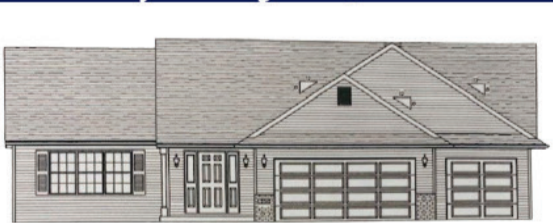
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Thomas Purple Sr.

PEARL CITY — Thomas Purple Sr., a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 2, 2025. Born on July 6, 1939, in Jasonville, Indiana, Thomas was a pillar of strength and kindness, leaving an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Thomas grew up in Sparland and Peoria Heights, where he developed a love for learning and a passion for country life. He attended Woodruff High School, where he excelled academically and was active in the band, playing the tuba and sousaphone. His commitment to education led him to Bradley University, where he earned a degree in History and English. Thomas's career was marked by dedication, innovation, and a deep sense of responsibility. He began

his educational career in 1961, teaching seventh and eighth-grade language arts at Spartan Senior Grade School in the Sipp-Rolling Acres School District. After a couple of years, he left to work for Bennett Publishing as a regional sales representative. However, the desire to teach was great, and he again found himself in the classroom back at Spartan Senior Grade School while furthering his education and obtaining a master's degree at Bradley, where he became interested in school administration. In 1967, he accepted the position of Superintendent and Principal of Riverview Grade School near Spring Bay, Illinois. At the age of 28, he was the youngest school superintendent in Illinois. He later moved on to the Pearl City School District in 1976 where he remained for nine years then to other school districts in northern Illinois

as their superintendent. He gained notoriety for being an expert in school finance and saving his school districts from economic failures. In 1993, Thomas officially retired from being a school superintendent; however, with his experience in school administration and finance, he took on several intermittent positions with other school districts until 1999, when he finally decided to stay retired. Thomas met the love of his life, Phyllis Schaffer, while they attended Woodruff High School, and they shared a beautiful marriage filled with love, laughter, and mutual respect. Together, they raised three children, instilling in them the values of hard work, compassion, and perseverance. Thomas was a devoted father who cherished family time, whether it was through family vacations, weekend cookouts on the farm, or simply sharing stories around the

dinner table. Phyllis passed away in 2022 after 63 years of marriage. Outside of his professional life, Thomas had a wide range of interests and hobbies. He loved country life and enjoyed living on his hobby farms, raising horses and other farm animals. He loved Civil War history and studying President Abraham Lincoln. He also loved to travel domestically and internationally. His passion for farm life was something he shared with his children, creating countless cherished memories. During his retirement Thomas and Phyllis traveled extensively and became snowbirds and spent the winters in Florida. Thomas was deeply involved in his community, always eager to lend a helping hand and make a difference. He was an active member of the Methodist Church in Stockton, Illinois, and other civic organizations

throughout his life and where they lived. Thomas's legacy is one of love, integrity, and unwavering dedication. He leaves behind a rich tapestry of memories, each one a testament to his character and the profound impact he had on those around him. His family and friends will forever cherish the moments they shared with him and strive to honor his memory by living out the values he embodied. Thomas is survived by his children, sons Thomas Jr. (Tina) of Cape Coral Florida, Steven (Brenda) of Pearl City, and daughter Christina (Patrick) Southwick of Byron. He was a loving and proud grandfather to Tyler (Andrea) Volkers, Brandie (Nick) Mowell, Ashley (Andrew) Gronewold, Ryan (Kaleb) Southwick, Amy (Nick) Mullens, Jeffrey (Sara) Purple, Jacquelyn (Samuel) Entrenza, and thirteen



great-grandchildren, and their exchange student Yuko Sugata from Japan. He is also survived by his youngest brother, James (Ellen) of Collegedale, TN. The family would also like to thank the staff at Winn Prairie and Serenity Hospice for the care they so lovingly provided. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 12th 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Zion Community Church, 10100 W. Sabin Church Rd, Pearl City, Illinois with a visitation beginning at 9:00 a.m. Burial will take place at Highland Cemetery in Pearl City.

RENOVATIONS: Grand re-opening of Byron High School facilities to be held this fall

From page 1

The stadium was dedicated in honor of Everett Stine on Aug. 25, 2012. Coach Stine served as head coach of varsity football for 37 years (1967-2003). Under Coach Stine's leadership, the team reached IHSAA state playoffs 15 times and won Byron's first state championship in 1999. 15 players earned all-state status. 66 players went on to play college football, 12 of them in NCAA Division I. Two players — Sean Considine and Troy Drake — went on to play in the National Football League. Coach Stine was inducted to the Illinois Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Byron Hall of Fame in 2012. Those who played for Coach Stine say that his greatest legacy was that he taught the game of life — hard work, teamwork, humbleness, family, preparedness, promptness, pride, and commitment to excellence.

The stadium's renovations will include installing new home bleachers with expanded ADA seating on the west side of the stadium, replacing the heavily worn six-lane track with a new eight-lane track to allow the district to once again host IHSAA events, turfing the sidelines of the field to protect the integrity of the new track surface, consolidating and relocating the field events to their own space near the pickleball courts, and implementing several other safety improvements to ensure that it remains a premier venue for athletic and community events. The district plans to host a re-dedication ceremony in the fall when construction is completed.

The Byron PE Center will also receive some much-needed repairs. The deteriorating indoor track surface will be replaced with a safer surface that will allow athletes to wear indoor cleats. Plans also include installing new drop-down batting cages, as well

as rehabbing the restrooms and tile. The PE Center serves both the school district and park district. It is a hub of activity all year long. Athletes of every age will benefit from these improvements.

The Byron Aquatic Center will undergo extensive renovations to improve the air quality and safety of the pool environment. The pool deck, starter blocks, diving board, timing software, and HVAC systems will all be replaced. Visitor entry will be re-configured to accommodate ADA seating and lighting and sound acoustics will be updated. The Byron Aquatic Center is home to the Byron swim & dive team and Tiger Sharks. It also serves as the pool for Byron Park District patrons and elementary students who are taught swimming as part of their physical education curriculum. The planned renovations will positively impact a wide range of individuals.

The district has finished several large projects in the past couple of years and they will continue to adjust their comprehensive plan to address as many projects as possible within the parameters of the financial strategy approved by the board of education. On Thursday, March 20, the board approved the sale of the bond which will finance these projects as well as pay for additional renovations at Byron High School which include the food service area and the

Student Services Office. The board intends to keep their tax rate stable despite selling bonds to finance the district's capital projects.

The district is planning to celebrate the grand re-opening of these facilities as well as recognize some extraordinary people who helped shape Byron excellence once the projects are completed in the fall. Superintendent

Buster Barton recognizes that projects of this nature are a huge undertaking but also a necessity, stating, "These vital spaces, which have served as the foundation for countless student achievements and community engagement, are undergoing updates to continue fostering excellence for generations to come."

The community can

look forward to future announcements communicating the details of each celebration.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Doris Rosenbalm

OREGON — Doris Rosenbalm, age 86, of Oregon, IL, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, March 29, 2025, surrounded by family and friends. Born on November 11, 1938, in Garden Plain, IL, she was the daughter of Leonard and Etta (Valk) Feldt. Doris moved to Thompson, IL, in the second grade, completed her education there, and then served as the school secretary for five years. She relocated to Oregon in 1961, married Bud in 1963, and embraced her role as a devoted stepmother to his five children. In 1977 she began her career at Benesh & Bruns, subsequently joined Bruns Transportation, and later at Steve Benesh & Sons, where she was currently employed. Doris was recognized as a dedicated and hardworking employee, successfully managing multiple roles during her career. She held a part-time position at Al's

Place from 1980 to 1995 and also provided support to Leonard and Joyce Bruns at their catering business, Oregon Power House. She was a regular at the Oregon VFW, which she considered her second family, where she played Lightning on Mondays, gathered every Friday evening and volunteered her time to assist with luncheons. Doris possessed a remarkable depth of knowledge and was regarded as a trusted confidant by many, fostering strong and meaningful friendships throughout her lifetime. She was predeceased by her parents Leonard and Etta Feldt, her sister Betty Balk, her infant brother, her son Daniel Rosenbalm, her daughter Debby Rosenbalm, and a nephew. She is survived by her son D. R. (Nancy) Rosenbalm of Oregon, IL; her 2 daughters Danna (John) Rosenbalm of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Dawn (Ron) Rosenbalm of Gilbert, Arizona;



many grandchildren and great grandchildren; 1 niece and 3 nephews. The funeral service for Doris will be held at 12:00 PM on Monday, April 7, 2025 at Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, 110 South 7th Street in Oregon, Illinois with Pastor Luke Schier officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10:30 to 12:00 PM. Burial will follow the service at the Daysville Cemetery near Oregon. A memorial fund is established in Doris's name for the Oregon VFW Post 8730. Visit www.farrellholandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Doris.

Kenneth Ray Robbins Sr.

FORRESTON — Kenneth Ray Robbins, Sr., 67, of Forreston IL, went home to be with his Lord and Savior in the early morning of Saturday, March 22, 2025 after a lifelong illness.

Ken was born on August 22, 1957 in Joliet IL to James and Betty (Winkler) Robbins. Ken married Elaine Mulder on September 22, 2003. They spent 22 strong and loving years together. Truly a marriage arranged by God in Heaven. Thank You Lord. He was a strong man who survived an entire lifetime of health issues, surpassing doctors expectations over and over again. He was never willing to give up and kept fighting, living his life to the fullest.

Ken had a heart for Jesus. He was an ordained minister, graduate of Liberty University and was always available to preach or perform ceremonies when called upon. Ken had a prison ministry. He helped many along the path to Jesus, counseling and giving hope to those in dark places. Family was important to Ken. He came from a large family that

enjoyed cooking and busy gatherings, having those dear to him very near. He loved fishing and outings with his children, family and friends. He loved riding his Harley and he was an amazing singer. He also enjoyed movies, camping, hunting, boating, nature, vintage cars, auctions and yard sales.

Ken spent most of his younger life in Joliet, IL, and Hemet, CA where he had many friends and acquaintances, whom he dearly loved. He had dear friends scattered all over the states. So many lives he touched. So many people he cared for. There is no doubt he will be remembered as someone who was well liked by all who met him and was always willing to help others. Everyone knew they could count on him to protect those he loved. Generous, kind and loving, Ken was truly loved beyond words and will be missed by all who knew him.

Preceded in death by his parents and dear brother James L. "Jimmy Lee" Robbins, Ozark MO. Survived by his loving wife



Elaine (Mulder) Robbins of Forreston IL, his children Kenneth R. Robbins, Jr. of Lanark IL, Bradley G. (Melinda) Robbins of Lanark IL, Kelly R. Robbins of Freeport IL, John L. (Rachel) Robbins of Pahoa, Big Island HI, his siblings, Edythe J. Shaw of Alex OK, Sheryl "Sherry" J. Houghton of Freeport, IL, Becky A. (Jackie) Weaver of Cisne, IL, James "Jamie" N. (Lisa) Robbins of Globe, AZ, Tymi L. (Jeff) Currans of Lanark IL, Henry "Hank" C. (Shannon) Robbins of Riverside CA and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held June 14th at Apple Canyon Lake, Apple Canyon IL.

Linda Sue Gillette

SOUTHERN SHORES, S.C. — Linda Sue Gillette of Southern Shores passed away on March 2, 2025. Linda was born in Oregon, IL on October 2, 1948. Early years were spent in Mt. Morris, IL, later moving to Milwaukee, WI, graduating high school there in 1966. Her considerable artistic ability began to manifest in high school as she designed various projects such as designing all the scenery for the musical play, The Sound of Music.

Linda entered the University of Wisconsin School of Fine Arts, completing her B.A. in Art with American University in 1974. She was a member of Mortar Board for academic achievement. She spent seven years living in Germany as she worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency in their printing operation. Returning to the US, she continued her DIA career, receiving numerous awards as she rose to higher levels of management. Among these was the Directors Award for Exceptional Civilian Services in 1996. Linda earned her Masters of Science in Strategic Intelligence in 1994. Upon

retiring in 1998, she and her beloved husband, Sam, moved to Southern Shores, NC. Here she continued her love of art- painting many pictures, furniture and jewelry. She also painted all the wonderful carvings done by her husband Sam. Linda's artwork was displayed throughout their home.

One of Linda's greatest joys was being part of the Blanketeers, a quilting group. The group sewed quilts for those in need, for both adults and children. She was quite prolific and made a quilt a week in the winter months. One of her biggest efforts, done with Sam, was Hattie- a black and white horse in the Winged Horse Extravaganza in the Outer Banks. Her artwork sold in galleries across the area bringing smiles to many people over the years. Linda was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

It's mission is to preserve American history, support veterans, and promote patriotism.

Linda was preceded in death by her husband, Sam and her mother, Judith Anne. She is survived by her



first cousins, David Mongan (Lorna) of Aurora, IL; first cousin, Karen M. Mongan of Oregon, IL; and five stepchildren, Sam Gillette, Jr. of Arlington, VA, Ann Paquette of Grandy, NC, David Gillette of Gaithersburg, MD, Craig Gillette of Washington, DC, and John Gillette of Raleigh, NC; five step-grandchildren, one great-step grandchild, and numerous extended family members and friends. We extend our thanks to special helpers: Deb Helber and Eddie Matthews, Gayle Booth, Nadine Christian and Mindy Hunter.

Linda's memorial service will be held at 12 noon March 15, 2025 at Gallop Funeral Chapel in Nags Head, NC. Friends may visit the family one-hour prior. Please leave a message of comfort at gallopfuneralservices.com. Gallop Funeral Services was entrusted with arrangements.

Paul N. Branscomb

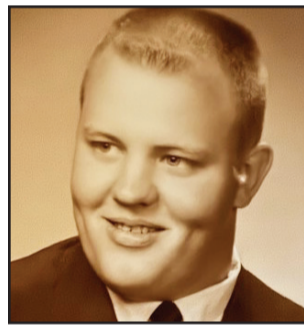
MT. MORRIS — Paul N. Branscomb, age 76, passed suddenly on March 26, 2025 in Swedish American Hospital, Rockford, IL. Paul was born on July 30, 1948 in Unionville, MO, the son of L. Paul & Eleanor (Douglas) Branscomb. Paul graduated from Leaf River High School, Leaf River, IL. He married Deborah Ingram on September 22, 1972 in Leaf River, IL. Paul worked as a machinist for Rockwell Inc. retiring in 2000.

Paul coached little league baseball in Leaf River, like watching the Chicago Bears and Chicago White Sox, but

most of all he loved his time with his grandchildren and having get togethers with his family.

Paul is survived by his wife: Debroah; sons: Chris (Stacy) Robertson and Craig (Amy) Branscomb; grandchildren: Amber Starbuck, Andrew Robertson, Abby Branscomb, Abel Branscomb, and Kane Branscomb; brothers: Kevin (Linda) Branscomb, Roger (Deborah) Branscomb, and Calvin Branscomb; sisters: Ramona (Chet) Mattingley and Judy (Jerry) Stults.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents; 4 nephews;



and 1 niece. A celebration of life will be held on April 13, 2025 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Leaf River Complex. Cremation rites have been accorded with Finch Funeral Home, 405 East Hitt, Mt. Morris, IL.

Judith Carol Martin Hollenbeck

OREGON — Judith Carol Martin Hollenbeck, 80, passed away on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Oregon Living & Rehabilitation Center of Oregon, IL with her loving daughters by her side. Judy was born on March 27, 1945, in Oregon, Illinois, the daughter of Robert and Pauline (Voss) Martin. She graduated from Oregon High School in 1963. Always loving learning, Judy returned to school as an adult to become a Registered Nurse. She graduated from Sauk Valley College in 1985. She loved collecting Old Glory and Oregon memorabilia. Judy leaves a legacy of laughter, love, and many unforgettable memories.

Judy is survived by her

two daughters Kathleen Groenhagen, Oregon, IL and Susan (Michael) Maddox, Hawthorn Woods, IL. Her five grandchildren are Emily (Tate) Truitt, Yukon, OK; Daniel (Morgan) Groenhagen, Oregon, IL; Bryce Maddox, Hawthorn Woods, IL; Jonathan Groenhagen, Oregon, IL; and Sarah Groenhagen, Urbana, IL, and great-granddaughter, Brinlee Groenhagen. She is also survived by her brothers, Bill Martin, Glenn (Toni Hughes) Martin, Wes (Tammy) Martin, and Jerry (Donna) Martin, as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Rob-



ert and Pauline Martin; brothers Richard Martin, Russell Martin, and Emmitt Martin; sister Barbara, her husband James Kirchner, Ruby Schier, and sister-in-law Lynn Martin.

The family would like to thank the Oregon Living and Rehabilitation staff for the wonderful care and friendship they have provided through the years.

A visitation will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM at Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. A funeral service led by her daughters will take place beginning at 11:00 AM at the Farrell Holland Gale Funeral Home of Oregon, IL. Following the services at the funeral home Judith will be laid to rest at Riverview Cemetery of Oregon, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Oregon Living and Rehabilitation, Oregon Fire Protection District, or Serenity Hospice and Home. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in Judith's memory please visit www.farrellholandgale.com.

Byron Forest Preserve hires new executive director

BYRON — The Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners have hired a new executive director. The board and staff would like to congratulate and welcome Andrew Hawkins to the Byron Forest Preserve District.

Andrew brings over twenty-seven years of experience in parks, recreation and environmental man-

agement and has served most recently as director of conservation with the Forest Preserve District of Will County for the past 17 years. Andrew is originally from Fairfield, Illinois and was drawn to this position as Fairfield and Byron are similar in size with a strong sense of community.

Andrew was officially announced as executive



Andrew Hawkins
director at the regular board meeting on Monday, March 17.

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*Reflecting on the 10 years since the EF4 tornado
tore through Ogle County*



ROCHELLE
News-Leader

OGLE COUNTY
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“That’s what rural communities do, they check on each other. That’s what we continue to do.”
Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle



VanVickle reflects on EF4 tornado near Rochelle as 10-year anniversary approaches

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — One of Brian VanVickle’s most vivid memories from the 2015 EF4 tornado that hit rural Rochelle was a phone call with his mother. “She called me and said, ‘I think your house got hit,’” VanVickle said. “I said, ‘Yeah, it did.’ Because I had already talked to my brother in law. She was just trying to be a mom. I just told her everyone was OK, and that things can be replaced. I said I had to go to work and hung up the phone.”

April 9 is the 10-year anniversary of the tornado that brought 200 mile per hour winds that damaged 179 structures and demolished 30 homes near Rochelle. There were no fatalities in the local area and most injuries were minor. The tornado first touched down in Lee County west of Ashton before destroying most of its 30 homes in a subdivision northwest of Flagg Center. The twister then cut a northeasterly path through Ogle County to the small DeKalb County village of Fairdale where two women were killed and most homes devastated.

VanVickle owned one of the homes that was destroyed near Rochelle and headed up most of the first responders that day.

“It’s still emotional to think about,” VanVickle said. “Those are the phone calls you remember. I remember my brother in law calling and saying both of our houses were gone. And then a couple days later on Saturday you remember all of the people that came out to help.”

The National Weather service had released information about potential severe weather in the area several days prior to the tornado, VanVickle said. Local officials were told that if the sun came out in the early afternoon, a bad storm would follow. That was the case, and VanVickle recalls ramping up preparations when warning signs started to show.

During the weeks before the tornado, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office was preparing for one of its nuclear plant emergency drills. Those plans were put to use sooner than expected.

“That night I went to a meeting in Dixon,” VanVickle said. “We’re used to thunderstorms here, but the sky was coal black. The storm started near where we were in Dixon. Shortly after that, all of the information started to come in. We rolled our nuclear response plans with barricades and everything we do with that into the response to the tornado. We used all those preplans for the tornado that night. Our first priority on a night like that is life safety issues. It’s making sure the people that were injured received the support they needed.”

VanVickle said he was thankful there were no deaths and minimal injuries. He believes that can be attributed to warnings and messaging put out ahead of the storm with information from the National

Weather Service.

Recovery efforts took place in the days that followed the tornado. Relief groups came to the area including nongovernmental organizations like Samaritan’s Purse, which VanVickle thanked for having the community’s best interest at heart and trying to get people on the road to recovery.

VanVickle estimates he slept about eight hours total in the three days after the weather event. He recalls people coming to the site of his home to help with things he couldn’t, because he was busy with sheriff responsibilities.

“There was a big community outreach,” VanVickle said. “And it wasn’t just for my family. It was for everybody. I remember being at the old high school parking lot with 2,000 or however many volunteers there were that morning. Samaritan’s Purse helped with organizing that. Those weren’t just people from Rochelle or Ogle County. Those people were from all over the midwest. That meant a lot to us, the people coming out.”

As the area finds itself in storm season again this year, VanVickle said his office continues to be prepared for emergencies. He believes Ogle County has become a leader in emergency management for rural communities because of its past response to real world events and its regular nuclear plant drills.

Technology in storm preparation has made strides in the past 10 years, VanVickle said. The Ogle County Dispatch Center now has a dashboard with storm trackers and live radar. There is new development in public alert and warning systems where alarms can be sent to cell phones.

“We were prepared that day and as we move forward into storm season again, we’re even better prepared now with different and additional technology and resources,” VanVickle said. “When it strikes that close to home like it did that day, you don’t take those warnings lightly. You continue to try to make sure that everybody has the best information going forward.”

VanVickle was in office as sheriff for a total of four months before the tornado hit. He said he was fortunate to have been through drills beforehand and that his office had a veteran command staff in place with people that knew what their roles were in a disaster.

Stories of lost items from the area on April 9, 2015 are in no short supply. Items from rural Rochelle were found all the way on the shore of Lake Michigan.

“The craziest story we had was, when my son was little, my grandfather gave him a Boston Celtics jersey



Just four months into his tenure as Ogle County Sheriff, Brian VanVickle was tasked with leading the response to the EF4 tornado that hit rural Rochelle.

(2015 FILE PHOTOS)



for his birthday,” VanVickle said. “It was small and on a hanger. A girl from my daughter’s volleyball team found it after the tornado and it was still on the hanger. And it was clean as could be. That’s wild to me, having a piece of clothing still on a hanger and not dirty and found 45-50 miles away.”

VanVickle has multiple generations of family history in Rochelle. That meant when the tornado happened, he knew pretty much everyone that suffered losses. The good that came with that bad was that when he went to their door to check on those people, they saw a familiar face.

“We did that with everyone that was impacted,” VanVickle said. “We checked on them multiple times. That’s what you do. That’s what rural communities do, they check on each other. That’s what we continue to do. I think the biggest takeaway from it for me was that everybody was OK and things can be replaced. Just like what I told my mom when she called me after the tornado. At the end of the day, that’s always our goal, to make sure that everybody is safe. Houses can be replaced. Possessions can be bought again. But people can’t.”



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RFD's Sawlsville on 2015 tornado response:

'It was absolutely crazy the way that call evolved'



Current RFD chief was lieutenant on duty, responded to Flagg Center and Grubsteakers

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE —

After hearing a report that a tornado had hit northwest of Rochelle on April 9, 2015, then-Rochelle Fire Department Dave Sawlsville left the RFD fire station with a crew heading towards that area. While on Illinois Route 251, they saw it for themselves.

"When we got to Flagg Road I could see the tornado north of town moving to the east," Sawlsville, now RFD's chief, said. "You could see it clear as a bell. And we were sitting at the intersection watching it and it wasn't even raining on us. We went west on Flagg Road towards the area that was hit. That was when we saw the devastation. Houses were leveled."

RFD personnel arrived on scene prepared to administer care to anyone in need. Amid all of the destruction, they found no fires, gas leaks or injuries in the areas of Skare Court and Cherry Hill.

One individual had to be helped from a basement in Cherry Hill, but there was no house above it to free them from. Only a ladder was required. The EF4 tornado damaged 179 structures in Ogle County and destroyed 20-30 homes in rural Rochelle after winds reached over 200 miles per hour.

"It was absolutely crazy the way that call evolved," Sawlsville said. "Nobody was missing. With that kind of devastation you expect to see injuries, and there was just nothing."

RFD and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District personnel were then called to Grubsteakers restaurant at 14698 Illinois Route 64 for a report of people trapped in its basement after the

tornado hit the building.

One individual was found injured outside at that location and transported to an area hospital. 12 people were trapped in the basement for nearly 90 minutes before RFD, OLFPD and Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Protection District personnel freed them.

"The building had substantial damage but the floor joists held," Sawlsville said. "They were just trapped. There were no other injuries. We cleared the basement doorway and 12 people walked out of that structure. As you're approaching the scene and that restaurant is gone, you think, 'Oh my God.' You wonder if it's going to be a building collapse with search and rescue and what it's going to take to move the debris. You have to figure out what you're actually dealing with. We could have needed big cranes. But all we needed was a chain-saw. You walk around the building three times and know what you need to do to help people. The owner of the restaurant herded all the customers outside and into the basement through an exterior door."

Sawlsville said that with immediate limited resources and after seeing the large tornado making its way east earlier on, the ride down Flagg Road towards the damaged area was a long one.

"Because we didn't know what was waiting for us when we got there," Sawlsville said. "Am I going to have five houses on fire or people laying in the street? We didn't know. We didn't know what we'd need. We wanted to get it right whether it was for fires or injuries or both. It took us two minutes to get there and see. But it felt like 20 minutes. We very quickly realized that what we needed was just ac-

countability of all of the people."

Sawlsville attributes the lack of injuries on April 9, 2015 to people taking weather warnings seriously and getting to safe places in their homes. He said the community members impacted made sure their neighbors knew the seriousness of the situation.

The RFD chief is thankful that people were prepared and that the tornado didn't then shift towards more densely-populated areas.

"It was a sight to behold," Sawlsville said. "It's one of those 'Could have been' things. There are schools and mobile home communities that could have been in the path. The tornado covered a lot of farm ground and an occasional farm house. If you have to have an EF4, you want it to stay out in rural areas. We were incredibly fortunate."

After helping people at Grubsteakers, first responders cleared farmhouses and structures in the path of the tornado. Neighboring fire departments then started to arrive in the area to strengthen the response. After nobody else was found to be missing or injured, debris removal became the next task.

The next morning yielded mutual aid task forces, volunteers from relief organizations Samaritan's Purse and The Red Cross, community members and area contractors to help with cleanup.

"The debris removal was very organized and methodical and there was a lot of volunteer help," Sawlsville said. "We got our arms around where to send people if they wanted to make donations. We didn't anticipate 1,800 volunteers showing up. That was awesome. You have to support that effort



with things like portable restrooms and food. We had a command center at the Flagg Center fire station and had incoming fire departments report there. Local restaurants sent so much food out there for first responders, which was awesome to see. There's a tremendous amount of resources out there to help. You just have to tap into them and be able to support them."

Sawlsville said he believes the emergency response system worked well in response to the tornado. The experience gave area first responders a chance to learn for potential future events like it.

RFD's chief says he now feels more prepared for spring storms due to that experience, with improved warning technology and the community now knowing from experience to take them

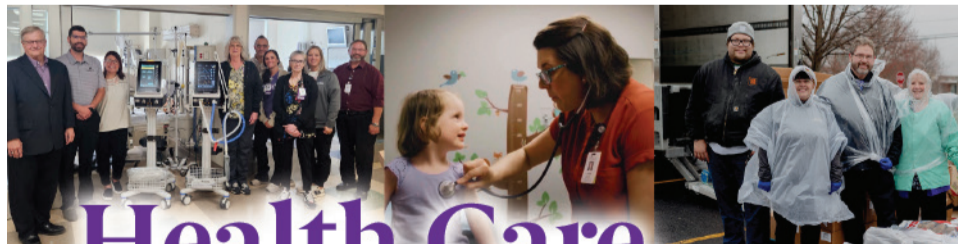
seriously. 10 years later, Sawlsville still marvels at the outpouring of support from the community following the tornado.

"It was awesome to see," Sawlsville said. "And not just in big ways, but in so many small ways. Local contractors showed up with heavy equipment to clear large debris. Ordinary citizens showed up with their work gloves to pick up debris and were raking people's lawns. Samaritan's Purse was a great organization and showed up with hundreds of people. Within four days, other than the buildings that were gone, you would not have known a tornado had hit. It just looked like a subdivision that was under construction. It was a sight to see."

Outside of his capacity with RFD, Sawlsville does disaster response work around the country.

He's seen firsthand how disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes and wildland fires are becoming more severe. He wants the community to understand what that means.

"I would encourage people to be aware of their surroundings and what's going on with the weather," Sawlsville said. "We're seeing crazy events that we've never seen before. And I believe they're only going to continue to get worse. It's probably time to have more of those preparatory conversations. Tell your kids when those sirens go off, it's time to go. That day, we were all hands on deck and maxed out in terms of capabilities. Our goal is always to help people, but there's only so much we can do right off the bat. Whatever you can do to prepare and help yourself can give us a good start."



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Former RACF executive director reflects on fundraising work following 2015 EF4 tornado

By Jeff Helfrich
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Following an April 9, 2015 EF4 tornado that damaged 179 structures in Ogle County and destroyed 20-30 homes in rural Rochelle after winds reached over 200 miles per hour, then-Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Kim Montgomery knew someone had to step up to assist with the fundraising work that was going to take place.

“Everyone was in shock,” Montgomery said. “I knew people were going to want to make contributions to help those affected. I called our RACF board chairman about responding to it and getting involved. The board was in favor of stepping up as an organization that would accept contributions to support the people affected by the tornado. I think we held that money and distributed it actively for about a year. We didn’t immediately see who was going to do that for people here. So we decided to step up.”

In the year that followed the tornado, RACF opened a fund for the long-term recovery and collected \$542,823.83. Donations came in from individuals locally and across the country and many organizations in the state.

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation raises funds for various dedicated

“It was absolutely amazing what took place and how the community pulled together.”



community causes and provides caretaker services for the funds. It was established in 2005 for donors big and small.

“Raising that kind of money and doing it in that way was different for us,” Montgomery said. “RACF typically handles specific funds that are invested and not given right away. There wasn’t another local organization that was ready and able to help like RACF was. It was daunting to step into that role. We were all volunteers when we were working on all of that. I learned a lot. I was very thankful to do it and that we had so many other organizations and people to help. We all just put our heads down and worked.”

The fundraising and organization work became more than RACF expected with donations flooding in. Montgomery said the Rochelle nonprofit sought guidance from the Council on Foundations and other community foundations in Illinois that had done similar work helping with disasters.

The funds were dispersed using a Red Cross system where affected residents did interviews on the losses they suffered that resulted in reports. RACF established committees of community members that resourced items besides money that were needed and reviewed cases of those affected and assigned funding for them.

All of the funding distribution was done anonymously to ensure fairness.

“It was a complicated process, but we were lucky to have the resources we had,” Montgomery said. “In the end it worked out well and we wouldn’t have done it any other way. Because it was anonymous, we didn’t know who was getting the money. It was all confidential. But we could all see the rebuilding and recovery. I just felt good that we were able to help.

My role was just to help with making sure things were organized and that we were keeping records and I helped to lead the committees that worked on it.”

Montgomery called the donations that came in for the relief fund “overwhelming.” Large amounts of mail were seen and donations small and large came from all over the United States and outside the country.

“Money came from people that didn’t even know anyone in Rochelle or anything about the city,” Montgomery said. “I was blown away by the generosity. And we obviously had some big donors locally and so many people helped out from here.”

RACF held onto the remaining funds until two years passed and used what was left over to establish a fund for future disaster relief. Montgomery called the experience as a whole and seeing the community come together “absolutely amazing.”

Montgomery was part-time in her position at RACF. After working her regular 20 hours a week, she continued to volunteer on the tornado disaster relief project along with the board members and other community volunteers that helped with it. She estimates she worked 12-14-hour days for seven days a week for about six months on the project. Montgomery retired from RACF in 2021.

“It’s up there in terms of things I’m proudest of from my time at RACF,” Montgomery said. “In terms of impact, it’s the most impactful work we did. That experience and my entire experience with RACF as a whole made me feel really good about Rochelle. The people’s generosity and the way they pulled together to try to help others and make them feel whole again was heartwarming. Rochelle is a great community and its leadership was fabulous and great to work with.”





Natural disasters

Prepare for the unexpected!

Has a weather event caused a power outage? FIND OUT HOW TO STAY SAFE

From violent winds and thunderstorms to ice storms and tornadoes, power outages are common when Mother Nature gets out of control. What should you do when such a situation arises? Here are a few things to always keep in mind.

First, unplug all your appliances, tools and electronic devices to avoid a power surge when the power comes back on. Also, turn off all the lights except one inside and one outside your home. This way, you'll know when the power outage is over.

If you use candles for lighting, place them in stable candleholders, away from items that could catch fire. And above all, don't leave them unattended.

Never use outdoor appliances, such as charcoal or propane barbecues or camp stoves, indoors for heating or cooking. These devices can cause potentially fatal carbon monoxide poisoning if not adequately vented.



If the power outage lasts a long time and happens in winter, you must leave your home and take essential items, such as medication, identity papers, money and clothing. Contact your municipality to find out about temporary accommodation.

Wind is a powerful force that can be both beneficial and damaging. While it helps pollinate plants, generate energy and propel sailboats, excessive wind can also lead to significant destruction and put your safety at risk. Here are a few practical tips on protecting yourself during tornadoes and other violent windstorms.

INDOORS

When indoors during a windstorm:

- Stay away from windows and doors, as they could suddenly burst open.
- Take refuge in a small, closed room, like a bathroom, on the ground floor of your home. Better yet, go to the basement or get under a solid piece of furniture.
- Use the stairs rather than the elevators if you're in a building.

OUTDOORS

When outside during a windstorm:

- If possible, enter a building with a solid roof. Avoid large buildings where the roof could collapse, such as churches or barns.
- If you find yourself in an open area, look for a deeper spot, like a ditch. Lie flat on your stomach and hold onto your head to protect it.
- Stay away from bodies of water, as the wind could create large waves.

If your local authority informs you that you must evacuate your home, follow the instructions without hesitation. After all, your safety is at stake!

What to do in a flood

When facing flash floods, torrential rain or a burst dam, it's crucial to react appropriately to ensure your safety and protect your property. Here's a checklist of what to do before, during and after a flood.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES
Tip the odds in your favour by following these recommendations:

- If you have a basement, caulk around the windows.
- Ensure your eavestroughs direct water as far away from your property as possible.
- Install a sump pump and floor drains with non-return valves. Make sure to test them regularly.

If the situation is imminent or has just begun:

- Place sandbags and polyethylene membranes in front of entrances and openings if your municipality recommends.
- Turn off basement heaters.
- Turn off propane valves, if applicable.
- Block the sewer lines if you don't have a valve.
- Elevate your belongings in the basement, including electronics, furniture and important documents. Move toxic products, like insecticides, to the upper floors of your home.
- Switch off the electricity supply if, and only if, the area is completely dry.
- Follow the authorities' instructions, especially if they order you to evacuate your home. In this case, leave your home calmly and take your emergency kit, which includes everything you need for 72 hours.



UNSUSPECTED DANGERS
It's also important to be aware of specific actions that should be avoided during a flood. For example, crossing a flooded area on foot is extremely dangerous, as you could fall and be swept away by the current.

The same warning applies to travelling by car. The water may be deeper and the current more powerful than you think. If your car breaks down in a place where the water level is rising rapidly, don't hesitate to abandon it and flee the scene.

SAFE RETURN
If a flood has damaged your property and you had to evacuate, you mustn't return until you've obtained permission from the civil authorities. If necessary, you should also contact a qualified electrician. Once you have permission to return, assess the damage by taking photos and videos. After that, contact your insurer and hire a disaster cleanup company to help with the cleanup process.

Remember these tips if you're ever in this type of situation.

Tornadoes, hurricanes and violent winds: practical advice



DID YOU KNOW?
Cars and mobile homes are not safe places to take refuge in the event of a tornado or other violent wind event.

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On April 21, 1966, a bar crawl in New York's West Village led to what became known as the "Sip-In," when Dick Leitsch, Craig Rodwell and John Timmons publicly identified as gay and demanded to be served regardless, defying an unofficial but widespread practice of banning gay

customers from bars.

* On April 22, 1992, dozens of sewer explosions caused by a gas leak, the warning signs of which were ignored by both the government and the national oil company in Guadalajara, Mexico, killed more than 200 people and damaged 1,000 buildings.

Letter: The unsettledness of American life and politics

DEAR editor, American life is unsettled. American political culture is disturbing. Each day brings some new crisis and opportunity for our common life to become more chaotic. The issue defies description as Republican desire for change versus Democratic appeal for the maintenance of public institutions. While I do wish that MAGA influence on the Republican party was greatly diminished and the Democratic party would become a party of both opposition and vision, the current state of affairs cannot solely be defined as a political party struggle. By observation I must state that the struggle is over how we define American life, American virtue and American values. How shall we address these elements? Shall we be guided by revenge, retaliation and retribution or by reconciliation, restoration and redemption. Which promotes a healthy

common and public life? Revenge is a dish best not served at all. Those who eat of this meal are never nourished but remain hungry and unsatisfied. It is far better to consider how we are neighbors to one another than to waste time and energy determining who is worthy of our attention. I do not understand destroying the symbolism of the Statue of Liberty and replacing that with a section of southern border wall and a \$5 million Visa card to describe immigration into the United States. This is no small matter to us.

I do not advocate for a return to what once was. I desire what shall be. Can a nation conceived in liberty and promising freedom long endure? Shall we continue to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people? The direction of our public life matters, as does our purpose as a nation.

Rev. Ronald Larson,
Mt. Morris

Facing the fear and anxiety of the unknown

ALMOST everybody worries about what will happen in the future. The prospect of not knowing if something good or bad will happen can produce a lot of fear and anxiety.

As a result, here are seven ways on how to deal with the fear of the unknown.

1. No one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you fear does happen there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.

For instance, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.

2. Take it one day at a time: Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or coming months, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems. When the time comes, hopefully you will have learned the skills to deal with your situation.

3. Use Self-Visualization: Sometimes, we can get anxious over a task that we will have to perform in the near future. When this happens, visualize yourself doing the task in your mind. For instance, you have to play in the championship volleyball game in front of a large group of people in the next few days. Before the big day comes, imagine yourself playing the game in your mind. By doing this, you will be better prepared when the time comes.

4. Take a break: Take

a deep breath and try to find something to do to get your mind off of your anxieties and stresses. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, watch TV, play on the computer, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things. This will distract you from your current worries.

5. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking: When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or depressed, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense. Focus on the reality of your situation and not on your thoughts.

6. Worrying can make the problem worse: All the worrying in the world will not change anything. All you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and when something does happen, take it in stride. If you still have trouble dealing with the fear of the future, then talking to a counselor or clergyman can be of great help.

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

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.managing-fear.com>

Politics as psychotherapy

PSYCHOTHERAPY isn't the same thing as politics. I'm convinced, though, that politicians and political parties need to respect some of its basic principles, if they want to earn and keep the support of the people.

Psychotherapy wasn't a core part of my 30-year career as a school psychologist, but, about 40 years ago, I practiced therapy on a limited basis within and outside of my job with the schools. That modest level of involvement lasted for only a few years and I don't claim the expertise of a career therapist. It did nevertheless provide a set of principles that I've found to be valuable in my work as a school psychologist, my personal life, and my column.

My approach to working with individuals and families back then was centered around the idea of resistance. Maybe a less judgmental word for it would be homeostasis, which comes from the field of biology. It's the tendency of all living things to resist outside pressures that threaten to change their internal workings. Heat regulation is one example: the way our bodies work to stay between 97 and 99 degrees Fahrenheit in resistance to fluctuating temperatures on

the outside.

Homeostasis or resistance also happens when someone comes to a therapist for help — or, for that matter, when a political party tries to help a nation move toward change. A problem behavior may be causing distress, but a person wouldn't keep doing it if it didn't serve some purpose, consciously or otherwise. A person — or a nation — will resist change until he's convinced, at a conscious and unconscious level, that it's safe to do so.

My approach to therapy was grounded in an acknowledgement that the client's resistance was more powerful than I was. It had homeostasis on its side and veto power over any changes that I might recommend. I tried to enter the client's mental model of the world, the beliefs and fears that were the source of his resistance to change, and to operate within it.

I recall a story about famed hypnotherapist Milton Erickson that's a beautiful example of entering the client's world view. He was the director of a mental institution at the time. One of the residents, who insisted that he was Jesus Christ,

refused to participate in the institution's therapeutic woodworking shop.

The staff asked Dr. Erickson to talk to him, and he quickly overcame the client's resistance by saying, "I hear you're a carpenter." The resident could hardly disagree and willingly participated in the workshop.

The key to overcoming resistance in a client, a voter, or a nation is to enter their world-view. We'll then discover a positive intention, however misguided it may seem, underlying their resistance. Phobias are an obvious example — they seem to protect the person from being exposed to situations that he sees as threatening.

My goal as a therapist was to find the positive intention behind the client's resistance, to show appreciation for its efforts to protect him, and to reassure him that I wouldn't introduce any changes until he was ready for them. A therapist who admits to powerlessness against a person's resistance can then become powerful as its ally, working from within to find a solution.

A political party must likewise respect a voter's or a nation's resistance

to change, recognize the positive intent behind it, and create solutions that are responsive to it. The history of both political parties is one of disregarding the importance of homeostasis and resistance; failing to work from within the world-view of persuadable voters; overinterpreting supposed mandates; enacting policies that the public wasn't ready to accept; and then suffering defeat at the next election.

The Democratic Party came to an end of this cycle last November. The Republican Party is now at stage one, as it enacts one unpopular policy after another under the delusion that it has a mandate. The Democratic and Republican parties must enter the world-view and adopt the language of the majority of the nation, instead of speaking to their MAGA and Progressive bases, if they hope to escape that cycle and become authentic voices of the American people.

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

Letter to Editor: Huey Long

DEAR editor, Huey Long was born in Louisiana. As young man (disagreeing with principal, did not finish high school) he worked as travelling salesman. He got to know people around the state: what they were concerned about (mainly poverty) and what they wanted (money and voice in government). Still young, he got himself elected to a minor board of commissioners. He spoke publicly, bashing large corporations and wealthy, and saying he would represent common people and spend state money for public works, etc. to employ unemployed. He used microphone with speakers to reach assembled crowds, and also radio. He quickly rose from unknown to popular champion of common people. He was elected governor. He continued regular radio talks. With personal popularity and shrewd maneuvering, he gained personal control of all branches of state government; in Louisiana he was king. He was impeached for violating constitution but, defended by eight lawyers, was acquitted. He chose crony to run for governor while he ran for federal Senator; both were elected. In Senate, he gave frequent soak-the-rich-give-to-poor speeches, but was not involved in legislation and was disliked by other senators. 1935, he was widely expected to run for President. But, a few months before election, as his Louisiana political opposition was stymied from representation, he was cut down by assassin's bullet.

Now another populist is President. Did he say anything about tax rich, give to poor? No, his program is to reduce taxes (mostly benefiting rich people) and reduce any programs involved with spending government money for the people. What is motivation for Trump's actions? You do not need to wonder: Trump's Director of Management and Budget is author of Project 2025 report (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_2025). Trump's plan is all there.

"As Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem vows to 'eliminate FEMA,' the agency is in turmoil, with disaster assistance, grant money, and hiring largely stalled, threatening its ability to respond to major disasters," (CNN)

"US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order aiming to begin dismantling Department of Education. It oversees funding for public schools, administers student

loans and runs programs that help low-income students." (BBC)

"Consumer Protection Bureau, long a target of Republicans' ire, is facing dramatic cuts by the Trump administration." (Politico)

"US Department of Health and Human Services announced Thursday that it is cutting 10,000 full-time employees across health agencies, department told CNN. This comes on top of 10,000 employees who've left voluntarily. In addition, there are about 5,200 probationary workers, who have been in their positions less than a year or two and were terminated last month" (CNN) Dr. Georges Benjamin, execu-

tive director of American Public Health Association, said morale at public health agencies was already 'lowest it's ever been' as people struggle with heavy workloads. With confirmation of staffing cuts and defunding of state health agencies, Benjamin said American life expectancy would almost certainly get worse, not better, as a result of these changes. 'I've done big reorganizations before. You have to do them very, very carefully, very deliberately. Every time you move boxes around, every time you downsize or upsize organizations, you make them dysfunctional for some period of time,' he said." (CNN) "Kennedy has a long history of spreading anti-vaccine misinformation, although during his Senate confirmation hearings he seemed to say he would not undermine vaccines." (AP News) "Dr. Peter Marks, Food and Drug Administration's top vaccine regulator has resigned. A person familiar with the matter told NBC News that Marks was forced out. Marks wrote that undermining confidence in vaccines is 'irresponsible, detrimental to public health, and a clear danger to our nation's health, safety, and security.'" (NBC News)

"Around the nation, doctors, lawmakers, advocates and patients are watching anxiously as Republicans in Congress consider proposals to slash billions of dollars from federal Medicaid funding as they look to offset trillions in proposed tax cuts. . . . Nearly a fifth of Americans rely on Medicaid." (Stateline)

"Trump administration blocks more than \$400M in funding for Illinois health programs" (Capitol News Illinois)

"Federal cuts squeeze already-struggling food banks, school lunch programs." (Stateline)

"In past month, Trump administration has announced a flurry of changes at the agency that administers Social Security. Among these changes are plans to cut thousands of jobs, close offices and enact new policy — including more stringent identity checks that could require in-person office visits. For years, advocates say Social Security Administration has struggled to keep up with its growing workload. Besides retirement services, agency runs programs that provide survivor benefits and disability benefits and supplemental income for very poor." (National Public Radio) "New requirements that Social Security recipients access key benefits online or in person at a field office, rather than on phone, would be nearly impossible to meet without help. But advocates say changes will disproportionately impact most vulnerable Americans. It will be harder to visit field offices in rural areas with high poverty rates. Often these are same areas that lack widespread internet service. Many Social Security field offices are also being shut That could mean seniors have to travel even farther to visit." (AP News)

Would this activity have gotten votes for Huey Long? Or votes now from you?

Henry Tideman,
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 NEWS

BENNIE BASEBALL: ‘We just wanted to give kids an affordable and accessible option to train’

From page 1

Bennie Baseball is a South Beloit, Wisconsin-based baseball academy for youth and high school players and has a travel program as well. More information including membership details can be found online at benniebaseball.com or by calling (815) 561-6567 or emailing hithub@benniebaseball.com.

“We just wanted to give kids an affordable and accessible option to train,” Owner Joe Bennie said. “There are so many expenses with travel baseball. We run a business with travel baseball and we understand that. We just wanted a place that kids can go to and train year around every day. There are also benefits in camps that are offered here. They have

a place they can actually afford and get a lot of work in at any time. Hopefully everyone loves it.”

The ribbon cutting was hosted by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. Speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera and City of Rochelle Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey.

Herrera welcomed HitHub on behalf of the chamber on March 27.

“We’re very excited to celebrate here today,” Herrera said. “Several months back, we started talking about this building and Joe reached out and we talked about what this location was going to be and all of the things that it was going to offer. We were very excited. Any time you can add a business to Rochelle,

we’re always excited by that. But any time you can add something that is going to help our youth and give them something to do, that’s an added bonus. On behalf of the chamber of commerce, we welcome you and wish you many years of success here.”

Shaw-Dickey said March 27 that she was excited about the impact that HitHub will have on the youth baseball organizations in the community.

“I’m so excited to be here,” Shaw-Dickey said. “I’ve spent a lot of years in this building, before it looked like this, with baseball practices. The fact that you’re coming to the community and investing in the community and the kids is amazing. I’ve heard such great things from the kids



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Bennie Baseball is a South Beloit, Wisconsin-based baseball academy for youth and high school players and has a travel program as well. More information can be found online at benniebaseball.com.

and families who are already participating. Thank you for that. We’re so excited to have you here. If there’s anything we can do for you, please reach out. Welcome to Rochelle. We couldn’t be

happier to have you.”

Bennie Baseball Instructor Jaden Dixon said the facility will have 24/7 access.

“We want to make it accessible for everyone at any time, especially high

school players with driver’s licenses,” Dixon said. “Or if kids just want to come here and hang out with their friends and get some hitting and work in. It’s great for everyone.”



Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club participates in Day of Dabbling

On March 22, the Ogle County 4-H Day of Dabbling took place at the Oregon Church of God. Day of Dabbling is an event that allows local youth to try different hands-on activities. Four members of the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club participated in the event. David Bagwell and Finn Slattery participated in the different classes that were available. Lydia Sherburne led a STEM Building Sets class helped by 4-H member Gianni Racanelli. Other activities that were available included crocheting, sewing, crafting, cake decorating, experimenting with cooking, drawing, photo editing and many science-related classes involving geology, bugs, sound and other fun activities. Everyone who participated had a good time. Pictured is Slattery having fun with magna tiles and Racanelli and Sherburne setting up for class.

(Courtesy photos)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 12: Let Freedom Ring and The Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center will be hosting an Adult Egg Hunt on the Mt. Morris Campus on April 12. Sign in is from 7:30-7:55 p.m., with the hunt beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and participants must be over 18 years old. Prizes will be awarded for winning eggs and golden eggs. We will also have a door prize. To purchase tickets call The Center at 815-734-6335 or

stop by Mt. Morris Village Hall at 105 W. Lincoln St., Mt. Morris. We hope that you can join in the fun! All proceeds will benefit the Let Freedom Ring Festival and the programs at The Center.

April 12: The White Rock Cemetery will be having a spring cleanup on April 12. Any winter grave decorations still there will be disposed of that day. Those with questions can contact Dale King at 815-761-7551.

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.

April 21: For its program on Monday, April 21, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild will present a program on “Grandma’s Aprons.” The presenters are Kris Winkler and Lynn

Lokken from Monroe. They will tell a story and show examples of aprons through the ages. They have over 300 aprons in their collection, mostly from the 30s and 50s. This will be a very entertaining presentation. Visitors are welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Save the date! CCQG will present our Quilt Show “Garden of Quilts” on April 11 & 12. Jane Addams Community Center, 430 W. Washing-

ton St., Cedarville. Hours for the show are Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$5. Guild meetings are held at the Forrester Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forrester, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. to provide ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. For more information call Program Committee Chair Kay Walker,

815-275-2904, or Guild President Jennifer Newcomer, 708-774-3279.

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

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois announce new CEO

NORTHERN ILLINOIS — Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois recently announced the appointment of Jodi Dahlke as its new chief executive officer, effective May 2025.

Dahlke brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously served as chief strategy officer for Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes in Wisconsin for almost 10 years. In addition to over 30 years of business leadership experience, Dahlke brings expertise in strategic planning, volunteer management, and Girl Scout-specific senior leadership. She prides herself on building strong relationships with her teams and establishing lasting connections throughout the community.

Recently, and prior to her time with the Girl Scout Movement, Dahlke held many business leadership roles within small, medium, and large organizations. She has a passion for business operations, training and development, employee relations, and community development over multi-county structures.



Jodi Dahlke

tures.

With education in technology, business and human resource management, Dahlke combines strategic vision with hands-on leadership to support business growth and transformation. Beyond the workplace, she is an active mentor and advocate for community engagement in all geographic areas she serves within.

Dahlke shares, "I am looking forward to bringing my passion, along with my strategic and innovative

thinking, to an organization I believe in and has such a large impact on youth throughout northern Illinois. I am committed to ensuring our Girl Scouts have an environment of belonging and opportunities to build courage, confidence and character."

Dahlke will be making her first appearance at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-noon, at NIU's Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center in DeKalb.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON—On March 25, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 38 in Creston. After investigation, deputies placed Sara E. Hall, 57, of Rochelle under arrest for driving while license suspended. Hall was also cited for no insurance. Hall was released on a notice to appear pending a future court date.

On March 25, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 19,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Nickoll Y. Espinel Nieto, 20, of Elgin, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Espinel Nieto was additionally cited for speeding 35+ miles per hour over speed limit. Espinel Nieto was released on a notice to appear bond with a future court date.

On March 25, deputies along with Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire were dispatched to a possible single vehicle on fire in the lane of traffic on North Illinois Route 251, near the intersection with East Mowers Road. Upon arrival, it was determined the vehicle was not on fire, but was abandoned in the northbound lane of traffic with heavy front end damage. The vehicle, a black 2020 Ford Escape, was

northbound and exited the roadway, striking the guard rail on the east side of the roadway. The vehicle was unoccupied when deputies arrived on scene. Through the course of the investigation, deputies arrested Amber L. Lopez, 33, of Davis Junction, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lopez was additionally issued citations for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to report a property damage accident/driver, unauthorized parking on the roadway, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving under the influence of alcohol BAC > 0.08. Lopez was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear, with a future court date. Deputies were assisted by Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire.

On March 25, deputies conducted a warrant service in the 300 block of East Woodland Flower Circle in Davis Junction. Deputies arrested Dustin N. Grove, 42, of Davis Junction on an Ogle County warrant for aggravated domestic battery. Grove was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On March 26, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, deputies arrested Cedric C. Wilson, 41, of Chicago for driving while license suspended. Wilson was also cited for speeding. Wilson was released with a notice to appear pending a future court date.

On March 26, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Marco Santillan, 40, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Santillan was additionally cited for suspended registration. Santillan was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On March 27, deputies responded to the 900 block of North 12th Street in Rochelle in regards to a reported violation of an order of protection. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Angel B. Vazquez, 20, of Rochelle for violation of order of protection. Vazquez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held awaiting an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Polo Woman's Garden Club plant sale scheduled for May 3

POLO — The Polo Woman's Garden Club will be having its annual perennial plant sale on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Polo Community High School Ag Department (located behind the school — 100

S. Union Ave.). This sale will be the same day as the opening of Polo FFA's Greenhouse!

We have two raffle items available for viewing at The Polo Pharmacy the month of April. Each wooden crate holds various gardening

related items as well as a \$100 gift certificate from a local greenhouse! Tickets will be sold at the pharmacy, a PWGC member, or at the plant sale (\$1 each or six for \$5). You do not need to be present to win, and your ticket may win either one

of the filled wooden crates offered.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for the advancement of gardening, city beautification, programs to stimulate an interest in co-operative gardening among ama-

teurs, introduce children to gardening, and to aid in the protection of forest, wildflowers, birds, and all pollinators.

If you have perennials, house plants or a garden related item that you would like to donate for

the sale, please contact Beth Green at 815-299-1416, or you can drop them off at the Polo Community High School Ag Room on Friday, May 2 between 1-3 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the plant sale on May 3!

HAM GIVEAWAY

WIN A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE TOWARD YOUR EASTER HAM!

By simply dropping off your entry at these participating businesses. One winner per business.*

Deadline for entry is Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Noon.




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LOCAL NEWS



Polo PEO Chapter celebrates 50+ year members

P.E.O., Chapter DW, Polo celebrated their 50+ year members with a celebration at Heritage Square in Dixon on Sunday, March 23. Those honored were: Back row: Vicki Hay - 51 years, Beverly Coffman - 59 years, (front row) Julie McGuire - 57 years, Betty Hare - 53 years and Jean Cunningham - 50 years. Unable to attend was Karen Olsen - 55 years. All members of P.E.O. Chapter DW, Polo in attendance were: Standing; Diane Rasmussen, Suzanne Sorenson, Paula Faivre, Terri Wilder, Vicki Hay, Beverly Coffman, Kathy Scholl, Carol Suits, Nancy Cline, Karen Merlak, Lisa Coffman, Karen Scholl, Christine Hammer, Megan White, Robin Jefford, Maggie Henning and Sandy Stahler. Seated: Betty Ebert, Julie McGuire, Betty Hare and Jean Cunningham. (Courtesy photos)



Highland Lifelong Learning offers new courses in April and May

FREEPORT — Highland Community College Lifelong Learning April and May classes include Nail Art, Floral Painting on Wood Slice, Basic Birding, Disc Golf, and Civilian Conservation Corps. To register online and view the complete Lifelong Learning schedule, visit highland.edu/lifelong. Registration deadline is one week before class start date.

Nail Art: Location: Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Building T, Room 133, Freeport. Registration deadline: April 16. Class: April 23; 5-6:30 p.m. Fee: \$10

Instructor: Tasha Marini. Learn the tools, supplies, and basic hand and nail care tips to create beautiful nail art designs. You don't have to wait for a special occasion! Beautiful nails, using basic techniques such as dots and stripes, are easier to achieve than you think!

Floral Painting on Wood Slice: Location: Route No. 73 Brew and Chew, 201 S. Main St., Pearl City. Registration deadline: April 19. Class: April 26; 11:00 a.m.-1 p.m. Fee: \$45. Instructor: Catherine Urban. Join Catherine from The Urban Art Studio to paint a floral design on a wood slice! Your admis-

sion includes one 9" round wood slice with a pre-drawn floral design, all painting materials, and step by step instruction. This is beginner friendly, with options for experienced painters.

Basic Birding: Location: Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Building N, Room 122, Freeport. Registration deadline: April 19. Class: April 26; 9 a.m. to noon. Fee: \$15. Instructor: Juliet Morrow. Learn about common birds that reside in or migrate through northwest Illinois through photographs and bird specimens. Handouts will be provided, but you

should bring your own field guide if you have one. We will take a short walk on campus to find and identify birds that might be present. Bring your own binoculars if you have them or we will provide binoculars to borrow during the class. Class will be held rain or shine.

Disc Golf: Location: Generations Brewing Company 1400 S. Adams Avenue, Freeport. Registration deadline: April 20. Class: April 27; 1-3 p.m. Fee: \$25. Instructor: Steven Winter. Disc Golf is played much like golf, except instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying

disc. In this course you will learn everything you need to know to get started, including rules and terminology, what discs to use when, and how to throw discs far and accurately. All equipment provided, or feel free to bring your own.

Civilian Conservation Corps: Location: White Pines Lodge 6712 W. Pines Road, Mt. Morris. Registration Deadline: April 23. Class: April 30; 1-2:30 p.m. Fee: \$19. Instructor: Mark Peterson. Learn more about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the most popular New Deal program, which led to greater public awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the nation's natural resources. Enrollees of the CCC planted nearly three billion trees, constructed trails and lodges (including the lodge at White Pines), in more than 800 parks nationwide. Optional guided tour of cabins after class is included.

Other courses include:

The Art of Sketchbooking, Elizabeth Business Hub, Elizabeth. Hex Weaving, Lena. Brewing Company, Lena. Spring Sunrise Painting on Wood, Lena. Brewing Company, Lena. No Bake Turtle Cheesecake, Generations Brewing Company, Freeport. JFK Assassination, Mount Carroll Public Library, Mount Carroll. Beekeeping Experience, Dry Creek Beekeeping, Elizabeth. Beekeeping Bootcamp, Dry Creek Beekeeping, Elizabeth. Beginner's Guide to Using Chat GPT (AI) for Writers, online. Metal Detecting Basics, Cedarville Historical Museum, Cedarville. Modern Israel: A Historic Perspective, HCC, Freeport.

For more information about Lifelong Learning and to find out the latest course offerings, call 815 599-3403 or email lifelonglearning@highland.edu. Register for spring courses at highland.edu/lifelong.

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Local track and field athletes medal at 2025 Illinois Top Times Indoor State Meet

Five Oregon High School track and field athletes earned medals during the 2025 Illinois Top Times Indoor State Championship at the Shirk Center in Bloomington on March 28 and 29. Daniel Gonzalez medaled in sixth in the Class 1A 800-meter run with a time of 2:03.19, while Oregon's Class 1A 800-meter relay team of Grace Tremble, Miranda Ciesiel, Gabriele Hoyle and Skylar Bishop medaled in sixth with a time of 1:51.08. Byron's Sam Gentz (top right) medaled in seventh place in the Class 2A shot put competition with a throw of 15.32 meters. Stillman Valley's Sandra Broderon (bottom right) medaled in sixth place in the Class 2A high jump competition with a clearance of 1.52 meters. (Courtesy photos)



RE/MAX
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The **best time to sell in 2025** falls on
the week of **April 13-19** as this week
represents **balanced market conditions**
that favor sellers.

Benefits of listing April 13-19:

Get top dollar for your home

Higher buyer demand

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Fewer price cuts

NEW
LISTING



**000 N River Road (40 acres)
Oregon \$389,900 Call Carla**
40 Wooded Acres(MOL) on
the Rock River – A Rare Find!
Discover the perfect blend of
nature and opportunity with 40
(MOL) stunning acres along the
Rock River in Oregon, IL! This

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breathtaking scenery, and multiple gorgeous building sites. Nestled
down a private drive, enjoy total seclusion while being just minutes
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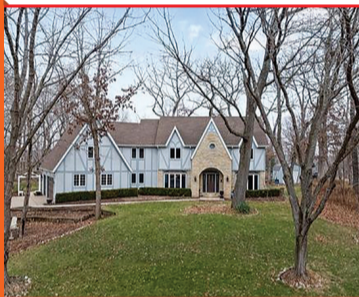
NEW
LISTING



**10462 Sandburr Court
Thomson \$324,900 Call JD**
This spacious 4-bed, 3-bath ranch
sits on over an acre of land, offering
both comfort and functionality. The
main living areas feature soaring
vaulted ceilings, and the kitchen
boasts beautiful stone countertops.

The home includes both an attached and detached garage with electric service
already ran, perfect for anything you can imagine. The master suite offers a
private retreat, and main floor laundry provides additional convenience. The
finished basement offers even more living space, complete with a cozy gas
fireplace and wet bar. Additional highlights include a whole-home water filtration
system, new roofs (2022), furnace (2021), and water heater (2019). A fantastic
opportunity to enjoy space, style, and modern updates!

ACTIVE LISTINGS



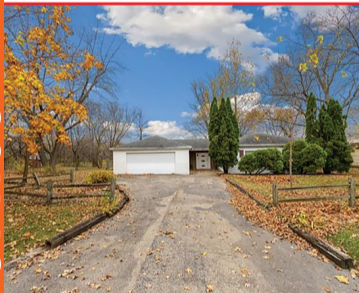
2239 Pine Bluff Dixon \$525,000 Call Rebecca

BUYER'S LOSS = YOUR GAIN! Stunning 5-Bedroom, 4.5-Bathroom Home on Expansive Corner Lot This impressive home in White Oaks Subdivision set on a sprawling 0.6-acre corner lot, offers space, luxury, and functionality. With 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and a host of thoughtful features, this property is perfect for family living and entertaining alike. Step inside to discover a grand layout with two wood-burning fireplaces, a wet bar in the formal living room, and a family room with a striking stone fireplace off the eat-in kitchen. The kitchen itself is a chef's dream, featuring slate tile backsplash, granite countertops, an ice maker, and plenty of space to create culinary masterpieces. Upstairs, you'll find a thoughtful layout with two staircases for easy access. Two bedrooms share a Jack-and-Jill bathroom, one bedroom includes its own private bath, and the luxurious master suite boasts a sitting area, a large closet, and a spa-like bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub. The cedar closet adds a touch of elegance and practicality to the upper level. The finished lower level extends the living space with a full bathroom, a theater room, and plenty of room to entertain or unwind. Outside, the large patio with a built-in stone counter top perfect for hosting gatherings or enjoying peaceful evenings. The storage shed adds convenience, while the lush, quiet setting enhances the home's appeal. Updated roof is another added perk that this property offers. Don't miss this exceptional home-schedule your private showing today and see all it has to offer!



410 S 7th Street Oregon \$309,999 Call Matt

Own a piece of history. This iconic home located in Oregon built in 1870 has many unique and charming features. From the hardwood floors and built in book cases to the tons of upgrades since 2023 the home will amaze you. 2000 square feet on the main and much more up and down. All new upgrades and features such as: New Roof (2023) Pergola Arch (2023) Side Porch Stairs (2023) Indoor and Outdoor Lighting (2024) Potting Shed (2024) New Oven (2023). Fully Fenced in yard (2024) Huge New Concrete Patio in the backyard (2024). This is just a start to what's waiting. The kitchen is a dream with an overhead sky light, Subzero fridge and freezer. Pocket doors divide the space with a vintage touch. Access the upstairs through one of two staircases into 4 bedrooms and three full bathrooms. 2 of which are en suite. The lower level comes with an additional bedroom, canning room, and bathroom. This is an excellent opportunity for the right buyer who will appreciate everything this home has to offer.



326 Old Mill Road Franklin Grove \$164,900 Call JD

Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home located on the edge of town, set on a spacious half-acre lot offering peaceful rural views. The property boasts an oversized attached garage along with a dedicated workshop—ideal for expanding your space or pursuing your hobbies. For those with a creative vision, the in-ground pool, although currently non-functional, presents a fantastic fixer-upper opportunity to transform it into a private oasis. Updates include a new HVAC system installed in 2014, an upgraded electrical panel, and a reliable roof from 2012, ensuring essential systems are maintained. With boundless potential to add your personal finishing touches, this home is a rare opportunity to create your dream retreat in a tranquil setting. Don't miss out on making this promising property your own!



0 E Ashelford Drive Byron \$59,900 Call Carla

Imagine how you would want your dream house to be when you are nestled near the Rock River with 110' of river frontage. Do you prefer a rec room, larger bedrooms, spacious kitchen or loads of windows to take in the scenic views? It's up to you. This property is located in the Byron school district and has city water and county taxes. Sale is subject to developer's approval of blueprint.



000 N Ill Route 2(35 Acres) Oregon \$700,000 Call Rebecca

35 Acres MOL with 1,300+ Feet of Rock River Frontage! A rare opportunity to own a large parcel of land along the Rock River in Oregon! With over 1,300 feet of river frontage, this 35-acre MOL property offers endless possibilities—whether you're looking for a recreational retreat, an income-generating investment, or a place to build your dream home. Currently rented for the 2025 crop season, this property provides immediate income while you plan for the future. Enjoy fishing, boating, or simply relaxing by the water—this is the perfect escape for you and your family. Opportunities like this don't come often! Don't miss your chance to own a large stretch of Rock River frontage—call today for more details!



7261 S Ridge Road Dixon \$349,900 Call Carla

New Listing in Grand Detour! – Charming 3-Bedroom Ranch on 5+ Wooded Acres Nestled just outside Grand Detour, this custom-built, one-owner ranch home offers the perfect blend of privacy, space, and comfort. Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this charming home boasts a large screened-in porch where you can relax and enjoy the scenic wooded views. Inside, the family room with a cozy fireplace provides a warm and inviting atmosphere, while the expansive kitchen and formal dining area make entertaining a breeze. The spacious living room adds to the home's open and airy feel, with large rooms throughout ensuring plenty of space for everyone. Downstairs, the finished lower level offers even more versatility, with a rec room and an additional space ideal for an office or workout area. With loads of storage and over 5 beautifully wooded acres, this property is a rare find in a gorgeous location. This home is also close to Grand Detour's private school, Faith Christian School k-12! Don't miss your chance to own this peaceful retreat!



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Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday (St. Paul) - April 17 at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday Schedule
Worship - 8:30 am
Easter Breakfast - 9:45 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church
114 S. 5th St., Oregon, IL



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PALM SUNDAY : 9am – “Gather”
April 13 10am – Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY : 6:30pm - Communion Service
April 17

GOOD FRIDAY : 7pm - Community Worship Service
April 18 at Red Brick Church

EASTER SUNDAY : 10:15am – Worship Service
April 20



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Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 13 - 10:00 am Service
Maundy Thursday, April 17 - 5:00 pm Service/Supper
Easter Sunday, April 20 - 10:00 am Service

All Are Welcome!

May the power of Easter resurrection life be the main story of our lives, because Easter is more than a feel-good day on the calendar. It has to do with the most powerful gift we have received in the world: The power of God coming through His son Jesus Christ. Through the Easter experience God can do amazing things in our lives.

From St. Bride's Episcopal Church we're bringing this Easter message hoping it will touch you with many blessings in the name of the One whose Resurrection we celebrate, Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!

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PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 13

8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
10:30am: Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 17

6:00pm: Soup Supper & Service with
Communion

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 20

8:15am: Lectio Divina Meditative Service
9:15am: Easter Breakfast
10:00am: Easter Egg Hunt For Kids
10:30am: Worship

All are welcome!

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Gospel of
Jesus...*

PALM SUNDAY - April 13
10am Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17
7pm Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE - April 18
7pm @ Red Brick Church

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE - April 20
7am Sunrise Service
7:45am Easter Breakfast
10am Gathered Worship

Holy Week

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 18 at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil – April 19 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday – April 20 at 9:30 am



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Palm Sunday 10:30am 4/13/25

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm 4/17/25

EASTER SERVICE 10:30AM
4/20/25

SPORTS

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Polo baseball team falls against Pearl City
The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 11-1 against Pearl City on Wednesday, March 26. Korbin Cavanaugh went 1-for-2 with one single and one RBI for the Marcos, while Dawson Foster went 1-for-2 with one double and one run scored.

Polo softball team takes shutout loss against Pearl City
The Polo High School varsity softball team suffered a 13-0 shutout loss

against Pearl City on Wednesday, March 26. Cheyenna Wilkins went 2-for-2 while striking out seven batters over four innings pitched.

Forreston softball team loses against Gardner-South Wilmington

The Forreston High School varsity softball team lost 17-2 against Gardner-South Wilmington on Friday, March 28. Isabella Thiel and Emma Hundertmark each struck out two batters in the circle, while Alice Kobler went

1-for-2 at the plate.

Oregon softball team falls against Sterling

The Oregon High School varsity softball team fell 8-4 against Sterling on Saturday, March 29. Lola Schwarz went 2-for-3 with one RBI, while Abree Barker went 2-for-4 with one run scored. Emma Schlichtmann went 1-for-3 with one RBI and Hayleigh Heurman went 2-for-3.

Polo softball team loses against Bureau Valley

The Polo High School varsity softball team lost

15-1 against Bureau Valley on Saturday, March 29. Bella Witkowski went 2-for-3 with two singles, while Cheyenna Wilkins went 1-for-3 with one single and one RBI. Wilkins pitched five innings and struck out seven batters. Brylee Laskowski went 1-for-3 with one run scored.

Polo baseball team takes shutout loss from Bureau Valley

The Polo High School varsity baseball team lost 9-0 against Bureau Val-

ley on Saturday, March 29. Gus Mumford went 1-for-2 with one single and Lucas Nelson pitched three innings while striking out four batters.

Oregon softball team wins over Milledgeville

The Oregon High School varsity softball team won 16-8 over Milledgeville on Monday, March 31. The Hawks recorded 21 hits, with Ella Dannhorn homering twice and reached base five times. Isabelle Berg, Olivia Ortega,

Hayleigh Heurman and Brooke Halverson all collected three hits to aid the Oregon offense in the win.

Oregon girls soccer team drops match with Freeport

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team dropped a match against Freeport, falling 3-1 on Monday, March 31. Anna Stender scored the team's lone goal and Mili Zavala recorded seven saves for the Hawks (3-1-1, 0-0 BNC).

Andy Colbert: Leveling the playing field

LEST you think the IHSA is ignoring the carnage inflicted on public schools in boys and girls athletic competitions by the privates this schools year, think again. Recently, they issued a statement on how they will legislate what they refer to as "leveling the playing field".

The combination of a 1.65 enrollment multiplier, waiver application and success factor for the private schools will be enforced much stricter than it has in the past. Since 2005, they've had measures like this in place, but there had been a fluctuation in the enforcement.

The hope is that loopholes in the previous system will be reduced and teams will not have an unfair competitive advantage. Obtaining waivers to avoid the 1.65 multiplier has become more stringent.

A sport or activity program at a particular non-boundaried school is

not eligible to apply for a waiver if over the course of the previous three school terms, the program (as a team) has achieved any of the following:

1) In Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Baseball, or Softball accomplishes the following:

a. Wins a Sectional Semi-final contest

2) In Wrestling or Scholastic Bowl accomplishes the following:

a. Wins a Regional Tournament

3) In Boys' Track and Field, Girls' Track and Field, Boys' Tennis, Girls' Tennis, Competitive Cheerleading, or Competitive Dance accomplishes the following:

a. Wins a Sectional Tournament or finishes in the Top 10 as a team at the IHSA State Finals

4) In Boys' Cross Country, Girls' Cross Country, Boys' Golf, and Girls' Golf, accomplishes the following:

a. Wins a Regional Tournament or qualifies for the IHSA State Finals

5) In Football, accomplishes the following:

a. Wins at least one Playoff football game

Besides the multiplier, the IHSA made an adjustment to the Success Adjustment Policy. The policy was initially implemented in 2014 and seeks to provide greater competitive equity for private schools who achieve certain levels of State Final success by moving them up in classification.

The policy initially looked at the amount of State Final success that occurred over four years, but was adjusted to two years when the IHSA moved to a two-year classification cycle.

Beginning in 2025-26, the Success Adjustment Policy will encompass a rolling three-year period.

Entering each school year, if a team has won two state final trophies in the past three years in a sport, they will then be subject

to the adjustment and move up one class in that sport.

For example, a school who has won two state final trophies in a sport/activity over the course of 2022-23, 2023-24, and

2024-25 will be subject to the adjustment in 2025-26. In 2026-27, they will only be subject to the adjustment if they have



Andy Colbert

two state final trophies over the course of 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26.

As you can see, the IHSA put a tremendous amount of time and effort to enact said policies, which needed to be approved by the IHSA Board of Directors, a group of 12 school administrators from all over the state.

The whole thing is very complicated to understand and if I interpreted the information wrong, my apologies.

As I scanned through other business the IHSA discussed at its March 15

meeting, I couldn't help but notice this tidbit:

The Board approved a recommendation to make two adjustments to the game rules of Madden in the IHSA esports State Series. The changes included shortening quarters from five minutes to four minutes and turning on the accelerated gameplay.

No, I'm not making this up. The IHSA offers state series in esports.

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



Stillman Valley's Wilhite earns 450th career victory
The Stillman Valley High School varsity baseball team celebrated head coach Scott Wilhite's 450th career victory after the Cardinals defeated Newark 7-6 in extra innings on March 27. (Courtesy photo)

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Holy Week Services

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Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 17
Worshipping Together | 6 p.m. | Leaf River United Methodist, Leaf River | Piano by Ken Drake

Good Friday Services
Friday, April 18
Forreston First UMC, Forreston | Open Prayer 2 - 5 p.m. | Piano by Krista Carlson
Forreston First UMC, Forreston | Worshipping Together 6 p.m. Council of Churches | Piano by Krista Carlson

Easter Morning Services
Sunday, April 20
Forreston First UMC - 9 a.m. | Leaf River UMC - 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church

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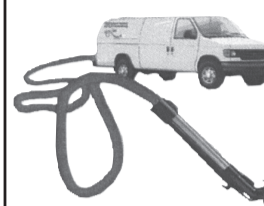
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Sunder Energy
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815-994-2337

Paul.Holland@sunderenergy.com
Instagram: @Solarocrates

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Gabriel Mack
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F: 815-946-4372

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Byron, IL

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LOCAL NEWS

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mount Morris Library Hours

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

Ink with a Friend

Monday, April 14th at 5pm. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, April 14th at 5pm! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, \$5 fee when you register. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before March 3rd!

Lego Night!

Thursday, April 17th at 6pm. Bring the family out for some awesome brick building! We will pull out all the Legos for this night and kids can build whatever they can imagine. Then, they can put a name to their creation and keep it on our display for all to enjoy until the next Lego night!

Read with Therapy Dog, Holly

Monday, April 28th. We

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

Hot Spots available at Mount Morris Library

The library has hotspots available to check out for use at home. These are available to Mount Morris Library card holders and will be checked out for fourteen days. Get more information from a librarian if you would like to use this free service!

Display Case Showings

There is a new display in our cases! Artwork from local artists through the years! On loan from Jo Ward, there is a wide range of different types of art from many different artists but all from our local town! Stop by to see this gorgeous collection! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to

share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Mount Morris Library is FINE FREE!

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

Explore More Illinois Welcomes Chicago Tempest Women's Pro Rugby in Evanston!

The Chicago Tempest are one of the original six teams in the first professional women's rugby league, Women's Elite Rugby (WER). The team will play at Martin Stadium on Northwestern University's campus beginning in March 2025. Chicago Tempest Women's Pro Rugby is offering 20% off reserved tickets (up to four). Explore More Illinois users can access, and reserve passes from any of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library

website, mtmorris-il.org, under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

Book Donations Welcome

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

Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections

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

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

Adult Programming

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Newspaper Available!

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

Curbside Service is

available!

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

Additional Services Offered

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

Library Board Meetings

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

The Mount Morris Public Library is located at 105 S. McKendrie Ave. Mt. Morris IL 61054 -815-734-4927 Fax-815-734-6035 www.mtmorris-il.org

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 stories, games, and crafts. This program is a great opportunity for children and caregivers to discover the joy of sharing stories and making new friends in a relaxed setting. We

hope you'll join us!

Community Room

Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers, family reunions,

and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.

Soft Plastic Recycling

We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags,

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

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

"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: chanaumc@gmail.com Adult & Children's Education 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month. At Chana Church you will find Open Hearts-Open Minds-Open Doors.

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Billy Hardy
Sunday Morning: 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
10:30am Worship Service with nursery available. Live stream available at leafriver.church/live-now
6941 N. Mt. Morris Rd., Leaf River, IL 61047
815-738-2205
leafriverbc@gmail.com
leafriver.church

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 Rosebark
pastor@immanuel-lindenwood.org

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068 • Pastor Mary Jacobs
Phone 815-562-6811 E-mail: goelimchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.goelimchurch.org
Sunday morning worship 10:00 am

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church

MOUNT MORRIS

EOCCOGministries@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 live 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
732-7211 - 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: stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
10:15 a.m. Fellowship/Education hours
11:30 a.m. Worship

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255
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 am and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

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 732-1301
1001 Pines Rd, Suite A, Oregon

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

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

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Closed
Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed Saturday, April 19th for Easter Weekend. Be sure to have Breakfast with the Bunny at the Bertolet Building from 7-10AM and watch the kids in the egg hunt that morning. Thank you to the Leaf River Lions for continuing to host this event each year!

LEGO Club
Monday April 7th at 5:00PM: Bricks and bases will be waiting for you at LEGO Club on April 7th. Bring your neighbor and your imagination!

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 Book of the Month

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 Show - ing: 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 Hewes' 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

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Diamond Painting
Diamond Painting on Friday, April 4th @ 11:00 am. No experience necessary. Paintings are avail-

able for purchase.
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.

April Take & Make Craft
Hop on over to 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
In The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel, Eva Traube Abrams is working when she sees a photo of a book that she recognizes from her time helping Jews fleeing to Switzerland. After Eva was forced to flee from Paris, she forged documents to help Jewish children and while she was trying to erase these children to get them to safety, she used a book and code to come up with a way to remember who these children were. The same code modern researchers cannot figure out. To find out what happens, stop by the circulation desk to pick up your copy.

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

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
Fight or Flight by Fern Michaels

The Antique Hunter's Death on the Red Sea by C.L. Miller (LP)

Picture Book
MrFox's Game of "No!" by David LaRochele

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!

Crafts

All are welcome to join us for crafts each month at the Serenity Shed. April 15th at 9:00 am we will work on an Easter wood cutout. The cost is \$20 and a sign up is required by April 8th.

Tails PET OF THE WEEK
Humane Society
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Oscar
Hello, my name is Oscar! I am a gentle soul who takes a little time to warm up, but once I feel safe, I am a total sweetheart. I love my quiet spaces, soft blankets, and the comfort of having my best friend, Sadie, nearby. With patience and love, I'll show you my affectionate side, rewarding you with purrs and cozy companionship.
If you're looking for a bonded pair of sweet, fluffy black cats who will bring warmth and quiet companionship into your life, let's meet!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ROCHELLE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
Compassionate, quality care for your companion.
Dr. Nicole Marquardt
Dr. Lynn Deets
Dr. Melissa Corson
A Full-Service Clinic
• Experienced Groomer
• Boarding and Daycare
• Surgical Laser
• X-ray
• Gas Anesthetic
• On-site Laboratory
• Geriatric Care
• Dentistry
www.rochellevet.com
Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 Sat 8-noon
(815) 562-5207
1381 N. 7th St., Rochelle

Grooming
Trust with a Groomer is important - our Groomer has over 10 years experience & expertise.
Please call for appointments
dachsies to DANES
Boarding And Grooming
815-453-2843
1751 Melugins Grove Rd Steward, IL 60553

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

to advertise on the
Pet of the Week Page!



LOCAL NEWS

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

Rock River Center Activities

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

OUTING OF THE MONTH

April 10. Frank Llyod Wright "Laurent House". Lunch Afterward. Register by April 7.

Morning Mug Club

April 8 - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

"Timeless" Singalong

Monday, April 14 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Advance registration requested.

Fall Screening & Assessment

April 16. Morning appointments available beginning at 9:30 a.m. Taking appointments now.

WOOD CARVERS

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

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

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

MICHIGAN RUM-MY

Wednesdays - 12:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Day trip
LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS: MAY 1, 2025. DAY TRIP TO SEE "MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET" with Rock River Center. MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET, Presented at Stolp Island Theatre. Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Four Leg-

ends. One Night. Music History Made. 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

2024-2025 NICOR GAS "SHARING" PROGRAM

NICOR GAS sharing program is available to assist those NICOR customers whose gross income falls between 201% - 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. For the Program Year 2024-2025, the 30-day gross income limit for a 1-person household is \$3,765; 2-person household \$5,110; 3-person household; \$6,455,

etc. You can apply for the NICOR GAS Sharing program at the Rock River Center. For more information or to make an appointment call 800-541-5479 or 815-732-3252.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE - LIHEAP

LIHEAP is designed to help income eligible households pay for energy services. Income limits for 2025 Program Year. Family Size - 30-day gross income. 1 - \$2,510. 2 - \$3,407. 3 - \$4,303. For more details, call the Rock Falls Tri-County office at 800-323-5434 or (815) 625-7830. Call (815)-732-2907 for information /appt. at the Tri-County Oregon Office, located inside the Rock River Center.

SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

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

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

LOW VISION GROUP

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

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

Local agents honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates for performance

DEKALB—Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is proud to announce that multiple agents from its brokerage were honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real Estate Affiliates,

Inc., for their exceptional real estate performance in 2024. The following agents were recognized for their sales achievements in 2024, based on gross commission income or units closed:

Kimberly Lancaster - Ambassador Club; Zachary Ottum - Executive Club; John Craig - Executive Club; Aaron Schwartz - President's Club (Gold). "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 beyond 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) 754-5050 or CARRIE@SIGNATURE-REALESTATEPRO.COM.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Mediocre
5 Church seat
8 Greenish blue
12 Tora —, Afghanistan
13 Noshed
14 PETA concerns
15 Slight criticisms
17 Pear-shaped fruits
18 Step
19 Hot dish holder
21 Oodles
24 Log chopper
25 Mandatory coll. courses
28 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
30 Zodiac animal
33 Chit
34 Concepts
35 Swelled head
36 Singer
37 Proscribes
38 Eve's mate
39 Born
41 Entryway
43 Dress designation
46 Ignited again
50 Shake — (hurry)
51 Dropouts

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
		21		22	23		24			
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32
33			34					35		
36			37				38			
	39	40			41	42				
43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

54 Portnoy's creator
55 Coffee vessel
56 Barrel part
57 Fine spray
58 Sort
59 Curry and Reinking

DOWN
1 Cookouts, briefly
2 LummoX
3 Met solo
4 Customs
5 Bud

6 Bordeaux summer
7 Left on a map
8 Tack on
9 Trembled
10 Desire
11 Celeb's aide
16 Buddy
20 "Phooey!"
22 Zilch
23 Shell out
25 Estuary
26 A gazillion years
27 Groups of five
29 El —, Texas
31 Turkish title

32 Oft-tattooed word
34 "A likely story!"
38 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
40 Skating figure
42 Scrap
43 Italian cheese, for short
44 Sci-fi race
45 Iso-
47 Boxer Spinks
48 Press
49 Recipe amts.
52 Web address
53 Squid squirt

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MAGIC MAZE ● PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: EASILY FRIGHTENED

Anxious
Calm
Cheerful
Conscientious

Creative
Humble
Lively
Modest

Nervous
Nice
Proud
Rude

Sensitive
Sincere
Stubborn

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tree is moved. 2. Hat is reversed. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Glove is missing. 5. Fence is shorter. 6. Window is moved.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

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

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES

LOCAL NEWS

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.

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 ancestor'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 ques-



Smarty Pants Balloons visits Julia Hull Library Friday, March 28, to demonstrate how simple machines — wheel, lever, pulley — function with the use of balloons.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

tions after. Tuesday, April 29, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Toddler Time: Chalk Art
Let your toddlers flex their creative muscle by making art...with chalk.

Friday, May 2, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Tween Scene: Charades
Program. Three words. Sounds like a great time. It's Tween Scene: Charades!

Bring your imagination. Guessing ability and improve skills for this classic game that's always a great time. Tuesday, May 6, 6 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Star Wars Day

Have a young Jedi obsessed with a galaxy far far away? Come celebrate my the 4th with crafts and games inspired by the epic franchise. Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Oregon Park District announces vacancy on Board of Park Commissioners

OREGON—The Oregon Park District Board of Park Commissioners will be accepting letters of interest, application,

and qualifications for Park Commissioner until May 1. The application is available at www.oregonpark.org.

The Park Board will be conducting interviews and considering an appointment to fill a vacant seat after May


13. Letters of interest, application and qualifications should be sent to the attention of Haley Mizner, secretary, Board

of Park Commissioners, PO Box 237, Oregon, IL 61061 or through email at haley@oregonpark.org.




For more information about the Oregon Park District visit www.oregonpark.org or call (815) 732-3101.

WANTED

\$\$\$ WE BUY GUNS \$\$\$



\$\$\$



\$\$\$


RAT WORX

112 E. Hitt St. MT. MORRIS, IL.

◀ 815-734-7346 ▶

WE SELL GUNS, KNIVES, AUTOMATIC KNIVES & AMMO

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OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
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 pe-
riod is barred.

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

WALTER EUGENE
COIL, Administrator
No. 0326
(March 24, 31 and April
7, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is here-
by given that on March
14, 2025, a certificate
was filed in the Ogle
County Clerk's Office
setting forth the names
and post office address
of all of the persons
owning, conducting and
transacting the busi-
ness known as:

MSW Hair
104 W Wilson St
Stillman Valley, IL

61084

Dated: March 14, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle
County Clerk
No. 0335
(Mar. 24, 31 and Apr. 7,
2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby
given that on March 26,
2025 a certificate was
filed in the Ogle Coun-
ty Clerk's Office setting
forth the names and
post office address of
all of the persons own-
ing, conducting and
transacting the busi-
ness known as:

Hidden Harvest Acres
15520 E McNeal Rd
Monroe Center, IL
61052

Dated: March 26, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle
County Clerk
No. 0402
(April 7, 14 and 21,
2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS

COUNTY OF OGLE)

Public Notice is here-
by given to all persons
in Scott Township and
Marion Township that
a Public Hearing will
be held Thursday, April
24, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
at the Old Ogle County
Courthouse, Third Floor
County Board Room
#317, 105 S. Fifth St.,
Oregon, IL, to consider
the request filed Janu-
ary 15, 2025 of USS
Stillman Creek Solar,
LLC, 233 S. Wacker Dr.,
Ste. 4400, Chicago, IL
for a Special Use Permit
in the AG-1 Agricultural
District to allow the con-
struction and operation
of a 5MWac Community
Solar Energy Facility on
the property described
as follows and being
leased by the petitioner:
Part of the G.L. 2 of
Northwest Quarter
(NW1/4) Fractional
Section 18 Scott Town-
ship 42 North, Range
1 East of the 3rd P.M.;
and part of the South-
west Quarter (SW1/4)
Fractional Section 36
Marion Township 25N,
R11E of the 4th P.M.,
Ogle County, IL, 26.22
acres, more or less of
the 89.56 acre site
Property Identification

Number: Part of 11-18-
100-003 and Part of 05-
36-300-006 Common
Location: 7000 block of
N. Stillman Rd.

All persons in atten-
dance at the hearing
shall have an opportu-
nity to be heard. Any
person who also wish-
es to appear as an in-
terested party with the
right to cross-examine
others at the hearing
must complete and file
an appearance form
with the Ogle County
Planning & Zoning De-
partment no later than
five (5) business days
before the date of the
hearing. The applica-
tion for this special use
is on file with detailed
description and avail-
able for examination at
the Planning & Zoning
Department, 911 Pines
Rd., Oregon, Illinois or
at the following URL:
http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RANDY OCKEN, Chair-
man

Dated at Oregon, Illi-
nois this 15th day of
January 2025
#01-25SU
No. 0404
(April 7, 2025)

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

BYRON BANK, an Illi-
nois State Bank,
Plaintiff,

v.
MICHAEL A. HEC-
ATHORN, ANGELA
I. HECATHORN, UN-
KNOWN OWNERS,
UNKNOWN TENANTS,
UNKNOWN SPOUS-
ES, UNKNOWN HEIRS,
AND NONREC-
ORD CLAIMANTS.

Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC14

NOTICE TO UN-
KNOWN OWNERS;
UNKNOWN TENANTS;
UNKNOWN SPOUS-
ES; UNKNOWN HEIRS
AND NONREC-
ORD CLAIMANTS FOR
PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit
having been duly filed
in my office, NOTICE
is hereby given you,
UNKNOWN OWNERS;
UNKNOWN TENANTS;
UNKNOWN SPOUS-

ES; UNKNOWN HEIRS
and NONREC-
ORD CLAIMANTS, Defen-
dants in the above-en-
titled suit, that the said
suit has been com-
menced in the Circuit
Court of Ogle

County, by the said
Plaintiff, against you
and other Defendants,
praying for the foreclo-
sure of a certain mort-
gage concerning the
premises described as
follows, to-wit:

Part of the Southwest
Quarter of the South-
west Quarter of Section
5, Township 23 North,
Range 8 East of the
4th P.M., Ogle County,
Illinois, described as
follows: Beginning at
the Southwest corner of
said Southwest Quar-
ter; thence East on the
South line of said Quar-
ter Section, a distance
of 500 feet; thence
North, parallel with the
West line of said Quar-
ter Section, a distance
of 350 feet; thence
West, parallel with the
South line, to the West
line of said Southwest
Quarter; thence South
on said West line to the
point of beginning.

COMMON ADDRESS:
13980 US 52, Polo, Illi-
nois 61064
P.I.N.: 14-05-300-
005

And for other relief; that
Summons was duly
issued out of the said
Court against you as
provided by law, and
that the suit is now
pending.

NOW, THEREFORE,
unless you, the said
above-named Defen-
dants, file your Answer
to the Complaint of
said suit or otherwise
make your appearance
therein, in the Office
of the Clerk of the Circuit
Court of Ogle County,
Ogle County Court-
house in the City of Or-
egon, Illinois, on or be-
fore the 7th day of May,
2025, default may be
entered in accordance
with the prayer of said
Complaint.

Kimberly A. Stahl, Clerk
of the Circuit Court,
Ogle County, Illinois
PREPARED BY:

Matthew M. Hevrin
(ARDC #6256083)
mhevrin@aghlaw.com
ALLEN GALLUZZO
HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC
839 N. Perryville Road,

Suite 200
Rockford, Illinois 61107
P: 815-265-6464
No. 0405
(April 7, 14 and 21,
2025)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby giv-
en that Cord Construc-
tion intends to contract
for the following items
and services; specifi-
cations are on file with
BuildingConnected.
com.

Cord Construction in-
vites qualified firms to
submit a proposal pack-
age for a 13,253 SF
Pre-Engineered Metal
Building at Oregon IL
Fire Protection District.
Proposals will be Pub-
licly opened at Oregon
Fire Protection District
Station 1 located at 100
Washington St, Oregon
IL 61061. Cord Con-
struction reserves the
unrestricted right to re-
ject any or all proposals
received, to waive or
not to waive any infor-
mality, or to accept the
bid considered to be in
the best interest of the
Oregon Fire Protection
District and Cord Con-
struction.

Proposal No. 9241 -
Pre-Engineered Metal
Building Package Or-
egon Fire Protection
District.

Bid Opening: Tuesday,
April 22, 2025, at 2:00
p.m. at Oregon Fire
Protection District Sta-
tion 1 located at 100
Washington St, Oregon
IL 61061.

BY: Jake Dykstra, Esti-
mator / Project Manager
Steve Howlett, Architect
(Architect of Record)
No. 0406
(April 7, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does
not knowingly accept
fraudulent or deceptive
advertising. Readers
are cautioned to thor-
oughly

investigate all ads,
especially those asking
for money in advance."

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does
not knowingly accept
fraudulent or deceptive
advertising. Readers
are cautioned to

thoroughly investigate
all ads, especially those
asking for money in
advance."

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless
licensed or holding a
permit as a childcare
facility, may cause
to be published any
advertisement soliciting
a child care service. A
childcare facility that
is licensed or operating
under a permit issued
by the Illinois Depart-
ment 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

GET HIRED

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



Start earning now!

103 AUCTIONS

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.



03242025

Ogle County, IL COMMERICAL REAL ESTATE & EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION

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

Sale online & onsite at: O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.

104 N Maple Ct
Rochelle, IL 61068

Commercial Property Real Estate in fabulous
location! MUST SEE!

Extensive Equipment Listing- check it out!

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

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

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

For Information Contact: Owner, O'Rourke Construction Services, Inc.
Auctioneers Lenny Bryson 815-946-4120
Cal Kaufman 309-696-9019
Brent Schmidtgal 309-202-8378

Attorney, Paul Chadwick 815)562-2156

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

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



oglecountylife.com

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

A&T Auction Services, LLC

Travis Cunningham
(815) 297-4595
Located in Forreston, IL

Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.

Auctions - Real Estate
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Online Auctions
Now Available
Pecatonica, IL
815-239-1436
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Chana 64 Auctions

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

Lenny Bryson

Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

PUBLIC AUCTION

OPENING BID LIVE

Advertise in our

AUCTION SECTION

Deadlines
Wednesday
at 5 p.m.
Call 815-562-4171

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

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

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District #226
Open Positions
Special Education Paraprofessional
Head Custodian (High School)
2nd Shift Custodian (Middle School)
Groundskeeper
8th Grade Volleyball Coach
.5 FTE Teacher of English Learners

Apply online at www.byron226.org
Click on the Menu button
Go to Employment Opportunities in the "About Us" Section
All openings are listed there with additional information



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROCHELLE News-Leader
RNLHOUSE

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

511 STORAGE UNITS

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

Recycle

203 HELP WANTED

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

Your Best GARAGE SALE

Got Lots to Sell?



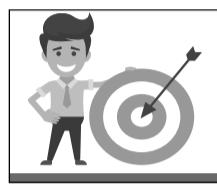
Make sure to ask about our online classified ads!

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER
In Print & Online
815.732.2156
www.oglecountylife.com

Reach Thousands of Potential Local Buyers! with print and online exposure!



Urgently HIRING? FIND CANDIDATES HERE!



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

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Advertise in our AUCTION SECTION

Deadlines
Wednesday at 4 p.m.
Call 815-732-2156

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

NHTSA ad COUNCIL

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.

7 excellent reasons to advertise regularly

- 1. TO MEET DEMAND.** People's wants and needs change from day to day. Regular advertising increases the likelihood of consumers choosing your company when they need your specific product or service.
- 2. TO BUILD TRUST.** The more consumers are exposed to your advertising, the more familiar they become with your brand. Trust builds over time.
- 3. TO STAY COMPETITIVE.** To stay in the race, you must remain top-of-mind with your desired clientele. If your competitors advertise more often than you, who is the customer likely to turn to when they need a product or service? You know the answer.
- 4. TO GENERATE INTEREST.** When a product or service is advertised several times, it's bound to pique consumer interest. What do you have to lose?
- 5. TO ESTABLISH YOUR CREDIBILITY.** Frequent

advertising strengthens your brand image and ensures consumers take your business seriously.

6. TO BE REMEMBERED. Repetition is the key to ensuring your message reaches your target audience. It's much the same as learning a new skill. After all, memory has a way of fading.

7. TO SAVE MONEY. Consistently buying advertising space in your local newspaper is a great way to benefit from lower rates.

In short, regular advertising multiplies your chances of increasing your revenues.

Show & Sell

Browse & Buy

Place an Ad or Subscribe:
Rochelle News-Leader
815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156
All in the Classifieds!



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

* Source: America's Newspapers

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

Out of Sight, Out of Mind...

STAY TOP OF MIND
With Local Consumers

It's a Smart Investment

Stay Top of Mind and Save With Our Monthly and Annual Ad Contract Specials!

Advertise With Us

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

815.561.2125

Here's why consistent advertising with us is a great way to build top of mind awareness:

Nearly **70%** of U.S. adults read newspapers each month.

Print newspaper ads inspire action.

7 out of 10 newspaper readers report taking action after seeing an ad in a circular.

IT'S TIME TO ADVERTISE

NEWS
News & Events

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!

Maxsons

Restaurant & Riverboat

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

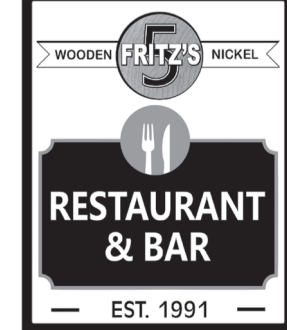
5:00-7:00 PM

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!



FISH FRY FRIDAYS

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

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

03032025

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrate National Library Week

April 6–12, 2025. What draws people to the library? Everything! Whether you're a longtime patron or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the library has to offer. Our library provides free Wi-Fi, public computer access, photocopier, copier/faxing, a library of things, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, audiobooks, passport application services, programming for all ages, and of course books! *Check out reading material from the Oregon Public Library this week and receive a scratch-off ticket (Oregon Public Library District cardholders only) for every 3 readable items checked out. Prizes for the lucky winners.* Friendly and helpful staff strive to ensure that everyone has access to resources that educate, inspire, and connect. First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April. The Institute of Museum and Library Services support communities in countless ways every day. Students, families, veterans, businesses, unemployed and underemployed, disabled, and seniors utilize library services. Librarians maximize a modest investment of 0.003% from the federal budget and provide no-fee, non-partisan services for all. Still, these services are being diminished and some have already been eliminated. As seedbeds of education and innovation, our nation's 125,000 public, school, academic, and special libraries deserve more, not less support. Whatever draws you in, the library

has something for everyone. Libraries serve as hubs for learning, creativity, and connection, helping people of all ages explore new ideas and opportunities. This National Library Week, take time to rediscover the library and see how it draws us together as a community and the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination, and support lifelong learning.

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.

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 *Dragonfall* 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 platform 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

Passport Fair

Saturday, April 26 from 10 am -2pm at the Library. The Oregon Public Library is hosting a special passport event at the Oregon Public Library, 300 Jefferson Street, Oregon IL, on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10am to 2pm to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications.

U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government. Information on the cost and how to apply for a U.S. passport is available at travel.state.gov or contact the Oregon Public Library at 1-815-732-2724. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

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 levels are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on it while socializing. Need help getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com> or call (815) 732-2724.

Photo Printer at the Library!

The library 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.

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.



COKE PRODUCTS
Select Varieties
24 pk | 12 oz cans
11.99



Halos CLEMENTINES
3 lb bag
3.99



Certified Angus Beef® brand
BONELESS RIBEYE ROAST
14.99 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, April 9 thru Tuesday, April 15, 2025



DELICIOUS EASTER
ORDER YOUR DINNER BY APR. 16th

- EASTER DINNER FOR 2-4 **46.99**
- EASTER DINNER FOR 5-7 **89.99**
- FAMILY EASTER DINNER FOR 9-12 **159.99**



Best Choice **SPIRAL SLICED BONE-IN HAM**
2.49 lb



Cook's **WHOLE BONE-IN SMOKED HAM**
2.29 lb



Meat Masters Illinois State Champions
OUTSTANDING LOCALLY MADE MEAT MASTER BONELESS SMOKED HAM
4.99 lb



Cook's **SHANK PORTION BONE-IN SMOKED HAM**
1.69 lb



Frick's Premium **SHANK PORTION BONE-IN SMOKED HAM**
2.19 lb



Kentucky Legend **WHOLE BONELESS HALF SMOKED HAM**
4.49 lb



Cook's **BUTT PORTION BONE-IN SMOKED HAM**
1.89 lb



Frick's Premium **BUTT PORTION BONE-IN SMOKED HAM**
2.39 lb



Kentucky Legend **WHOLE BONELESS SMOKED HAM**
4.49 lb



\$3.00 OFF
Any KENTUCKY LEGEND WHOLE OR HALF HAM
Redeemable only at Sullivan's Foods



LENTEN FISH FRY
EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH LENT

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



CATFISH NUGGET BUCKET
5.99



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



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



ONE PIECE COD MEAL
1 piece Atlantic Cod, Cole Slaw, & Potato Salad
5.99



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



2 DAY BOGO SALE
APRIL 10th & 11th



US Gov't Insp
CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK CHOPS
Family Pack
BOGO



US Grade A
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
BOGO



BUY 1 LB KRETSCHMAR OFF THE BONE TURKEY GET A 12 PACK BAKERY KAISER ROLLS FREE
BOGO



Bakery
TEXAS TOAST
BOGO



MIRACLE WHIP
30 oz
BOGO



Fresh
STRAWBERRIES
1 lb
BOGO



Roma
ORIGINAL CRUST PIZZA
Select Varieties
10.54 - 11.05 oz
BOGO



Wishbone or Western
SALAD DRESSING
Select Varieties
15 oz
BOGO



Fiora
PAPER TOWELS OR BATH TISSUE
Select Varieties
6 - 12 ct
BOGO



Niagara
PURIFIED DRINKING WATER
24pk .5 L
BOGO



Scan QR Code to view entire ad

