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on page 12A

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### Grand Reopening set for May 1

A Grand Reopening for the Joe Parks Athletic Complex is set for May 1. **Section B**

### First Fridays event is May 2

The upcoming First Fridays event at the Oregon VFW is scheduled for May 2. **Page 8**

MONDAY  
HIGH LOW  
81 53

TUESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
72 50

WEDNESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
61 40

THURSDAY  
HIGH LOW  
64 42

FRIDAY  
HIGH LOW  
61 45

SATURDAY  
HIGH LOW  
74 47

### OBITUARIES

- Matthew Scott Miller
- Marcia Ellen Buss
- Roberta A. (Lingel) Calvert
- Patricia 'Pat' Ellen LeFevre

**See page 4**

### INSERTS

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

## Man charged with 1st-degree murder

### OHS grad passed away from gunshot wounds

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**MT. MORRIS** – A shooting early Monday evening in Mt. Morris took the life of a 25-year-old Oregon High School graduate and a 44-year-old man has been charged with his murder, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release said.

On Monday, April 21 at approximately 4:59 p.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received a report of a shooting following a domestic incident at 1 South Ogle, Apartment 13, in Mt. Morris. Upon arrival, officers located Cameron Pasley, 25, at the residence suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The Mt. Morris Fire Protection District transported Pasley to Saint Katharine Hospital in Dixon where he was later pronounced deceased, the press release said.

"The suspect, identified as Derek Swanlund, 44, was located a short distance from the scene and taken into custody without incident," the press release said. "He is currently lodged at the Ogle County Jail and has been charged with first degree murder, with additional charges to follow."

The Mt. Morris Police Department was assisted by the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Polo Police Department, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services, and the Mt. Morris Fire Protection District. The investigation is ongoing by the Ogle County Sheriff's Office.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office will release further details as they become available.

An Oregon School District Facebook post on Tuesday, April 22 said Pasley was a 2018 gradu-

**Derek Swanlund**

ate of OHS and a current member of its custodial team.

"Cameron will be remembered for his easy-going personality, his ability to strike up a conversation with just about anyone, and the calming presence he brought into every room," the OHS Facebook post said. "He had a bright future ahead of him and was someone who made even stressful situations feel manageable. Please join us in keeping Cameron's family, friends, and colleagues in your thoughts during this incredibly difficult time."

(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

### On Tuesday, April 15, From the Heart presented checks for \$10,000 each to nine area nonprofits at a special event at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle.

## From the Heart presents final checks to member nonprofits

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Tuesday, April 15, From the Heart presented checks for \$10,000 each to nine area nonprofits at a special event at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle.

From the Heart raises money for nine area nonprofits: the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food

Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Community Action Network (CAN) and Foundation for Focus House. It most recently held its 17th annual gala on Feb. 1 and saw record attendance and tied a fundraising record of \$90,000, which resulted in the checks.

**See FTH page 3**

## SVHS's Out of the Darkness Campus Walk set for May 4

### 'I think it's really important to continue to bring awareness to the school...'

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Stillman Valley High School at 425 S. Pine St. will host an Out of the Darkness Campus Walk for suicide awareness on Sunday, May 4. Check-in starts at noon, the event starts at 12:30 p.m. and the walk will start around 1 p.m., Organizer and SVHS Social Worker/Counselor Hannah Feldhaus said.

The event will raise funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which does suicide research, supports families affected by suicide and presents programs in schools. The three-mile walk is free to anyone who wants to sign up. Those interested in walking or volunteering at the event can email Feldhaus at [hfeldhaus@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:hfeldhaus@mail.meridian223.org). If they want, participants can raise \$100 for the walk to earn a t-shirt.

"As a counselor at the high school, I think it's really important to bring

suicide awareness to our local community," Feldhaus said. "Unfortunately I've seen first hand how much this affects teenagers in the high school environment. It's an epidemic, especially for teenagers. I've been encouraged by how many students I have that want to get involved with the walk this year. We'll have about 30 volunteering students, which is a big deal in a school of 450. They're getting behind it and they're excited about it, so I am too."

The walk is in its fourth year at SVHS. It was started by SVHS alumni Lillie Doss during her senior year. Doss lost her father to suicide when she was younger and started the event to help with prevention and make a difference. She remains involved with the event after graduating.

The event is organized by SVHS's Take Action League, which is an anti-bullying and suicide prevention student group on campus.

**See CAMPUS WALK page 3**

(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

### In the 20 years since, RACF has granted over \$1.3 million back to the local community. It has established 33 endowed funds with one acorn fund.

## Rochelle Area Community Foundation marks 20 years

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rochelle Area Community Foundation took place Nov. 14, 2005, with Leonard Carmichael, Ray Schwartz, Therese Almquist, Paul Chadwick, Phil Hasz, Fred Rivera and Karen Simmons in attendance.

In the 20 years since, RACF has granted over

\$1.3 million back to the local community. It has established 33 endowed funds with one acorn fund. Major projects have included the RACF Disaster Preparedness Fund to help those impacted by the 2015 EF4 tornado that hit the rural Rochelle area, and a COVID-19 Relief Fund to help locals impacted by the 2020 pandemic.

**See RACF page 2**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## RACF: 'We're here to help donors turn their passion into permanent progress'

**From page 1**

RACF offers an opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to leave a legacy for future generations and is a public, charitable organization designed to attract gifts that will be shared with Rochelle-area non-profit organizations for the benefit of the community. It supports the areas of Chana, Creston, Esmond, Kings, Lind- enwood, Rochelle and

Steward.

RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said the foundation's donors are investing in long-term solutions, brighter futures, and in the heart of the heart of the community they call home.

"For 20 years, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation has been a beacon of hope, lighting the path toward a stronger, more vibrant community," Anaya said. "Our donors' generosity

— combined with the power of endowment — continues to create ripples of impact that last for generations. Two decades of philanthropy. Thousands of lives touched. One mission: to make lasting change in the place we love most. At RACF, we're here to help donors turn their passion into permanent progress."

RACF will hold its annual Community Needs grant award event on Wednesday, April 30 at

the Lincoln Arts Center at 108 S. Main St. from 4-7 p.m. The free event will be catered by Flight Deck Bar & Grill.

Last year, RACF granted nearly \$140,000 back into the community, supporting 34 nonprofit partners. Anaya said 41 grant applications were submitted to the foundation for this year's grant cycle, including applications by organizations RACF has not worked with before.

"Our reach is getting bigger and RACF is becoming more established and known in the community," Anaya said. "In the foundation's first year, ten \$1,000 grants were distributed. Now the average single request for a grant is around \$10,000. We're granting out around \$100,000 every year. That's incredible."

Past RACF grant recipients have included local libraries and schools, the Flagg Township Museum, HOPE of Ogle County, Vince Carney Community Theater, Floyd J. Tilton VFW Post 3878, Foundation for Focus House, Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County, Northern Illinois Food Bank and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center.

RACF is now a stand-alone organization after previously being under the DeKalb County Community Foundation

umbrella. Anaya was RACF's first full-time director when she was hired four years ago and the foundation also has a part-time administrative assistant in Stephanie Messer.

The establishment of RACF was spearheaded by Carmichael, a local farmer, businessman, philanthropist and community leader. Anaya credited him for establishing the foundation's long history of giving, along with past RACF Executive Directors Ann Rice and Kim Montgomery and past and current board members.

"My goal is to build this and be a \$10 million foundation in assets in the next 10 years," Anaya said. "The impact and growth and reach we could have with that would be game changing. We have great community support. I think Leonard would be proud. Once people know about what we do and how we work, they really get involved with us and it's neat to see."

RACF works with donors of all levels, and Anaya thanked everyone who has given funds, time and expertise to RACF over its 20 years. Donors can dedicate their funds towards certain areas of interest that are most important to them.

Anaya and RACF's

donors have been able to see firsthand how the donated funds have been put to use in the community over the years.

"The work our funds do warms my heart," Anaya said. "Especially when there's so much chaos going on in the world, you know the people right here in our community really want to do good and have an impact. And those people get to see the impact their funds make. They see kids in our community getting the things they need and scholarships. Every single day is gratifying. People donate with love and passion when they give to causes they want to support."

RACF's goal is to grow its funds and work with people who want to make a difference and create a legacy in the community through different avenues of giving.

"RACF belongs to this community," Anaya said. "For 20 years, we've connected generosity with need, dreams with resources, and people with purpose. Because when we work together, incredible things happen. Thanks to our donors, RACF has become the community's partner in progress. Together, we've turned compassion into action, and action into real, measurable change."



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## Arellano announces over \$34,000 in state library grants

**DIXON** — State Sen. Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) is proud to announce that more than \$34,000 in state-sponsored library grants have been awarded to public schools throughout his district. The annual grants, administered by the Illinois Secretary of State's

office, are aimed at supporting school libraries serving students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"These grants are a great win for our students, educators, and communities," said Senator Arellano. "School libraries are more than just books,

they're learning hubs that promote literacy, access to technology, and academic achievement. I'm proud to see our local schools receiving these important funds to strengthen those resources."

The library grants can be used for purchasing books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, multilingual materials, updated technology, and educational programming.

The following school districts in the 37th Senate District have received funding: Polo CUSD 222 — \$850; Rochelle CCSD 231 — \$1,235.46; and Rochelle Township High SD 212 — \$850.



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# LOCAL NEWS



## Byron Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders donate blankets from community service project

Over 100 seventh grade students from Byron Middle School recently completed a community service project. Students chose tie-blanket kits in a variety of designs and made the blankets cooperatively with their classmates during a community day at BMS last fall. Three different organizations were chosen to donate the completed blankets to including Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and UW Health Pediatrics/ Emergency Room Departments. Next, in writing class, the students each wrote a paragraph about why they should be chosen to deliver the blankets. Finally, 12 students were chosen to deliver the blankets to the various organizations along with Mrs. Carrie Bell and Mrs. Amy Bukoski. The recent delivery day was very rewarding for all involved. Special thanks to Stacy Weavel from UW Health and Brooke from Noah's Ark for taking time out of their busy day to meet with the students and talk about their organizations. Great job, BMS seventh graders! Way to show your Tiger pride in our local and surrounding communities! (Courtesy photos)

## CAMPUS WALK: Stillman Valley High School's Out of the Darkness event is May 4

From page 1

The group's other work includes spreading kindness around the school, putting up signs and banners including a poster board of positive things, putting notes on students' lockers during high-stress weeks such as during finals, fundraising and teambuilding, and raising awareness for Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

"The Take Action League started after a student tragically took her own life here 7-8 years ago," Feldhaus said. "A group of students came together and said they want-

ed to do something. Take Action League was started to promote kindness and try to change the school culture in order to be more supportive so people don't feel alone when it comes to their mental health. It's continued ever since."

Participants in the walk who have lost family members to suicide, have struggled with suicidal thoughts, or consider themselves to be allies to the cause can wear colored "honor beads" to represent their experience.

Feldhaus said the event can be beneficial for students and community members that do, and don't have experience with suicide in their personal lives.

"For our students who do have experience with suicide in their lives, it's important for them to feel that they can talk about it," Feldhaus said. "For our students who have not encountered suicide in their lives, they need to learn it's something that can unfortunately happen. They may not understand how prevalent it is and that words can have a lot of weight and hurt people. You can't see what's going on in someone else's life. Hopefully it will help. I hope the more involved students get, the more aware they become, which makes them less likely to be mean and unkind. Bullying is still a big problem in our

school and other schools."

The event will be sponsored by Winnebago Landfill. It will also feature 6-8 community mental health agencies that will attend and spread awareness about their services and give out support to students, families and community members.

The event is for all ages, and Feldhaus said there will be arts & crafts such as bracelet making and rock painting to make it more kid-friendly. The walk will be wheelchair and stroller accessible.

"I think it's really important to include the entire community," Feldhaus said. "Our kids are

influenced by their parents and the rest of the community and that influence comes into our school. If we can teach parents and the community how important and prevalent this is, hopefully we can get more support for our students. Because suicide really is an epidemic. I see firsthand how many students struggle. There needs to be awareness of that in the community. There are things we can do about that and there's a lot of hope for it. But we can't do it all. We need more support from the community to help us with our kids."

Last year's event set

records for turnout and funds raised. Feldhaus is most excited this year by how many students have shown interest in the walk.

"I think as I get more excited, the students get more excited about it," Feldhaus said. "We had our most students ever last year and it looks like we're going to be able to double that number this year. Taking a Sunday to come out and support your peers and spread awareness is big. I think all the students are excited to volunteer and walk."

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, please call 988 or text TALK to 741-741.

## FTH: Organization will cease operations after raising \$900,000 over 18 years

From page 1

The check presentation ceremony will be the last for From the Heart, as it will be ceasing operations after 18 years of fundraising in the Rochelle area for local organizations. From the Heart galas raised \$900,000 total and its cash calendar program raised \$216,000 for a total of \$1.116 million in giving.

"Handing out checks makes this whole thing worth it," From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said. "There's no other experience like giving \$10,000 to a group. That's a huge deal. Raising \$900,000 over 18 years is a pretty cool thing, especially for a community of our size. That's a really big deal and something we can all be proud of."

Rochelle Christian Food Pantry was the first nonprofit to receive its check. The food pantry has broken records recently with the number of people in need it has been serving. Kathy Olson and Cal Jacobs of the RCFP said the From the Heart funding has been crucial for the food pantry over the years and thanked the organization for its support.

"There's people out there that we wouldn't be able to feed if we didn't get the support we do from the community," Jacobs said. "We're very thankful and the city is very thankful for what From the Heart provided. It's a very generous city and we're very blessed to be able to do what we do."

presented to HOPE of Ogle County and accepted by its executive director, Rebecca Laudati, and Board President Christy Schweitzer. As the area's domestic violence support agency, HOPE provides free and confidential services including counseling, support groups, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and a 24/7 hotline.

"The biggest thing we advocate for is making sure people know about us," Schweitzer said. "Everyone knows someone who has been impacted by domestic violence. These services are absolutely life changing and necessary for our community."

CAN's check was accepted by Michelle Pease and Pat Burch. Pease said \$10,000 makes up a third of CAN's operating budget. The nonprofit takes area kids in need on a Christmas shopping trip each year and recently increased its gift card for kids to \$100.

"Kids get necessities like clothing, and one toy," Pease said. "We also do backpack program with backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies and hand them out before school starts so kids have tools to be successful. We also do a shoe

program and hand out gym shoes at the Christmas shopping trip, along with a coat drive. We focus on children and families and helping them meet basic needs to be successful."

Shining Star CAC works with families and children in Ogle and Lee counties who have been victims of child abuse. The work is done alongside law enforcement, prosecutors, DCFS and medical providers when there's been allegations of severe physical or sexual abuse or kids that have experienced violent crimes, domestic violence or child deaths in the home.

Children come to Shining Star's location to be interviewed rather than going to a police station or hospital that can be less child-friendly or more intimidating. The organization also offers counseling, trauma therapy, group services and court advocacy.

"Since July 1, we've seen 178 new kids at our center from Lee and Ogle counties," Shining Star Executive Director Jessica Cash said. "It's definitely an issue that's out there and we're here each day to help these kids heal and work through that process."

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation

provides support to area nonprofits through a competitive grant process yearly. It also works with donors from every walk of life from small donations to big donations and everything in between. RACF has been part of From the Heart since its inception.

RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya thanked From the Heart for its support over the years.

"Without the support that we've received from From the Heart, we wouldn't be able to do what we do," Anaya said. "It helps us to have unrestricted funds to help us keep our doors open and work with donors that want to leave a legacy, just like From the Heart has."

CASA is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the juvenile court system in Lee, Carroll and Ogle Counties.

Foundation for Focus House's check was accepted by Board Members Lance Charnock and Tim Bowerman. Focus House is a residential and outpatient facility for youth that are going through the court system. It also has an alternative-to-suspension program where students that have been suspended from

middle school and high school go to the facility and meet with counselors and do schoolwork.

"Over the years, the funds have helped tremendously to fill huge voids that the county doesn't fund," Charnock said. "Anything from school supplies to clothing to gas cards for parents to come see the kids. It really does a lot for the foundation and the kids at Focus House."

Pegasus Special Riders' check was accepted by Board Members Sharlene Meadows and John Hintzsche. Pegasus Special Riders provides therapeutic horseback riding experiences for those who are physically and mentally challenged. Riding helps with cognitive balance and volunteers and instructors assist in the lessons.

"We were added to From the Heart three years ago right after our arena was destroyed in a windstorm and we wondered if we'd be able to keep going," Meadows said. "It was perfect timing. It's been a huge blessing for us and we're back to riding. I'm so grateful for all of From the Heart's support."

The final check was presented to the Hub City Senior Center and accepted by its executive

director, Diana King. The Hub City Senior Center provides programming, resources and transportation for older adults in the community free of charge.

"On average, we serve about 40-45 people per day," King said. "We partner with a lot of other agencies to provide lunch, help with government programs, and transportation. Last year we provided over 8,500 rides to seniors and individuals with disabilities in Rochelle. We're so incredibly thankful for this check. This helps us to provide all of our programs at no cost."

From the Heart's board is made up of Eckhardt, Chuck Watkins, Sarah Flanagan, and Tonja Greenfield, along with the directors of the nine nonprofits.

"It's been a great run," Eckhardt said. "Rochelle is a great place to live. This community steps up all the time. Whenever there's a special cause, people in Rochelle step up. None of what we've done would have been possible without the people of the community. When we started this, we barely made it to \$30,000 in the first year. And then we kept going and added more groups along the way. The run has been incredible."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Matthew Scott Miller

**MANLIUS** — The family of Matthew Scott Miller (Manlius, IL), is saddened to announce his passing on April 15th, 2025, at the age of 56. Everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Matt can attest to his ability to light up the room with whoops & howls, a raunchy comment sprinkled in, followed by a deep laugh. He is the epicenter of many one-of-a-kind memories. He had a heart of gold, and is going to be missed immensely.

Born January 23rd 1969 to Vernon "Kaye" Miller and Penny Jones (Last), Matt spent his younger years working at different rock quarries, his favorite being the Benesh's in Oregon, IL. Matt eventually returned to his family farm in Manlius, where he spent the remainder of his life working laps around everyone else. His knowledge and pride of farming was evident in his finished work; it truly was a sight to see.

Matt married his love, Belinda "Beans" Allicks, on October 3rd 2002. They shared a 22-year-long

commitment and understanding of one another that is rarely seen. Their love was clear as day, and will live in the walls and ground of the farm long after their physical presence.

Matt loved his children with every bit of his soul. He led them on many fishing and morel mushroom hunting adventures. Matt instilled his sense of humor in his children, and they will carry his love for them in their hearts forever. We love you dad.

Matt is survived by his wife Belinda Miller of Manlius, IL; four children, Lucas (Kali) Miller of Harvard, IL, Chloe (Jeremy) Turner of MS, Anthony and Nathaniel Miller both of Manlius, IL; three grandchildren, Autum Niedziela, Joseph Niedziela, Syluh Turner; his mother, Penny Jones; five siblings, Christine Bohms of Oregon, IL, Timothy Miller of Sheffield, IL, Carrie Carpenter of Rockford, IL, Janelle (Mike) Smith of Sheffield, and Thomas (Chelsea) Jones of Oregon, IL; along with many nieces and



nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Ryan Niedziela; his father, Kaye Miller; step-father, Marlin Jones; paternal grandparents, Virgil and Billy Miller and maternal grandparents, Earl and Kathryn Last.

A visitation was held from 11:00am-12:30pm on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home in Princeton, IL. A private graveside service will be in Mineral Township Cemetery with Pastor Terry Lancaster officiating. Burial will immediately follow the services.

In lieu of flowers Matt's family would like you to plant a tree in his memory.

Online condolences may be made at [www.grant-johnsonfh.com](http://www.grant-johnsonfh.com)

### Marcia Ellen Buss

**FORRESTON** — Marcia Ellen Buss, born on April 14, 1942, in Poynette, Wisconsin, ascended to eternal peace on April 21, 2025, at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois surrounded by her loving family. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. Marcia's life was a tapestry woven with care, love, and kindness.

In the early chapters of her life, Marcia embarked on a career as the owner and operator of Polo Floral, cultivating beauty through the art of floral arrangement, before dedicating her talents to Kable News in Mt. Morris, Illinois for many years. Her professional journey culminated at Burchard Hills in Freeport, Illinois, where she gracefully retired, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and commitment to those in her care.

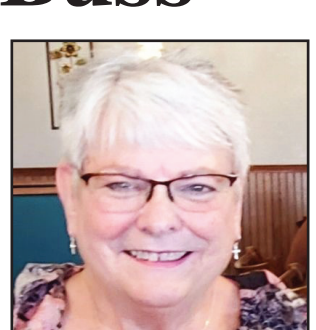
Marcia was united in marriage to her cherished husband, Gary Buss, on November 12, 1999, in a poignant ceremony held at Faith Lutheran Church in Forreston, Illinois. Together, they shared countless memories filled with laughter and love. Attending Forreston Reformed Church with her husband, she found solace and community in her faith.

Her leisure moments were beautifully spent nurturing her passions—gardening, feeding the

birds and squirrels, and playing the piano; each act a gentle reflection of her nurturing spirit. Marcia held an especial fondness for animals, particularly her loyal dog, Ally, who provided companionship through life's journey. Above all else, it was her family that occupied the highest place in her heart. She adored her grandchildren, who brought immeasurable joy and pride into her life.

Marcia is survived by her loving husband, Gary Buss, alongside her children: Marc (Jill) Stamm of Forreston, IL, Jim (Felicia) Buss of Forreston, IL, and Samantha Buss of Rock Falls, IL. She leaves a profound legacy in her grandchildren: Shayla (Justin) Stamm, Braxton (Kaitlyn) Stamm, Elizabeth Stamm, Annalise Stamm, Elijah (Kanise) McIlquham, Devan (Cait) Buss, Hayley (Kaleb) Volkmann, Jocelyn (Logan) Buss, Taylor Nunley, and Jordan Yingling, as well as her cherished great-grandchildren: Parker and his mother Stephanie Stamm, Laylah, Lukas, Delylah, and Emery. Marcia will also be lovingly remembered by her siblings: John (Sylvia) Kutz and Verna White, both of whom shared in her journey through life. She was also survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carlton and Marion (Wilkinson)



Kutz, as well as her son Cody Stamm and grandson TJ Stamm. These profound losses carve an indelible mark upon the hearts of her family, yet within their grief lies the enduring love she imparted to them.

The commemoration of Marcia's life will commence with a visitation at Forreston Reformed Church, located at 501 3rd Avenue, Forreston, Illinois, on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM, followed by a solemn funeral service honoring her legacy on April 26, 2025, at the same location, commencing at 11:00 AM. Burial will be in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Freeport, IL. There will be no luncheon following the service, a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established in Marcia's memory.

As we bid farewell to Marcia Ellen Buss, let us carry forward her spirit of compassion, nurturing, and unwavering love, which will forever resonate in the hearts of all who knew her.

### Patricia 'Pat' Ellen LeFevre

**DIXON** — It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of the soul of our family, Patricia "Pat" Ellen LeFevre, on Monday, April 14, 2025, at the age of 82. She was born on March 17, 1943, in Sterling, IL, to Clarence and Dorothy (Thome) Whaley.

She attended Dixon High School, where she met the love of her life, Leonard LeFevre. The two were married on June 15, 1960, in Nachusa, IL, and lived a happy and full life together for almost 49 years until his passing in January of 2009.

She is survived by her troublemaking children (which they in no way inherited from her) Greg (Ellen) LeFevre, Tim LeFevre, Mark (Renee) LeFevre, Vickie (Brian) McWethy, Connie Hennis; sixteen angelic grandchildren, Jennifer Tompkins, Jared (Hannah) LeFevre, Lindsey (Michael) Chavez, Kelsey (Nate) Robbins, Nathan LeFevre, Hope LeFevre, Megan (David) Boyd, Holly LeFevre, Taber (David) Albers, Trace LeFevre, Keegan (Amber) McWethy, Caleb (Tiffany) McWethy, Brianna (Chas) Shields, Mikayla (Micah) Sumner, Terry Olsen and Nichole (Zeb) Harris; numerous spoiled great-grandchildren; her brother, Jack Whaley; her sister, Donna (Virgil) Tegeler; brother-in-law, Lyle LeFevre; and various nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her sister, her brother, and several brothers-and-sisters-in-law, including the other two members of "The Golden Girls."

For a great number of years, she tended bar at Mick's Tap while managing the bar at the American Legion. For 25 years she worked as a rural postal carrier, retiring on September 30, 2008. Several of

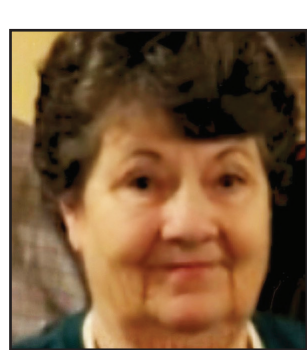
her grandchildren were the beneficiaries of a retired "mail car" and she was so proficient at the job that one evening while watching television her husband looked over and found her sorting mail in her sleep.

She was an avid quilter. It's estimated that she made more than 100 quilts throughout her life, many of which she gave away to her family. If you were fortunate enough to be around the house while she was setting up her quilting rack, you could count on being drafted to help. More than one grandchild could be found crawling across the quilt to pin it in place before moving it to the living room.

She made a lot of cookies—I mean A LOT of cookies. You could always be sure that there would be cookies on the counter and they were somehow replenished just as quickly as they were devoured. It was tradition for the grandkids to help grandma make them and they made just as many great memories as cookies.

Her kids were such an important part of her life. Snowmobiling, milking cows, and Fourth of July hog roasts permeate childhood memories. Once when talking about how her three boys were always up to no good, she was heard to say "If one of them didn't think of it, the others did." She loved her children deeply but she also wasn't afraid to let them know when they were "number one." She was very proud of her children and supported them in everything.

Fab-gram, Grandma, Grandma Pat—she was everyone's grandma. The world has hardly before known a love like she had for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many of their friends who came to think of her as their own grandma.



With leftovers in the fridge and an offer to make you dinner, when you were with Grandma you were never hungry. She was so proud of each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was known to tell stories about and share the accomplishments of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren with anyone who was around (and sometimes she'd tell you twice).

She lived life lovingly serving those around her. She always put everyone else first, jumping up at the first hint that there was something she could do for you, and very often had to be ordered into a chair to relax—though, like her kids, you often had to tell her multiple times.

She was quick to laugh, she gave the warmest hugs, and she will be missed by us all.

A Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Monday, April 21, 2025, at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. The Funeral Service will be held the following day at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon, with Pastor Brian Tribble, officiating. Burial will be to follow at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

A memorial has been established. Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

Condolences may be sent to [www.prestonschilling.com](http://www.prestonschilling.com).

### Roberta A. (Lingel) Calvert

**ROCKFORD** — Roberta A. (Lingel) Calvert was born October 20, 1943 in Rockford, Illinois. She passed away peacefully on April 21, 2025 in Swedish American Hospital surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of Robert and Gladys (Blevins) Lingel of Byron, Illinois. She joined two brothers, Jerry and Larry later welcoming her sister Loretta.

Roberta attended Whitaker School and graduated from Byron High School in 1961 laying a foundation for a life filled with learning and growth. Later she was

a dedicated employee of Sems, DC Products and Illinois Tool Works where she held various positions including plant manager before retiring in 2006.

Roberta's journey through life was marked by her dedication and love for her family, her work, her friends and church which was evident to all she met. Roberta met the love of her life, Randell (Randy) Calvert and they married on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1969. She had two children, Mark of Stillman Valley and Amy (Peter) Garrigues of Downers Grove and two grand-



children Ethan and Emily Garrigues. She is survived by her brother Larry (Linda) of Platteville Wisconsin, sister Loretta (Mike) Freedlund of Winnebago, sisters-in-law Shirlee Calvert, Cindy Calvert and Carla (Mark) Ticknor as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Roberta was preceded in death by her parents and brother Jerry.

Roberta was a woman of faith and compassion, holding her Christian beliefs close to her heart. She and Randy enjoyed traveling, gardening, cooking and entertaining. She will be missed by all those who have crossed her path.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday April 26, 2025 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Rockford. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to Emmanuel Lutheran's food pantry and Serenity Hospice and Home, P.O. Box 462, Oregon Illinois 61061.

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Public is Welcome!

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05/30/2024



# 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 May 12, 1896, New York City passed America's first anti-spitting law in an effort to combat tuberculosis, imposing fines and even jail time on unruly protesters who demonstrated their discontent by expectorating on anti-spitting signs. By 1910, more than 2,500 arrests had been made.

\* On May 13, 1846, in response to a request by President James Polk, the U.S. Congress declared war on Mexico. The conflict, which ended two years later with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, eventually

cost the lives of 11,300 American soldiers and resulted in the annexation of lands that became parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado.

\* On May 14, 1998, legendary crooner, actor and show business icon Frank Sinatra died of a heart attack in Los Angeles at the age of 82. A heartthrob who married four times and divorced three, Sinatra's career spanned more than five decades, including a notable comeback in the 1950s.

## How to find a good mental health counselor

MANY people have a difficult time in finding an effective mental health counselor that will help them get their life back on track.

The key is to find someone that you can trust in discussing your anxieties and depression.

With this in mind, here are seven suggestions on how to find a great mental health counselor that works for you.

1. Talk to your doctor or primary care physician: Your medical or family doctor is a great source in finding a therapist. Explain to your doctor your problems and he or she can point you in the right direction in seeking the proper treatment. Your primary care physician may even know of some low-cost services that you can use to your advantage.

2. Go to your local hospital: Your local hospital is another source you can use to find a good counselor and they also know of many different mental health programs in your area. Your emergency center can also handle your situation right away if you are struggling with fear and anxiety.

3. Ask your friends and relatives for advice: Use your network of friends and relatives to see if they know of any reputable counselors that are nearby. Many churches and nonprofit agencies offer a variety of mental health programs in your area. Asking the people who attend these groups may be aware of some programs.

4. Join a local mental health support group: Go to a support group in your area and ask if anyone knows of a therapist that can help you with your mental health

issues. Many people who are active in these groups will be able to give you some names of people in the area that can help you out. In addition, the people in these groups will be able to relate to your situation.

5. Find a counselor that you can work with: When asking for a therapist, always ask for someone who has a good reputation. Remember that finding a counselor to help you depends on how you interact with them and how they interact with you. It may take a couple of times to find the right person, but do not give up. Finding the right person will pay off for you in the long run.

6. Measure your progress: The key components of having an effective therapist is affordability, the ability to effectively talk to your counselor, and how effective they are in finding the answers to your current problems. Remember that your main goal is to find the answers that will help get rid of your mental health issues.

7. Do what is best for you: Choose a mental health professional that you feel comfortable talking to and then go from there. You can always change counselors down the road so don't pressure yourself if things don't work out. If you do not see any improvement in your mental health after a couple of months, you may want to find someone else who can help reduce your fears, anxieties, and depression.

*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>*



Stan Popovich

## Letter: Motorcycle Awareness Month

DEAR editor, May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and the Twin Rivers and Thunder Rock chapters of ABATE of Illinois would like to remind drivers to please watch for motorcycles and don't use your phone

while driving. You're conditioned to look for cars and trucks and it's easy to overlook an oncoming motorcycle. Look twice and save a life. Thank you.

ABATE of Illinois

## Letter: Thanks from Polo Lions

DEAR editor, The Polo Lions Club says thank you to everyone that bought roses and carnations and for the support of all of our fundraisers. The Lions

Club could not do the donations and projects without you all. The Polo community is the best. Thank you Polo!

Jeff Short, Polo Lions Club

## Consider this: What is a bully?

SINCE I started out my last article with a single definition, let's do the same this time. What is a bully? Let's look at the word in the fashion we see it today. In school, at work, in politics. Merriam Webster has it defined as; "a blustering browbeating person". "One who is habitually cruel, insulting, or threatening to others who are weaker, smaller, or in some way vulnerable". Does this sound like anyone you know or have known in the past? Can you put a name to that person? Did they make an impression on you, make your life miserable, or did most of their deeds just wash off you like water?

Even more important than the definition of, or even the bully themselves, however, is the fact that when a bully is stood up to, they usually crumble under the scrutiny. Have you experienced this? Did their deeds against you wash off like tiny droplets of water because you stood up to the tirade? Did you barely feel wet after the bullies sputtering because it had no feeling, no sustenance? Did the bully quit bullying?

Currently, we are watching another country being bullied. My problem with it is that we are the bully. If you are wondering what country I am talking about then read the article by Ivan Pereria of ABC News "Trump keeps talking about making Canada the 51st state. Is he serious?". You can read

this at the internet address: [abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-talking-making-canada-51st-state/story?id=119767909](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-talking-making-canada-51st-state/story?id=119767909). If you knew about this after reading the first sentence in this paragraph, then you have the same problem I do.

I think some are just feeling that the acquisition of Canada would just make us bigger. But does bigger make better? Can anyone say that repressing a country is good? Is this not like the invasion of Ukraine? And if anyone says that we'd have the Canadian citizens vote on it, don't bother. We've already been told by the government in their speeches and by the citizens with their reactions to our tariffs and their protests.

Speaking of tariffs, in the same article there is the following sentence. "The United States can't subsidize a country for \$200 billion a year". It goes on to say we don't need their cars and lists other commodities from them we don't need. Also, "We do it because we want to be helpful.". Huh? No, we do it because we want their goods and services. We used to build/produce some of these things here, in America, but we don't anymore. We could start to once again but why would we want a 51st state then if we'll just produce it here? It sounds confusing, but the simplicity of it is that if they become the 51st

state, we have the control and reap the profits.

I would love for the United States to have the manufacturing of the past, but we don't need to control others, we just need to do it. Yet, what if we decided to close the Canadian border? We would save the \$200 billion "subsidy". Looking at it closer, however, the internet site "www.investopedia.com/terms/g/gnp.asp" lists the gross national product of the United States in 2021 as \$23.8 trillion. So, the \$200 billion would be 0.0084% of this total. Not a big factor. On the other hand, what would it take to begin the production

here? More, I presume. Much more than the single year of \$200 billion.

Another country is trying to hold up against constant harassment. In the article by Will

Weissert and Zeke Miller of AP News, President Trump said, "We need Greenland for national security purposes." You can find this at [apnews.com/article/trump-biden-offshore-drilling-gulf-of-america-fa66f8d072eb39c00a8128a8941ede75](https://apnews.com/article/trump-biden-offshore-drilling-gulf-of-america-fa66f8d072eb39c00a8128a8941ede75).

In addition, on Vice President Vance's recent trip to Greenland he said, "I think that they ultimately will partner with the United States," Vance said. "We could make them much more secure. We could do a lot more protection. And I think they'd fare a lot better



Reed Harris

## Why Pritzker wants to eliminate township government

TOWNSHIP government is often about neighbors helping neighbors. From the quality of schools and libraries to the parks we enjoy, we rely on local leaders to make decisions that align with the priorities of their constituents. Township government is a crucial part of this framework.

It's the most local, most accountable, and most efficient form of government we have. That's exactly why Governor JB Pritzker wants to destroy it.

Governor JB Pritzker has repeatedly pushed Chicago-centric, one-size-fits-all solutions to problems he deems important, often to bolster his national political profile. This year, Governor Pritzker has supported two anti-township bills that would strip away local control over vital issues like road maintenance and property assessments, consolidating power at higher levels of

government.

Senate Bill 2217 would dissolve all townships with populations under 5,000 and merge them either with adjacent townships or with the county. Senate Bill 2504, also backed by Pritzker, seeks to abolish the offices of township assessors and multi-township assessors in counties with populations under 50,000, transferring their responsibilities to county assessors.

Make no mistake: this isn't "streamlining." It's a power grab.

During his February Budget Address, Governor Pritzker championed these proposals, claiming they would reduce the number of units of government in Illinois. However, his rhetoric is misleading and disingenuous. This is the same governor who has overseen a 33% increase in state spending since taking office, ballooning

the size of state government rather than streamlining it.

Why does Pritzker hate township government? Simple. It works. Township government is efficient, without the bloated overhead and union mandates seen at the state level. Townships can maintain roads at a fraction of the cost because they avoid red tape

and political influence. Without being bound by state and county unionized labor laws, they allocate tax dollars more efficiently, with non-union labor driving down the cost per mile of road maintenance

and stretching taxpayers' dollars further. And when local officials don't do their job, voters don't have to wait four years for some distant politician to notice — they can vote them out immediately at the next local election.

Additionally, Senate

economically as well."

This is in an article by Philip Crowther, Kirsten Grieshaber and Aamer Madhani of AP News and can be found at [www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/vance-and-wife-to-tour-us-military-post-in-greenland-after-diplomatic-spat-over-uninvited-visit/ar-AA-1BOoW8?ocid=Bing-NewsSerp](https://www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/vance-and-wife-to-tour-us-military-post-in-greenland-after-diplomatic-spat-over-uninvited-visit/ar-AA-1BOoW8?ocid=Bing-NewsSerp).

Both statements about security in Greenland are very puzzling since we have had an agreement with Greenland since 1951 and could build more bases, more military presence at any time. Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark, has recently said "Denmark did not oppose ties with the United States, citing a 1951 bilateral agreement that established U.S. rights to move freely and construct military bases in Greenland, given Denmark and Greenland are notified." You can find this at [www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-greenland-visit-1.7493029](https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-greenland-visit-1.7493029).

So, what could our administration want other than what they already have? Minerals come to mind; however, we also have American companies mining there currently. I guess, however, if we had ownership of Greenland, we would have ownership of the minerals and be able to remove and sell as much as we want as quickly as we can. Does this remind anyone of a country in the east?



Andrew Chesney

## LIFE letters' policy

Concise letters are most likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of management. All letters must be signed or they will not be considered for publication. During election times, no letters written by the candidates endorsing themselves will be considered for publication. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks. Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter. Letters will be published in the order that they are received, unless there is a time factor involved, space permitting.



# PUZZLE BOOK

Find these hidden words in the word grid:

ANGEL TREASURES  
COMPASSION  
DIGNITY  
FAITH  
IMPACT  
GLORY  
GRACE  
HOPE  
LOVE  
MERCY  
PEACE  
SERENITY  
THE SHED  
TRUST  
VOLUNTEER

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



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BINGOCIZE  
BRAIN HEALTH  
CARDS AND GAMES  
CAREGIVER  
FITNESS  
HEARING SCREENING  
RECREATION  
ROCK RIVER CENTER  
SENIOR CENTER  
SOCIAL PROGRAMS  
SUPPORT GROUPS  
TRANSPORTATION  
TRIPS AND TOURS

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



ROCK RIVER CENTER, INC.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR GENERATION

Serving Older Adults and Their Families Throughout Ogle County

Senior Information Service  
Transportation  
Medicare Counseling  
Caregiver Services  
Education  
Recreation  
Trips & Tours

www.rockrivercenter.org  
810 South 10th St., Oregon

Monday - Friday: 8:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.  
(815) 732-3252 • (800) 541-5479

United Way



04/28/2025



# PUZZLE BOOK

Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center

Find these hidden words in the word grid:

BINGO  
BISCUITS AND GRAVY  
BRIDGE  
CARDS  
CLASSES  
COMMUNITY  
EUCHRE  
EXERCISE  
FOOD  
MOUNT MORRIS  
MOVIES  
MUSIC  
PARTIES  
POPCORN  
SENIORS  
TRIVIA NIGHTS

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

Mt. Morris Senior & Community Center

Community Events, Party Rentals, and much more!

815-734-6335  
9 E. Front Street,  
Mt. Morris, IL 61054

THE CENTER

MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

Your Community.  
Your Center.

Caring, Sharing, Serving.

Check out our website to see the latest events!

TheCenterMtMorris.com

ROCHELLE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CLUB

Find these hidden words in the word grid:

ARCHERY  
BOATING  
CAMPING  
CONSERVATION  
FALL SHOOT  
FAMILY FUN  
FISHING  
FRIENDS  
HIKING  
MEMORIES  
RELAX  
RIFLE RANGE  
SMORES  
STEAK FRYS  
WILDLIFE

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

Ready for SUMMER FUN

Interested in becoming a member, or to learn about many more public events we are holding check out our website at [rochellewildlife.org](http://rochellewildlife.org)

3501 S Sweeney Road  
Chana, IL 61015

Stop out at our family-friendly private club to enjoy our quiet fishing, non-motor boating ponds, hiking trails, sledding hill, campsites, basketball court, kids playgrounds, rifle range, archery range and pavilions.

Open to the public events:

May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Steak Frys Start For The Summer

May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Mother's Day Brunch

June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Kid's Fishing Derby

04282025



# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Oregon Woman's Club presented books about birds to the Oregon Public Library in memory of long-time member Marge Wilhelm. Front row, left to right: Nancy Bartels, Sharon Lung, Johanna Hahne, Anne Wilhelm, Joyce Dixon, Sandie Brubaker, Jan Steward. Middle Row: Carol Cobacchini, JoAnn Pryor, Sandie Chasm, Shirley Poggiloi, Audrey Taylor, Valdean Fletcher, Christa Young, Back Row: Terese Whitten, Maggie Kippes, Judy Groharing.**

## Oregon Woman's Club celebrates National Library Week

**OREGON** — The Oregon Woman's Club celebrated National Library week with members of the staff of the Oregon Public Library on Friday, April 11. Library Director Elizabeth Green addressed the group. She explained in detail many of the numerous services of the library that are available to both cardholders and others, and showed books the club donated to the library in memory of long-time member, Marge Wilhelm, who recently passed away. Chosen to reflect Marge's interest in nature and birds in particular, the books are *Birding to Change the World*, by Trish O'Kane, *Ornithography, An Illustrated Guide to Bird Lore and Symbolism*, by Jessica Roux, *Bird of a Thousand Stories* by Kujash Moncef, and for the youngest

readers, *What's Inside a Bird's Nest* by Richard Ignatofsky. These books are available for checkout now.

In her address, Ms. Green pointed out that libraries aren't just about books anymore. Now members of the community can get a passport or have their passports renewed at the library. They can make copies and print documents for a small fee. They can find like-minded people who enjoy the same hobbies they do, such as crafting, through clubs that meet regularly at the library, and they can try out new hobbies at the library's "Try It Tuesdays." The library also sponsors several book clubs and a monthly writers' group where authors can share their work. The library also offers a "Library of Things," where small tools

and other useful items are available for short-term use. Of course, books are still a central part of the library's mission, but books are now available in a variety of formats--audio, eBooks, large print, and good old-fashioned printed books. They can be rented, not just from the Oregon library, but from any library in its network. The "Dial a Story" program offers, via phone, a story read aloud, and if you want to exercise with your small children and encourage reading at the same time, you can follow the "Story Walk" at Oregon Park West. On this walk, a new book is posted every month and readers get a whole story simply by following the walking path. For more information about any library services, call 815-732-2724.

## First Fridays Open Mic is May 2

**OREGON** — The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW on Friday, May 2. This indoor event attracts many talented performers, but musicians and singers of all skill levels find acceptance from its supportive audience.

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

The VFW is located at 1310 W. Washington St. in Oregon. It provides ample parking, along with the availability of a restaurant and bar within the building. A fish fry runs from 4 to 8 p.m.

The following text can accompany the photo: Banjo player Tim Laurence is a frequent presence at First Fridays.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The First Fridays Open Mic presents its monthly show at the Oregon VFW on Friday, May 2.**

He provides instrumental accompaniment to many other performers and was

awarded a plaque at the last show, in honor of his contributions.

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**OGLE COUNTY** — Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling (RSAC) provides free & confidential services to victims of sexual violence ages 3+ & their non-offending family members in Winnebago, Boone & Ogle County. The Ogle County office, located downtown Oregon, provides essential services to victims and their families. Essential services: Counseling (ages 3+ & non-offending family members). School-based counseling. Crisis Intervention. Medical & Legal Advocacy. Prevention Education. Professional Training.

RSAC works with many local agencies and organizations to spread awareness about RSAC's

free services. If your agency or organization is wanting to know more about RSAC's services, please reach out to RSAC! We would love to come talk about our free essential services and how we can help one another in serving our community!

Upcoming events: Denim Day April 30.

Threads of Triumph June 26 6:30-8:30 p.m. CT, The Standard, 214 E. State St., Rockford. Join us for a powerful evening of fashion, awareness, and solidarity in support of survivors of sexual assault. All proceeds from this event will benefit Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling.

Dispelling the Darkness Candlelight Vigil

on Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. CT, Rockford University Fisher Memorial Chapel, 5050 E. State St., Rockford. We are currently seeking sponsorships for this event that provides an opportunity for survivors to share their stories. Join us and the community to shed a light in the darkness of sexual violence!

Become a volunteer! Volunteer Advocates are essential in helping survivors feel heard and supported, and to identify their options after a recent sexual assault. Visit our website or call our office to learn more! Rockford/Crisis 815-636-9811. Boone 815-544-6821. Ogle 815-732-0000. RockfordSexualAssault-Counseling.org

## Ogle County 4-H seeks food donations

**OREGON** — Food insecurity is an official term from the USDA, and it's when people don't have enough to eat and don't know where their next meal will come from. It's a big problem in the United States, where 47 million people, including 14 million children, experience food insecurity annually. However, many more people, including millions who do not meet the definition of food insecure, turn to the charitable food sector for support, according to feedingamerica.org.

Ogle County 4-H is partnering with the Ogle County Health Department to fill the Mini Food Center at Conover Square in Oregon. 4-H Member, Lydia Sherburne saw a need and contacted the Health Department to help families in need.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Ogle County 4-H is partnering with the Ogle County Health Department to fill the Mini Food Center at Conover Square in Oregon. 4-H Member, Lydia Sherburne saw a need and contacted the Health Department to help families in need.**

and cheese, boxed whole grain lower sugar cereals, oatmeal, nut butters (almond, peanut, and/or sesame), potatoes, boxed granola and cereal bars, applesauce, canned vegetables, beans, and fruit, canned tuna/chicken/ham/salmon, canned soups and stews, juice, peanut butter and jellies, snacks such as crackers, popcorn, granola bars,

nuts, and dried fruit, and condiments (ketchup, mustard, seasonings, salad dressings).

You can help by dropping off your donations at the Ogle County Extension Office located at 421 W. Pines Road in Oregon until May 1.

This project is part of the National Day of Service for Ogle County 4-H Members.

## DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

### Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

**A.A. Hotline 800-452-7990**

**Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.**

**Oregon 732-3157**

**Rochelle 562-3801**

### Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

**HOPE of Ogle County 562-8890 or 732-7796**

**Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs**

### Low Income Housing

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

### Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

### Mental Health

**Family Counseling Services 962-5585**

**Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.**

**Oregon 732-3157**

**Rochelle 562-3801**

**The Serenity Shed Grief Services 732-2499**

### Senior Citizens Services

**Hub City Senior Center 562-5050**

**Mt Morris Senior & Community Center 734-6335**

**Polo Senior Center 946-3818**

**Rock River Center 732-3252**

**Oregon, IL 800-541-5479**

### Sexual Assault/Abuse

**Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling**

**24-hour hotline 636-9811**

**412 W Washington, Oregon 732-0000**

### Therapeutic

**Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177**

### Veterans' Services

**Ogle County Veteran's Assistance 815-255-9181**

**Veteran's Crisis Line 988 then press 1**

**Rock River Center 732-3252**

**Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499**

**Medical Transportation 677-6515**

### Wellness Services

**Ogle County Health Dept 562-6976**

**907 Pines Rd, Oregon 562-6976**

**510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle 732-2499**

**Serenity Hospice and Home 732-2499**



# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

On Wednesday, April 9, Rochelle Community Hospital had a presence at the Illinois State Capitol with a couple of staff joining the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management's (AAHAM) Legislative "Leg" Day.

## Rochelle Community Hospital participates in 'Leg' Day

**SPRINGFIELD** — On Wednesday, April 9, Rochelle Community Hospital had a presence at the Illinois State Capitol with a couple of staff joining the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management's (AAHAM) Legislative "Leg" Day.

Members met with their respective State Representatives and Senators advocating for support of a State Bill aimed at protecting the 340B program which helps provide access to affordable prescriptions to our community. The additional savings that RCH receives, in return invested in providing more expansive services to their patients.

"It was an exceptionally positive day, and the experience was worth every bit of traction we could make for RCH and our community" Zac Heward, patient financial services manager and "Leg" Day participant from RCH, said.

Among the State Representatives the group met with (and pictured) are: Nabeela Syed (51st district), Ryan Spain (73rd District), and Bradley Fritts (74th District).

For more information on the 340B program, visit [team-ih.org/advocacy-policy/340b/](http://team-ih.org/advocacy-policy/340b/) For more information on Rochelle Community Hospital and its services, visit [rochellehospital.com](http://rochellehospital.com).



## 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.org](http://cornerstonefamilychurch.org)  
 Sr. Pastor: Erik Ness, NextGen/ Family Pastor: Collin Nicholls  
 Children's Ministry Director: Katie Dodd  
 Worship Service on Sundays at 10am with Children's Worship Service and Nursery Available  
 Sr High Youth Min istry 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](http://www.saintmaryinbyron.org) [secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org](mailto:secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org)

#### UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

A Member of the United Church of Christ  
 701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777  
 Email: [ucb@comcast.net](mailto:ucb@comcast.net)  
 Website: [unitedchurchofbyron.org](http://unitedchurchofbyron.org)  
 Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellous  
 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](http://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: [chanauwc@gmail.com](mailto:chanauwc@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](http://www.lostlakechurch.org)  
 Dixon IL 61021

### FORRESTON

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

#### ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### LEAF RIVER

#### ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

#### LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### LINDENWOOD

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

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

#### LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

### KINGS

#### ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

### MOUNT MORRIS

#### DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

#### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

#### MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

409 W. Bradley Road, Mt. Morris, IL 61045 Phone 815-734-4573  
 Pastor: Roydon Caldwell. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship time and Sunday School. Worship service available online, call for details.  
[mtmorriscob@gmail.com](mailto:mtmorriscob@gmail.com)

#### MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL 61054 Phone 815-734-6354 Rev. Josh Ehrler  
**Worship Services:** Saturday 5:30 PM; Worship Sunday 9:30 AM. Sunday Church School - follows Worship Service (Sept.-May) Chime Choir  
 Wednesday 6:00 PM

### OREGON

#### EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God  
 The Sharing is Caring Church

### MOUNT MORRIS

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

#### EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

#### LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

#### LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

#### OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

#### OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

#### OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

#### RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

#### ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon 97121-7211 - Office Rev. Eldred George  
 Webpage: [saintbrides.org](http://saintbrides.org) • E-mail: [saint.bride.church@gmail.com](mailto:saint.bride.church@gmail.com)  
**Worship Services:** Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns  
 Christian Education Available

#### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

### POLO

#### CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

#### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service  
 205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255  
[polo@crossroadscn.com](http://polo@crossroadscn.com)  
 We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. 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](http://www.crossroadscn.com)

#### FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

### STILLMAN VALLEY

#### RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

#### KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

#### VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

### WINNEBAGO

#### MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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





# LOCAL NEWS

## 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!

### Read with Therapy Dog, Holly

Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. We have an exciting opportunity at the Mount Morris Library with Holly, a local therapy dog. Holly will be there on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 5pm until 6:30pm for 15-minute time slots. You can register a child for a time slot using the link in our Facebook Events page! This program is free for anyone, but you must register to let Holly know you will be coming to visit!

### Ink with a Friend

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, \$5 fee when you register. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before May 5<sup>th</sup>!

### Mocktails For Fun!

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Summer is coming and that means family gatherings and outdoor fun! Mocktails are a wonderful, inclusive way to

share in the fun! Come to the library to learn how to make and create some easy and delicious mocktails for your next gathering. All supplies will be provided including drink tastings and recipes to take home! Sign up using the link on our Facebook Events page!

### Lego Night!

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Bring the family out for some awesome brick building! We will pull out #AlltheLegos for this night and kids can build whatever they can imagine. Then, they can put a name to their creation and keep it on our display for all to enjoy until the next Lego night!

### 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

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.

### 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!

### 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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Teagan working on some sand art during our Drop-In craft time.

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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**April 28:** April 28 is Global Pay It Forward Day! Have you ever thought of becoming a supporting member of the Ogle County Historical Society? If you live in the area, could you volunteer and become involved in our efforts to preserve Ogle County's history? Whether near or far, we'd love to hear from you! Come join us at our next monthly meeting. The Ogle County Historical Society's next monthly meeting is Monday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the carriage house annex behind the Nash House Museum at 111 N. 6th St. Find out how you could

become a part of helping us preserve and share Ogle County history. We would love to have you join us.

**May 3:** Kishwaukee Church at 8195 Kishwaukee Road in Stillman Valley will be hosting a connecting through Christ women's retreat on Saturday, May 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be Annie Rose. Registration and continental breakfast will take place at 8:30 a.m. and the retreat will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available. For early registration, call 815-965-1940 or visit kishchurch.org or email office@kishonline.

org.

**May 3:** The Polo Woman's Garden Club Annual Plant Sale and Polo FFA Greenhouse opening is on Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m. to noon, located behind the Polo High School.

**May 5:** The Chana Mother's Club will host the annual Spring Salad Supper on Monday, May 5 at 6 p.m. at Chana Education Center 204 N. Main St., Chana. Bring your signature salad and be prepared to reminisce. While we do not have a specific program planned, bring any memories, pictures, or questions about our Chana School and the Chana Mother's Club. Especially fun are

class pictures, photos from the famous Fun Fairs and objects or trinkets from past years. Please invite any former moms, teachers, students or interested bystanders to join us as we relax and share the memories. Drinks and table service will be provided. Feel free to call Joyce S. 815-904-5948 or Linda D. 815-543-3844 if you have any questions.

**May 5:** The Leaf River United Methodist Church is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday, May 5. Staff from the Rock River Valley Blood Center will draw blood between 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. In busy, complicated times,

giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour, and we - and your body - do all of the work. Remember, blood is a gift - straight from the heart. *Your heart.* Please share it today! If you are at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you should be eligible to donate blood. Join us in sharing the Gift of Life. For more information or to schedule an appointment, you can find the Leaf River

United Methodist Church on Facebook or contact Laura at 815-276-5773 (call or text), or the Rock River Valley Blood Center at 815/965-8751, toll free at 877-RRVBC-99 or on the web at www.rrvbc.org. Thank you!

**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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**OREGON VFW POST #8739**

Monday - Lightning 5:30PM  
Wednesday - BINGO 5:30PM  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Ogle County Mini Food Center Pantry

Adonationboxforthe 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 continues through May 12th. Stories, crafts and friends to share books...all at your Library on Mondays at 10 am! Registration is required, visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com). or call (815) 732-2724.

### Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, May 14, at 12:30 to discuss *The Giver* by Lois Lowery. Cocktails and Crime will meet May 18, so stop by the Library to find out title, location and time. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet May 20 at 6 pm at the Library to discuss *Daughter of the Moon Goddess* by Sue Lynn Tann. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, May 21, at 1 pm to discuss *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. Books on Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, May 22 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The Guest* by Emma Cline.

### Art and Adventures with Author/Illustrator Dan Santat

Saturday, May 3 at 2 pm. Join bestselling author and illustrator Dan Santat for an afternoon event all about books and art with friend and collaborator, author Minh Lê. Dan Santat is the author and illustrator

of over a hundred books for young people! Many of his books are *New York Times*-bestsellers, including *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)*. His latest works include the best-selling graphic novels, *The Aquanaut* and *A First Time for Everything*. He is also the creator of the Disney animated hit, *The Replacements*. Santat won the Caldecott Medal for most distinguished picture book in 2015, the National Book Award for Young People's Literature in 2023 and Golden Kite Award for Middle Grade Fiction in 2024. Minh Lê is the award-winning author of picture books including *Drawn Together* (winner of the 2019 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature), *The Blur* (with Dan Sanat!), *Real to Me*, *Lift*, and graphic novels such as *Green Lantern: Legacy* and *Enlighten Me*. In addition to writing books, Dan serves on the board of We Need Diverse Books, and has been a contributor to a variety of national publications, including NPR, HuffPost, and the New York Times. Register at: [Library website or [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_DanSantat](https://bit.ly/ILP_DanSantat)]. *This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under*

*the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

### Common Scams and How to Avoid Them

Wednesday, May 7 at 11 am. Please join us as the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office guides us on the most common scams and how to avoid them. This is an in-person meeting and registration is required. Go to the Oregon Public Library website, Event Calendar to register or call 815-732-2724.

### Save the Date

Wednesday, May 7 at Oregon Elementary School from 5-7 pm- Family Fun Night Bash. The Oregon Public Library and Mt. Morris Public Library will join OES and other community organizations for a fun and informational event. The Libraries have invited Jason Kollum, AKA the Bubble Guy, to bring amazing bubble fun! In addition, summer reading program information from both libraries will be available. For more information about the event, contact Oregon Elementary School.

### Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond

Tuesday, May 13, 7 pm. Join us with bestselling author Matthew Desmond in conversation with award-winning journalist, Natalie Moore. Desmond is a professor of sociology at Princeton University and author of the award-winning book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. The recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Desmond was named one of "fifty people across the country who

are most influencing the national political debate" by Politico 50 in 2016. His research focuses on poverty in the United States, city life, housing insecurity, public policy, racial inequality, and ethnography.

Natalie Moore is an award-winning journalist based in Chicago, whose reporting tackles race, housing, economic development, food justice and violence. She is the author of the acclaimed *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation* and co-author of *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang*. Moore is the recipient of Chicago Library Foundation's 21st Century Award and a Studs Terkel Community Media Award among many others. Her work has helped shift the way Chicagoans today think about segregation in the region. Register at: [Library website or [https://bit.ly/ILP\\_MatthewDesmond](https://bit.ly/ILP_MatthewDesmond)]. *This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

### Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, May 19 at 6:00pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and

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

### Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, May 20 at 1:30pm or 5:30 pm (Choose your time slot). Pressed Flowered Candles. May flowers are here, so get ready for this unique decorative design. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit [www.oregonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com).

### Functional Fitness

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

### Knit & Crochet

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every

Monday at 1 pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any handcraft 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.

## BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3. 9 am – 12:00 pm. Stop by the library anytime between 9:00 am- 12:00 pm (noon) and pick up your free comic books! A huge Grogu plushie will be raffled off for those who attend. No registration required!

### Basic Self Defense Demonstration

Thursday, May 22. 6 – 7:00 pm. Join us for an engaging program led by

a local Jiu-Jitsu instructor, who will guide you through basic self-defense moves. 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 1-5:00pm, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 – 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

### Check out Our Mobile App

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

even a digital copy of your library card!

### Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at [byronlibrary.org](http://byronlibrary.org) or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when

you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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

## POLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Tot Time Tuesdays

Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., for ages 0 to 3, social time for the littles and grown ups, many hands-on activities, arts and music, and of course, storytime & snack!!

#### Teen Advisory Board meetings

4th Thursdays - Thursday, May 22nd @ 5 p.m., youth input program to brainstorm ideas, provide feedback about library services. Pizza & games provided! (Please note: this will be the last meeting until September.)

#### ADULT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

##### BOOK CLUBS

###### Book discussion

2nd Fridays, May 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo Senior Center. Book discussion will be *The Forbidden Garden* by Simon Parkin. June's book discussion will be *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

###### Book 2 Movie

3rd Thursdays, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. at the Polo Senior Center: Book 2 Movie. Book discussion will be *A Beautiful Mind* by Sylvia Nasar. June's book discussion will be *The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud* by Ben Sherwood.

###### Book discussion

4th Mondays, May 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the Polo

Library. Book discussion will be *Magic Hour* by Kristin Hannah. June's book discussion will be *Fly Girl* by Ann Hood.

##### GENEALOGY

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) monthly: Genealogy Assistance (Next dates: Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>). Donna Baumann will be here to help with genealogy questions or to research your genealogy with any resources she has access to.

##### STAY FIT CLASSES

###### DrumFIT with Terra

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, May 6th & 20th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This is a choreographed type fit class where participants use drum sticks in combination with buckets and exercise ball workout to target various areas of the body, legs, arms. For ages 12 to adult.

###### Yoga with Becka

4th Wednesdays monthly, May 28, 6:00-7:00 p.m. downstairs children's library area. Encouraged to bring your own yoga mat. Registration is suggested; space is limited.

Reminder - Visit [polo-library.org](http://polo-library.org) to access the online catalog, to see what programs and services we offer, and for the latest public events held here at the library. Call us at 815-946-2713 for more information.



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## Joe Parks Athletic Complex to celebrate Grand Reopening on May 1

**BYRON**—The highly anticipated grand reopening of Joe Parks Athletic Complex is set for May 1, 2025, marking the completion of renovations aimed at enhancing athletic experiences for the community. The event promises to be a celebration of both the facility's rich history and its exciting future.

The newly upgraded complex is a central hub for outdoor sports enthusiasts, athletes, and families. With improvements made to both the baseball/softball and soccer spaces, Joe Parks Athletic Complex is now equipped with a new entrance, press boxes, batting cages, dugouts, concessions, and bathrooms. It's been designed to serve athletes of all ages and skill levels, making it one of the most premier sports complexes in the region.

"We are thrilled to welcome our community back to the Joe Parks Athletic Complex after an extensive renovation," said Jeff Milburn. "Although the final touches, including more extensive pathways, a centralized pavilion, and shade trees will be added



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The highly anticipated grand reopening of Joe Parks Athletic Complex is set for May 1, 2025, marking the completion of renovations aimed at enhancing athletic experiences for the community. The event promises to be a celebration of both the facility's rich history and its exciting future.**

this summer, we wanted to have a grand reopening honoring the people, like Joe Parks, who were the foundational figures whose dedication, and

tireless efforts played a pivotal role in shaping the Byron School District into what it has become today. We're excited for everyone to experience the

upgraded facilities."

The grand reopening event on May 1 will begin at 4 p.m., featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a JV and Varsity Baseball

game against Stillman Valley. Family members of Joe Parks will be in attendance to celebrate this milestone.

The Joe Parks Athletic

Complex is a key resource for the local community, hosting youth leagues, adult recreation programs, and various tournaments throughout the year.



**NEW LISTING**

**1103 E Rock Falls Road Rock Falls \$260,000 Call JD**  
Prime Investment Opportunity on Route 30! This turnkey, 9-unit rental property in Rock Falls offers 8 fully furnished studio apartments plus a one-bedroom unit. Located near I-88, it provides easy access for travelers and tenants. No long-term leases- conducted as week to week stays. Utilities and Internet are all included for ultimate convenience. Ideal for investors seeking high occupancy potential in a well-connected location!



**NEW LISTING**

**114 W Second Street Byron \$169,900 Call Matt**  
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# SPORTS



**Byron High School softball team wins two games, takes third at West Carroll Tournament**

The Byron High School varsity softball team went 2-1 over three games to take third place in the West Carroll Tournament on Saturday, April 20. Byron defeated Freeport 6-2 and took down Ashton-Franklin Center 12-1. The team includes Gina Baker, Alannah Bauer, Alyssa Bauer, Kyleigh Cupak, Dakota Degand, Myla Draheim, Mia Girten, Amaya Gooden, Larkin Knoll, Victoria Martinez, Jaden Palzkill, Jaidra Poe, Caleigh Rybicki, Alexa Slater, Ella Tunink and Savannah Wallery. (Courtesy photo)

## Andy Colbert: Assessing the spring sports scene

WE'RE at the midwaypoint of the spring sports season, with the month of May ready to fly by in the blink of an eye. High school seniors are beginning to look around and wonder where the time went since they entered school as freshmen. I distinctly remember a teacher in one my classes I had as a freshmen, mention this phenomenon. How right she was. Time doesn't go necessarily go faster, but our perception of it speeds up as we age. Here's another mystery to ponder: Why does the new athletic equipment building at Oregon have tarps covering its roof? No, it doesn't have leaks in it. The reason is far more bizarre than that. Located adjacent the Oregon baseball field,

maybe 400-500 feet from home plate, the tarps had to be put on to keep batters from getting a glare from the sun's reflection on the red roof. Hard to believe, but that was occurring prior to the tarp placement, especially if a lefty was on the mound. It is somewhat similar to Wrigley Field's centerfield area being shaded because of the sun's glare and most prevalent at certain times of the day. If I'm not mistaken, one Oregon game had to be delayed until the sun moved past a certain point, leading to the tarp solution. Usually tarps in baseball are used to keep the infield dry during rain, not to cover up equipment sheds. As far as actual play on the field, Forreston and Byron continue strong traditions in baseball. The

Cardinals have over a decade of winning seasons, culminating in four regional titles and one sectional title. Byron has won over 20 games the last three years. Both squads are poised to make a post-season run again. In 2A, North Boone is the area favorite, with Byron right at their heels. Assigned to that same sectional are Marengo and Sterling Newman, both with solid 2A squads, with Newman making state last year. Forreston and Lena-Winslow are the best bets to come out of the 1A sectional, which will be hosted by Le-Win, a location where Forreston lost 8-7 to Le-Win on April 15. The rematch will be at Forreston on April 28. So much in high school

baseball depends on pitching depth, especially in the playoffs. Forreston has proven it can pound the ball, as demonstrated by the amount of runs put up this season. They key for them will be how well its pitching staff holds up. With non-conference games coming up in May against defending 1A champ Ottawa Marquette, Dunlap and Marengo, the Cardinals will be battle-tested. As of press time, Byron remains as the only undefeated team in the BNC, with Dixon and North Boone one loss each. Oregon is hanging in there in fourth place, with one of its better teams in awhile. The area softball scene is down this year, with little representation in the state rankings among 1A and 2A teams. Usually, there is a strong entrant or two from the NUIC, but that doesn't appear to be the case this year.



Andy Colbert

In track and field, the Oregon girls have the potential to place in the top 10 downstate, with several individuals and relays capable of grabbing medals. A bright transfer is freshman hurdler Jillian Hammer, who moved here from the state of Oregon, but has roots in Polo. In the 300 hurdles, Hammer ran the third best time (47.27) in 1A and is also ranked in the 100 hurdles. Not to be outdone, Malia Morton of Byron ran a 15.94 in the 100 hurdles, currently better than Hammer's time. Byron also has three solid relays, but has the misfortune of being one of the smaller schools in 2A. Another local to keep an eye on is sophomore Bree Schneiderman of Forreston, ranked in the top five in both the 100 and 200 meters. The Forreston-Polo boys are also tearing up on the track with its 800 and 1,600 relays among 1A's best. Speaking of good relays, after watching Lena-Winslow guys compete, it makes sense why

their football teams are so outstanding. Those football players out for track learn how to run in a competitive sense. There is a difference between being fast and being competitively fast. Running backs who are competitively fast can outrun defenders better than someone who relies on speed only. Likewise, a competitively fast line-backer or defensive back can chase down a ball carrier better than a comparably fast person. There is a science to running fast and track coaches can teach football players to run more efficiently. Additionally, running against opponents on the track creates mental toughness and intensity. Being conditioned to racing competitively almost creates an extra gear, whereby a person gets an extra burst of speed not normally available to them. Andy Colbert is a longtime Ogle County resident with years of experience covering sports and more.

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**team concedes shutout loss to North Boone**  
The Forreston High School varsity softball team totaled two hits in a 15-0 loss against North Boone on Wednesday, April 16. Ayla Kiper and McKenna Rummel each recorded singles for the Cardinals in the loss.  
**Polo softball team loses shutout against Orangeville**  
The Polo High School varsity softball team lost in a 10-0 shutout against Orangeville on April 16.  
**See SPORTS page 3**

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# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 2

Cam Jones, Cheyenna Wilkins, Samantha Gray and Grace Miatke each had hits for the Lady Marcos in the loss.

### Oregon girls soccer team defeats Winnebago

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team defeated Winnebago 4-2 on Thursday, April 17. Anna Stender recorded a hat trick with three goals, while Sarah Eckardt added one goal and three assists for the Hawks (6-3-1,

### BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### LEGO Club

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

#### Spice of the Month!

Join the cooking party and stop in for your coriander spice kit. Included is some history, recipes, and a sample of coriander.

#### 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

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

### MT. MORRIS SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

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

#### Friday Flix

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm is our Friday Flix. Join us to watch Ozzy and May.

### JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY



#### Weekly Storytime at the Library

Join us in person at the library for songs, stories and crafts! Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Ages 2-5. Space is limited. Call the library to register: 815-645-8611.

#### 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.

#### European Travel: When in Rome

Whether you're headed to Italy for the pasta or a pilgrimage, Ancient Rome is a city you can savor. Join frequent fliers, Joanna and Wayne, as they dive into the heart of Rome: its unique neighborhoods, attractions, art and cuisine. Monday, April 28, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

#### Email for Beginners

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

#### Toddler Time: Chalk Art

Let your toddlers flex

2-2 BNC). Noelle Girton totaled 11 saves in the win.

### Oregon softball team shuts out Forreston

The Oregon High School varsity softball team shut out Forreston 6-0 in Ogle County action on Friday, April 18. Brooke Halverson went 3 for 3 with an RBI while pitching four innings and striking out six batters. Isabelle Berg added six strikeouts over three innings pitched while going 2 for 4 at the plate. Ayla Kiper went 2 for 3 to lead

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.

#### 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 almost have the winter themed puzzle complete, and we're tired of looking at the snow! Stop in and finish the puzzle for us!

#### Coloring Pages

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

Free popcorn provided but you are welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks.

#### Diamond Painting

Diamond Painting on Friday, May 2nd @ 11:00 am. No experience necessary. Paintings are available



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

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 improv 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 May the 4<sup>th</sup> with crafts and games inspired by the epic franchise. Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

#### Adult Craft: Felt and Paper Wreath

Create your own life-like spring green wreath using cardstock, crepe paper, frosted paper and felt. Monday, May 12, 6 p.m. Adults only. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

#### Genealogy Community Workshop

The life of a researcher can get lonely — why not head to the library and share your findings? During this program, we'll have time to do research surrounded by fellow genealogy enthusiasts, discuss other resources and share some of our favorite discoveries! Drop-ins welcome. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.

the Forreston offense.

### Oregon softball team shuts down Byron

The Oregon High School varsity softball team shut down Byron for a 16-0 win in Ogle County action on Monday, April 21. Emma Schlichtmann and Ella Dannhorn each hit home runs and recorded two RBIs, while Olivia Ortega went 3 for 3 with three RBIs. Izzy Berg and Brooke Halverson combined to strike out eight batters over four scoreless frames in the circle.

#### 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

The Fisherman's Gift by Julia R Kelly

Beach Vibes by Suan Mallery

##### Picture Book

Sam's New Sister by Michelle Olson

for purchase.

#### Spring Dance

Join us on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Spring Dance! All are welcome starting at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Donations accepted and snacks will be provided.

### Oregon softball team cruises over Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity softball team cruised for a 15-0 win over Rockford Lutheran on Tuesday, April 22. Izzy Berg went 3 for 4 with two doubles and four RBIs, while Lola Schwarz went 2 for 3 with four runs, one home run and three RBIs. Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 4 with two singles and two runs scored for the Hawks, who saw Brooke

Halverson finish 2 for 3 with one RBI at the plate while striking out nine batters over four no-hit innings from the circle.

### Oregon girls soccer team wins over Pecatonica

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team won 2-0 over Pecatonica on Tuesday, April 22. Christine Ramirez and Sarah Eckardt each scored goals, while Bez-zali Cadenas and Arianna Hammer each added

assists. Noelle Girton totaled two saves for the Hawks (7-3-1, 2-2 BNC) in the win.

### Forreston softball team falls against Du-rand

The Forreston High School varsity softball team fell 11-1 against Du-rand on Tuesday, April 22. Ayla Kiper went 2 for 3 and Aubrey Sanders went 1 for 3 with an RBI for the Cardinals, while Isabelle Thiel struck out six batters over five innings pitched.

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Please call 815.732.2156 to arrange payment.

**Deadline is 2:00PM on Wednesday, May 21.**

**This special feature will be  
published on Monday, May 26, 2025.**

Photos may be picked up at the Ogle County Life office after the May 26 publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

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15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

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Photos may be picked up after May 26, 2025. Entries must be received by 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment (\$12) along with this completed form to:  
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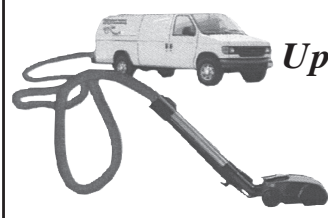
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# LAWN & GARDEN



## What first-time homeowners should know about fertilizing a lawn

**S**HORTLY after buying a home, many first-time homeowners recognize how challenging it can be to maintain a property. Many embrace that challenge and refashion their homes to reflect their personalities, interests and tastes.

First-time homeowners may direct the bulk of their attention to decorating the interiors of their homes upon moving in, but the work extends outside as well. Tending to a lawn is a responsibility worth taking seriously, as the American Society of Landscape Architects reports a

well-groomed landscape can increase resale value by anywhere from 15 to 20 percent. First-time homeowners may not be thinking about resale value, but it's never too early to prioritize lawn care, which should include routine fertilization. Fertilizing can ensure a lawn grows in lush, green and healthy, but first-time homeowners may want to know a few things prior to taking a spreader for a spin for the first time.

- Identify what the lawn needs before purchasing fertilizer. No two lawns are the same, and that's something to keep in mind when

shopping for fertilizer. Even neighboring properties may have different soil needs, so it's imperative that homeowners identify any nutrient deficiencies prior to fertilizing. A simple, inexpensive soil test can reveal what a lawn needs, and such results can help homeowners pick the right fertilizer for their properties.

- Get a handle on nitrogen needs. First-time homeowners will undoubtedly come across fertilizers promising to address nitrogen needs in a lawn, but it's important to avoid over-fertilizing with nitrogen. Nitrogen is absorbed

quickly, particularly when homeowners remember to water each day after fertilizing. So it's easy to add too much nitrogen, which can lead to the development of thatch that ultimately blocks sunlight, nutrients and water, thus leading to weaker roots and a lawn that looks nothing like the lush, green carpet homeowners are aiming for. Homeowners concerned about overdoing it with nitrogen can utilize a slow-release fertilizer that gives the lawn time to absorb nutrients and break them down.

- Apply evenly. Even application is an important

component of successful fertilizing. Many find it easier to apply fertilizer evenly when using a spreader with a granule fertilization product. Spray fertilizers can work as well, but first-timers may find it difficult to apply products evenly when spraying. When using a spreader, read fertilizing packaging instructions carefully to ensure the spreader is on the right setting when starting. If the setting is not correct, you may end up spreading too much or too little fertilizer.

- Fertilize more than once. The lawn care experts

at Lawn Doctor® note that strategic applications across the seasons will increase the chances a lawn comes in lush and green. Fertilizing more than once between spring and fall is a necessity no matter which type of grass is in the yard, but the timing may vary depending on grass type and local climate. Consult with a local lawn care professional to determine when and how often to fertilize.

Fertilizing a lawn can produce a home exterior homeowners can be proud of, even if they have little or no experience with lawn maintenance.

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# LAWN & GARDEN

## Tips and tricks for the gardening beginner

**G**ARDENING is a popular hobby by all over the world. Ruby Home Luxury Real Estate estimates there are 71.5 million gardening households in the United States alone. That translates to around 185.9 million people engaged in some form of gardening, which places the U.S. among other countries where gardening is wildly popular, including Australia and China.

A greater number of people are showing interest in gardening, which is a rewarding hobby that's good for the mind and the body. Those who are new to gardening may need a crash course to get started. These pointers can help anyone foster a newfound passion for gardening.

### Choose the best location

Spend time in the yard and decide where to house a garden. A far-off corner may get the most sun, but will you forget about the garden if it is too far away? Ideally, the garden should be located where it will get at least six to eight hours of sun each day. There also should be a water source nearby. The spot also should be convenient so that it is easy to go and pick vegetables or prune flowers.

### Start small

If you're new to gardening, begin with a small garden footprint so that you can get your feet wet. A raised garden bed can be a good starting point because it is contained and easy to maintain. As your experience (and garden) grows, you can add to the garden size the next time around.



### Amend the soil

It's possible but unlikely that the soil in the backyard is the perfect mix to grow healthy plants. It's more likely that the garden will need some soil modification. You can test the soil makeup with do-it-yourself kits or work with a garden center. A garden typically requires a mix of compost to add nutrients to the dirt; peat moss or coconut coir to

help with water retention and to make the soil lighter; and vermiculite that helps to retain water. A compost bin set up at the same time as the garden allows gardeners to continually produce nutrient-rich food to add to the garden.

### Plant starter guide

It's best to keep a few things in mind when planning the garden. Think about what will grow well

in your climate. Consider how big the garden will be and the size of mature plants. A small garden will not be able to accommodate corn, for example. Also, how would you like the space to look and what will be its function? Is this a purely aesthetic garden or one that will be food-bearing?

### Start seeds inside

If you'll be starting a garden from seeds, it's

best to start indoors before your region's frost-free date. This way the delicate plants will get the needed care and can establish before they go outdoors in the ground. Keep them humid by covering the seedlings in plastic wrap. You can start the seeds in different containers, even empty egg cartons. Transplant to larger containers after the seedlings grow a second set of leaves.

Once you're free from overnight frost, you can place the established, strong seedlings in the ground.

An automatic watering system, such as a timer hooked up to the sprinkler, can keep the garden well watered, which increases the chances of success. Then it will only be a matter of weeks before the garden can be enjoyed throughout the season.

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# LAWN & GARDEN

## Gardening safety advice for senior planters

**L**ONGER hours of daylight and warming temperatures are hallmarks of spring and each of these variables do much to contribute to the reputation of a season that's become synonymous with rejuvenation. After months spent confronting cold temperatures and huddling up indoors, people might find the welcoming conditions of spring irresistible, which compels many to spend more time outdoors.

There's no shortage of things to do outside in spring, and the season marks a perfect time to reestablish one's green thumb and get down and dirty in the garden. Gardening is a rewarding and healthy activity, though some, particularly seniors, may need to approach springtime sessions in the garden with a heightened degree of caution. Seniors can keep these health and safety tips in mind as they celebrate the return of spring and what that means for their gardens.

- Recognize that gardening is exercise. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies gardening as a good form of exercise, and evidence supports the

notion that gardening is a particularly beneficial form of physical activity. A 2024 meta-analysis published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry indicated that individuals who engaged in low levels of leisure time physical activities such as gardening are likely to have a lower risk of stroke than peers who are sedentary. It's important to keep these findings in mind when gardening, which is perhaps more physically demanding than some may recognize. Seniors can approach gardening just like they would other forms of exercise, taking the same precautions, such as stretching before and after each session and making a concerted effort to remain hydrated, while out in the garden.

- Incorporate rest into your garden routine. Rest is vital for anyone engaged in physical activity, including gardeners. Frequent breaks during gardening sessions can help avoid strains and sprains and provide opportunities to hydrate and get out of the sun. If possible, seniors can identify a shaded spot on their properties and place a bench there so they have somewhere



to rest during gardening sessions.

- Utilize ergonomic gardening tools and other specialized products. The Center for Excellence in Disabilities at West Virginia University notes that ergonomics studies that ergonomics studies

body during physical activities in an effort to produce tools that ensure a task has as little physical impact on the body as possible. Ergonomic tools are designed to lower injury risk, improve efficiency and increase satisfaction that stems from perform-

ing a particular activity. Before each gardening season, seniors can inspect their existing tools and replace them with ergonomic alternatives, if necessary. In addition, seniors can utilize specialized products, including long-handled gardening

tools that reduce the need to bend over or kneel down, to further reduce their risk of injury while working in the garden.

These simple strategies can ensure seniors' springtime gardening sessions are as safe as they are rewarding.

## How gardeners can overcome seasonal allergies

**S**PRING and summer are typically welcomed with open arms. Warm weather, blooming flowers and trees full of leaves are a welcome sight for many, but seasonal allergy sufferers may find the transition from winter to spring a little more challenging.

The Center for Health Statistics found that just under 26 percent of adults and roughly 19 percent of children have a seasonal allergy. Treatments for seasonal allergies can be effective, and many people find over-the-counter medications are enough to alleviate their symptoms. But even people who take OTC medications daily may have days when seasonal allergies cause considerable discomfort. In such situations, allergy sufferers can consider these strategies.

- Identify your triggers. The American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology notes that pollen is the most common outside allergy trigger. Trees and grasses typically pollinate in spring and summer, which is why these seasons can be especially challenging for people with seasonal allergies. Dustmites and pets might trigger allergies indoors, but these can appear throughout the year. A visit to an allergist can determine what exactly triggers seasonal allergies. For example, certain types of grasses and trees might be triggers for some but not others. Identifying triggers is an effective first step because it can compel people to avoid the things that cause allergic reactions.

- Stay indoors on dry, windy days. The Mayo Clinic advises seasonal allergy sufferers to stay indoors on dry, windy days, when pollen can be nearly impossible to avoid.

- Take advantage of a good rain. The Mayo Clinic advises that the best time for seasonal allergy sufferers to be outside is after a good rain. Rain helps to clear pollen from the air, so post-rain conditions can be ideal for people with seasonal allergies.

- Change your clothes and wash up upon coming inside. The ACAAI recommends changing clothes, washing them and taking a shower upon coming inside during allergy season. Washing clothes and taking a shower reduces the likelihood that you'll spread pollen around the interior of your home, where it can attach to furniture and trigger allergic reactions.

- Monitor the pollen count. As noted, pollen is a seasonal allergy trigger, so allergy sufferers are urged to monitor the pollen count via a website such as Pollen.com, where visitors can type in their ZIP code and get an up-to-date allergy report. On days when the pollen count is high, stay indoors and



keep windows closed so the pollen does not get inside. The Mayo Clinic notes that pollen counts tend to be highest in morning, so it's best to avoid being outside during this time of day.

Seasonal allergies can make spring and summer more challenging. A few simple strategies can help people control their seasonal allergies even on days when pollen counts are particularly high.



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# LAWN & GARDEN

## Perennials to consider for your garden this year

**G**ARDENING is a rewarding hobby that provides a great reason to get outdoors. Getting one's hands dirty in the garden often pays off with a colorful, awe-inspiring and aesthetically appealing finished product.

Perennials are plants that live multiple years. Even though perennials may die back above ground each winter, their roots remain alive, which is why the colorful blooms typically return anew once warm weather makes a comeback. Gardeners who want to capitalize on the hardiness of perennials can consider these plants for their gardens this season.

- **Coreopsis:** Coreopsis are perennials that thrive in a wide range of conditions, including various types of soil. So gardeners who find their soil is predominantly clay as well as those with sandy soil may be able to successfully plant coreopsis on their properties. Better Homes & Gardens notes coreopsis are native to the United States and produce colorful blooms that can withstand hot and dry weather throughout the summer.

- **Russian sage:** Russian sage produce purplish-blue flowers that



BHG notes retain their color for weeks. Russian sage can be planted in a variety of the hardiness zones defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and many gardening experts recommend them to gardeners whose local climates tend to be especially hot and dry.

- **Hellebore:** BHG

notes hellebore are ideal for gardeners who want some color in the early days of spring. Hellebore, sometimes referred to as "Lenten Roses," have an early flowering season, so their blooms, which can be pink, white, purple, yellow, green, rose, or purple, can be a welcome sign in spring.

- **Baptisia:** Gardening experts note these purple-blooming perennials thrive in sun. Gardeners who want perennials with particularly long life expectancies can consider baptisia, as experts note they can live for many decades. Baptisia are drought-tolerant, and they can grow in soil that

may not be considered great for other plants.

- **Coneflower:** The unique look of coneflowers has generated many enthusiasts of these perennials that bloom from early summer to fall. Coneflowers are highly adaptable, making them capable of growing in various zones and soil

types. Once established, coneflowers are considered very drought-tolerant.

Perennials can add aesthetic appeal to landscapes year after year. Gardeners are urged to speak to experts at local gardening centers to identify the perfect plants for their gardens.

## What's all the buzz about pollinators?

**M**ANY people live busy lives, but when they stop to smell the roses they might see a pollinator balanced on the petals. It's easy to think of pollen only in terms of what it does to those suffering from seasonal allergies, but pollen is essential for plant and animal life.

The Ecological Society of America says pollen is a plant's male sex cells that must be transferred from one flower to the stigma of the same flower or another for the plant to produce fruit and seed. Although some of this pollination occurs naturally, such as that aided by the wind or among plants that are self-pollinating, the vast majority of plants cannot move pollen without help—pollinators. Check out these facts about pollinators and pollination to learn why they're important to ecological health.

- **Insects are the primary pollinators,** although birds, bats and other creatures also can spread pollen around. The Xerces Society for

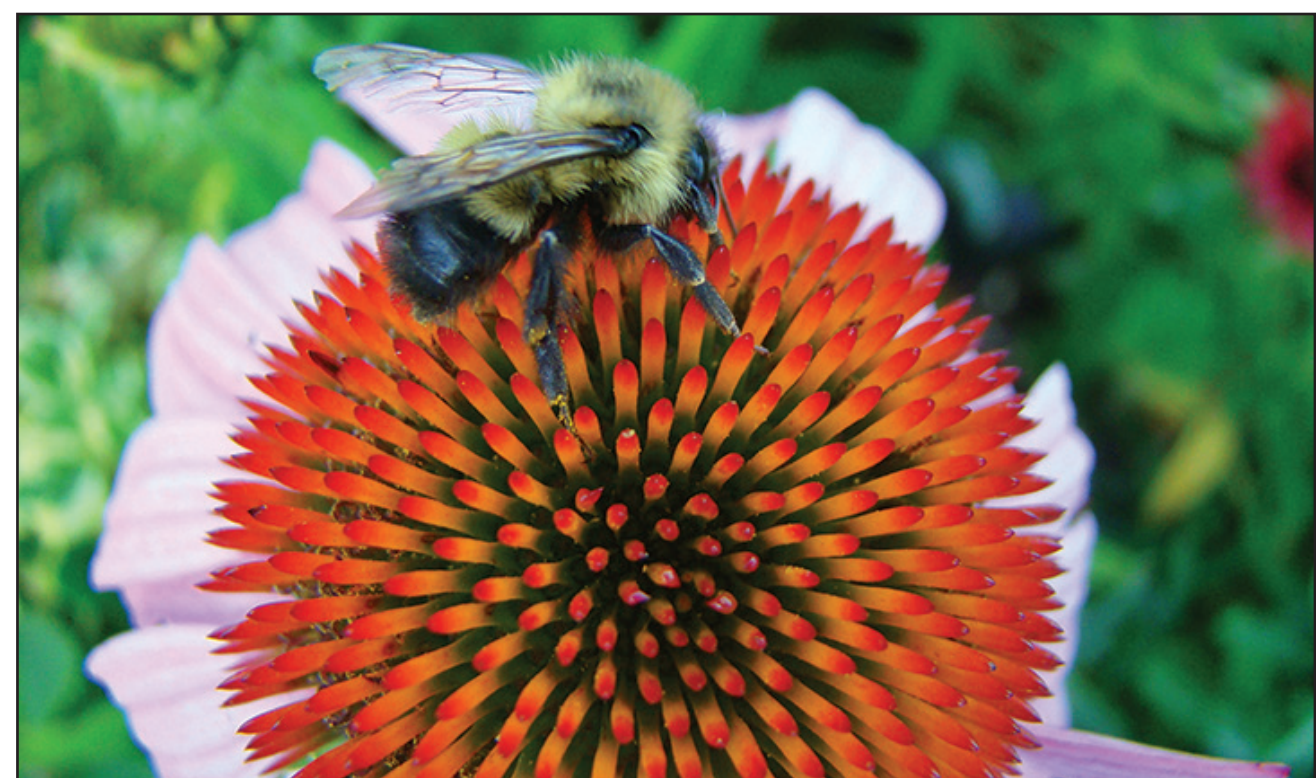
Invertebrate Conservation credit honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, and beetles with pollinating the most plants. However, the ESA says between 200,000 and 300,000 invertebrate species are estimated to serve globally as pollinators.

- **Bees and other pollinators** play critical roles in food production. The United States Department of Agriculture says more than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators.

- **About 75 percent** of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators.

- **Pollinator.org** says blueberries, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, almonds, pumpkins, and peaches are just some of the foods and beverages that are produced with the help of pollinators.

- **Most bee species** native to North America are "solitary bees." They don't live in colonies and rarely sting unless physically threatened or injured. Bees largely can be left alone to do their thing and people can cohabitate comfortably nearby.



ably nearby.

- **Honeybees** have different jobs than other species. A honeybee colony is made up of one reproductive queen, sexually undeveloped female workers and male drones. Drones mate with the queen so she can lay eggs, and the workers are responsible for caring for eggs, cleaning

the hive and collecting nectar, pollen and other resources for the colony.

- **Pollinators** have been on the decline for a number of reasons. The Pollinator Partnership says threats to pollinators include pollution, pests, pathogens, changes in land use that degrades their habitats, and climate change. Honey-

bees, monarch butterflies and native bumblebees have all exhibited declines in recent years, according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

- **People can help protect** pollinators by creating pollinator-friendly garden habitats with native plants best suited to local areas.

Individuals also can select old-fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible, since breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose the nectar/pollen needed to feed pollinators. Also, install houses for bats and native bees to encourage them to take up residence, and avoid the use of pesticides around the landscape.

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
**LOST NATION - NEW LANDING RCD FY2025-2026 BUDGET & APPROPRIATION**  
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE LOST NATION-NEW LANDING RIVER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2026, AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE, AND THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR EACH OBJECT OR PURPOSE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Lost Nation-New Landing River Conservancy District of Illinois.

SECTION 1. That the following sums of money in the total amount of \$260,743.00 as much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of the Lost Nation-New Landing River Conservancy District of Illinois as hereinafter specified for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026:

### GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSE

Administration		
Bank Fees	100.00	
Licenses, Membership, Permits	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	
Per Diem	1,600.00	
QuickBooks Payments Fees	<u>100.00</u>	3,800.00
Education		1,000.00
Insurance		3,000.00
Lake and Beach Maintenance		
Beach	7,000.00	
Dam	4,000.00	
Dock, Boat, Lake Equip. & Lake Plants	12,000.00	
Dredging & Bank Erosion Control	15,000.00	
Dredge Bond Repayment	63,019.00	
Fish	5,000.00	
Watershed Partnership	<u>10,000.00</u>	116,019.00
Land and Building		
Lake Court Center		
LCC Maintenance & Cleaning	7,500.00	
LCC Lawn & Grounds	3,000.00	
LCC Playground	2,000.00	
LCC Pop Machine	800.00	
LCC Rd/Parking Lot Maintenance	20,774.00	
LCC Supplies	2,000.00	
Mowing/Grounds Maintenance	16,000.00	
Repairs and updates (Grounds)	3,000.00	
Snow Removal	<u>2,000.00</u>	57,074.00
Office		
Computer Software	3,000.00	
Equipment and supplies	2,500.00	
Postage and delivery	500.00	
Printing & Communication	<u>3,000.00</u>	9,000.00
Professional Services		
Aquatic management	4,000.00	
Legal	2,000.00	
Other Services	1,000.00	
Website / IT	<u>1,000.00</u>	8,000.00
Travel		100.00
Utilities		
Garbage	1,500.00	
Gas & Electric	6,000.00	
Porta Potty	2,500.00	
Telephone	2,000.00	
Water & Sewer	<u>1,750.00</u>	13,750.00
Volunteer Outreach		500.00
Wages		43,500.00

**TOTAL GENERAL CORPORATE EXPENDITURE**  
The foregoing appropriations are hereby appropriated from the general property tax for corporation purposes. 255,743.00

**TORT IMMUNITY INSURANCE FUND**  
Tort immunity – Liability 4,500.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of special liability insurance tax, in addition to all other district taxes as provided by law.

**ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT FUND**  
Annual report and audit 500.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special annual report and audit tax, in addition to all other district taxes as provided by law.

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
General Corporate Expenditure	255,743.00
Tort Immunity Insurance Fund	4,500.00
Annual Report and Audit Fund	<u>500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	260,743.00

That the foregoing shall constitute the annual budget for the Lost Nation-New Landing River Conservancy District of Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026.

As a part of the annual budget, it is stated:

A. Estimate of the cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year:	\$ 253,274.00
B. Estimate of the cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources:	\$ 260,743.00
C. Estimate of the expenditures contemplated for the fiscal year:	\$ 260,743.00
D. Statement of estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year:	\$ 253,274.00
E. Estimate of the amount of taxes to be received by the District:	\$ 242,243.00

SECTION 2. That all unexpended balances of any item or items or any general appropriation made in this ordinance be expended in making up any insufficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose of any like appropriation made for this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all unexpended balances from annual appropriations of previous years are hereby re-appropriated.

SECTION 4. That the validity of an item or section of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of the whole or any part thereof.

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any of the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED: 04/17/2025

APPROVED: 04/17/2025

/s/ Tim Spelde  
Tim Spelde  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the  
Lost Nation-New Landing  
River Conservancy District of Illinois

No. 0420  
(April 28, 2025)

/s/ Norm Eakley  
Norm Eakley  
President of the Board of Trustees of the  
Lost Nation-New Landing  
River Conservancy District of Illinois

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JILL J. BIER, deceased.  
NO. 2025-PR-24  
CLAIM NOTICE  
NOTICE IS GIVEN OF the death of JILL J. BIER of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on April 7, 2025, to SHERRY BENIKE of Wykoff, Minnesota, whose attorney is David A. Smith, of Smith Law Group, P.C. at 129 South Fourth Street, P. O. Box 10, Oregon, Illinois, 61061-0010.  
CLAIMS against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 South 5th Street, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, or with-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on April 1, 2025 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

## 103 AUCTIONS

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AUCTION PREVIEW: FRI., MAY 2ND 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
AUCTION OPENS: SAT., MAY 3RD @ A.M.  
**HACK'S ANTIQUE CENTER II—440 W. THIRD ST., PECATONICA, IL 61063**  
Featuring Huge Estate Collection! All Brand New, Over 10,000 NIB Fishing Lures & Tackle-Rapala in Ever Style-Daiwa-Storm-Smithwick-Berkley-Cotton Cordell-Bandit-Strike King-Jigs-Hooks-String-Rigs-Baits; Knives. Over (100) Reels-Shimano-Abu Garcia-Daiwa-Penn-Cabela's, Over (50) Tackle Boxes Full. Boat Anchors-Rope-Bumpers-Life Jackets-OB Motor Stock. Camping Gear & Equipment-Coleman Stoves & Lanterns-Sleeping Bags-Tents-Gazebo, Deluxe Hunting Clothes-Tree Stands-Cameras-Coolers-Tarps-Blinds. Ice Fishing. Large Selection New Tools & Shop Equipment-Craftsman-Bostitch-Makita-DeWalt Power-Bosch, Mechanic & Carpenter Tools. Trailer Lights & Electrical; Stihl Chain Saws; Shop Vacs; Air Compressors; Craftsman Roto-Tiller; Power Lawn Equipment; Fiberglass Handle Lawn Tools; Outdoor Lighting & Trellis Arbor; Vinyl Tool & Storage Bins; Bicycles; *Many More New Name Brand Items.*

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

# AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

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

**Lenny Bryson**  
Sales Of All Kinds  
**815-946-4120**

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



**SAGEBRUSH SALON**  
108 Wilson St  
Stillman Valley, IL  
61084

Dated: April 1, 2025  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0413  
(April 21, 28 and May 5, 2025)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
IN THE MATTER OF A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE  
MOUNT MORRIS ESTATES MHP, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, Plaintiff, V.

**AUDREY SKOFF,**  
Defendant.  
No. 2025CH3

### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Audrey Skoff  
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you requesting the entry of a Court Order directing the Illinois Secretary of State issue title to and in that certain 1990 Holy Park Mobile Home; VIN: 0AFG23361, located at 3747 Illinois Route 64, Lot 126, Mt. Morris, Ogle County, Illinois.  
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court: Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County Court-house 106 S. Fifth Street Oregon, IL 61061  
On or before May 19, 2025. A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCOR-

## 103 AUCTIONS

**ONLINE PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION**  
**VICTORIA JACKSON, OWNER**  
**302 FRANKLIN STREET, OREGON, IL 61061**  
**Thursday, May 1st 8AM to Sunday, May 4th 5PM**  
***This is an Online Auction.***  
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 4/30/2025.  
Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.  
**Personal Property:** Antique store liquidation—many various antiques; vintage furniture, including dressers, chairs, & more; large costume jewelry collection; glassware, including depression glass & more; silver & silver plate; memorabilia pieces; vintage books; vintage yardsticks; vintage signage & pictures; sewing & crafting items; vintage toys; collectibles; and more! Antique & vintage items of all kinds!  
**Item Viewing:** Items will be available for online viewing @ 8am on 4/30/2025. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.  
**Pick-Up:** will be held on Thursday, May 8th from 4:30-7pm at the sale site listed above.  
**Terms & Conditions:** This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.  
Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for more information!  
**Travis Cunningham,**  
**Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600**  
**A & T Auction Services, LLC**  
**atauctionservices@gmail.com**  
**815-297-4595**



# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

106 North Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The proposed work for which the Village of Davis Junction is soliciting bids consists of one contract, "OSLAD Grant Community Park Improvements", and includes the following:

"Construction of various improvements at the Davis Junction Community Park. Work shall include earth excavation and embankment construction, construction of hot-mix multi-use paths, construction of portland cement concrete pavements/slabs and sidewalks, baseball/softball diamond construction with the related appurtenances, portland cement concrete footing and structural slab construction, wood framed building construction, splash pad construction with the related plumbing and electrical service and distribution wiring, and the associated erosion control and site restoration."

The contract documents, including Drawings and Specifications, and form of

contract and bonds for performance and payment, are on file at the office of the Village Clerk, 106 North Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020 and at the office of the ENGINEER, Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc., 57 Airport Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61109.

Copies of the Contract Documents, including Project Manual and the Construction Drawings, shall be obtained electronically in PDF format from the Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at [www.willetthofmann.com](http://www.willetthofmann.com). Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The eBid-Doc# (project number) is 9658361 for this project.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the Village of Davis Junction, Illinois, negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project, and that the CONTRACTOR must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

This project is being financed, in part, with funds from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, "Open Space Land Acquisition and Develop" (OSLAD) grant program. The Village of Davis Junction encourages 1) minority business firms to submit bids on the approved project and 2) successful contract bidders to utilize minority businesses as subcontractors for supplies, equipment, services, and construction. Bidder must comply with the requirement of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Act for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities (30 ILCS 575) and Grant BEP Requirements. Bidder must comply with the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act ILCS559/20-1 et seq. which requires the contractor to hire apprentices to work at least 10% of the total hours worked in each prevailing wage classification. Bidder must also comply with the

Employment of IL Workers on Public Works Act 30 ILCS 570/0.02 et seq. which requires 90% of the workforce to be IL residents during periods of high unemployment. The OSLAD Grant requires that 50% of the labor hours on the project must be performed by actual residents of the State of Illinois (20 ILCS 805/805-350).

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 8th of May, 2025, at Davis Junction Village Hall, located at 106 North Elm Street, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020. The meeting will be for answering questions and providing guidelines for the Bidders regarding the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and the specific BEP requirements for the project.

The Village of Davis Junction is an equal opportunity employer. The Village of Davis Junction does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Village of Davis Junction reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding. Bids may be held by the

Village of Davis Junction for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders, prior to awarding the Contract.

BY ORDER OF  
VILLAGE OF DAVIS JUNCTION, ILLINOIS  
By: Sandie Maahs, Village Clerk  
DATE: April 22, 2025  
No. 0421  
(April 28, 2025)

**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."

**101 LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113 FINANCIAL**

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

**119 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE**

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

Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

**203 HELP WANTED**

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

**301 ANTIQUES**

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

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. Available Monday-Thursday 815-562-4171

(9AM-3PM) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

**405 HOUSES FOR SALE**

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

**501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

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

**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'

**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.

03/26/2023

**Byron School District #226**

Open Positions

HS Head Cheerleading Coach  
HS Assistant Cheerleading Coach  
Fall Play Director  
Half-Time Assistant – Spring Musical  
Sketch Director – Madrigal Dinner  
HS Assistant Wrestling Coach

All Positions are posted at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org)

Click on the Menu tab - then the Employment Opportunities tab

Located in the "About Us" section on the main page

Submit an application today!

04/28/2025

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

**Multimedia Sales Consultant**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**  
RNLHOUSE

**ADVERTISE WITH US**

**Your Best GARAGE SALE**

Got Lots to Sell?

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

**815.561.2125**  
[www.oglecountylife.com](http://www.oglecountylife.com)

**OGLE COUNTY LIFE**  
Rock Valley Shopper

**815.561.2153**  
[www.rochellenews-leader.com](http://www.rochellenews-leader.com)

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**

In Print & Online  
Don't forget to ask about Amboy News & Mendota Reporter

Make sure to ask about our online classified ads!

**205 SITUATIONS WANTED**

**LOOKING FOR DRUMMER.**

We do oldies: Rock & Roll, Beatles, CCR. We play out one or two times a month.

For info call Steve  
815-751-8719 or 815-751-0059

04/28/2025

**305 GARAGE / ESTATE / RUMMAGE SALES**

**Garage Sale**

Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3  
8am to 5pm  
6992 S. Lowden Rd, Oregon, IL (Around the corner from Lost Lake)  
Adult clothes, womens LG/XLG and mens 2XL, toddler girls 18m to 2T, womens western boots (new) size 7.5/8, mini mouse power car, walker, bouncer & pool float, household decor (some western), furniture including roll top desk, books, pictures, belt sander on stand, DeWalt 1/2" drill kit with 2 batteries, charger and sawsall, horse equipment and tack, vtg. garden, collectibles and much more!

[oglecountylife.com](http://www.oglecountylife.com)

**VIEW CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE!**

Go to Marketplace and click on the section you are interested in or do a keyword search.

**Want us to post your ad on our Facebook Page?**

Call Chris Grimm at 815-561-2125 or email [cgrimm@oglecountylife.com](mailto:cgrimm@oglecountylife.com)

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**  
RNLHOUSE

**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.

06/12/2024



# COMICS

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 German sau-  
sage

6 Hoops great  
Curry

11 More minus-  
cule

12 Succeed

14 Ridiculous

15 Eventually

16 Bygone bird

17 Valleys

19 Pensioned  
(Abbr.)

20 Taking action

22 Label

23 Corrida bull

24 Tennis star  
Rafael

26 Dessert that  
jiggles

28 Violin tuner

30 Novelist  
Deighton

31 "The Peasant  
Dance" paint-  
er

35 Everglades  
wader

39 Give tempo-  
rarily

40 Lumber unit

42 Wrestling  
style

43 "Nasty!"

44 Thread holder

46 Damage

47 South  
Carolina river

49 La Brea  
attraction

51 Oral

52 Moving vehi-  
cles?

53 Ceases

54 Garlic crusher

**DOWN**

1 Actress Ryder

2 Tacit

3 Estuary

4 Dispatch

5 Pick up the  
tab

6 Classic cata-  
log giant

7 Catches  
some rays

8 Tolkien crea-  
ture

9 Christie sleuth

10 Arm bones

11 Shakespeare's  
"— of Athens"

13 Rockies range

18 Trail the pack

21 Recorded

23 Zesty flavors

25 Pants part

27 Director Spike

29 Smooth  
writing imple-  
ments

31 Ecstasy

32 Summaries

33 Detangle

34 Brit's  
restroom

36 Ado

37 Inbox fillers

38 Civil wrongs

41 Arose

44 Ooze

45 Cowardly Lion  
portrayer

48 Ring decision

50 Arctic explor-  
er John

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## MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH A LEG

V E X U Q N K E E H E D B Y V

S P M M L J H E L B N Y V T Q

O L I U E G D B E E Y W T R P

M K K I G F D M G B G Y W U S

Q O R M O E K E A I F A D D B

Z X W O S R L U N R S E N Y Q

O N L J W I G T T H G F D C L

C A Y W V G V E O E T E S A E

Q P N I E G E L L O C L L G G

K Y R O G E L L A L B I H E I

F P E C B Z A Y W L A G E L T

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

- Alleged

Allegory

Allegro

Bootleg
- College

Elegance

Elegant

Legacy
- Legal

Legend

Legit

Legume
- Legwork

Privilege

Telegram

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### Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Hat is different. 3. Car is moved. 4. Line is added to sidewalk. 5. Tie is different. 6. Purse is moved.

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**King Crossword**

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

**WORDS WITH A LEG**

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

Answer

**Weekly SUDOKU**

# Antiques & Collectibles

### Belvidere Collectible Coins

www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

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

**10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!**

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

### THIS & THAT Collectibles

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

### SYCAMORE ANTIQUES

JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS

321 WEST STATE STREET  
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

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

**Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!**

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





# ONE DAY ONLY

## TRUCKLOAD MEAT SALE

### FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

7am - 6pm

Prices effective Friday, May 2, 2025 from 7am - 6pm ONLY  
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES | NOT AVAILABLE TO ORDER ONLINE

**STOCK UP FOR THE SMOKER!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Gov't Insp  
**BONE-IN PORK BUTT ROAST**  
Twin Pack

**1.59** lb

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Certified Angus Beef® brand  
**WHOLE BONELESS RIBEYE**

**11.99** lb

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

USDA Choice  
**WHOLE BONELESS BEEF NEW YORK STRIP**

**10.99** lb

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Gov't Insp  
**WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOINS**

**1.88** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

USDA Choice Angus  
**WHOLE BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST**

**4.88** lb

**GET THAT SMOKER ROLLING!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

USDA Choice  
**WHOLE BONELESS BEEF BRISKET**

**4.49** lb

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

USDA Choice  
**WHOLE BEEF TENDERLOIN**

**15.99** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Sullivan's Signature  
1/3 or 1/4 lb  
**GROUND BEEF PATTIES**  
5 LB BOX

**\$25**

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Certified Angus Beef® brand  
**BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST**

**4.88** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Certified Angus Beef® brand  
**BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND RUMP ROAST**

**4.29** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Sullivan's Signature  
**1/4 LB BEEF HOT DOGS**  
10 lb box

**59.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Sullivan's Signature  
**FRESH 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF**  
8 - 10 lb package

**3.69** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Grade A  
**CHICKEN WINGS**  
Family Pack

**1.99** lb

**SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

USDA Choice  
**WHOLE BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN**

**6.88** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Gov't Insp  
**PORK BABY BACK RIBS**

**2.88** lb

**FULL & HALF SLAB BIDS**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Sullivan's Signature  
**BREAKFAST SAUSAGE PATTIES**  
Frozen, 5 lb box

**16.99** lb

**STOCK UP FOR SUMMER!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Papa Charlie's  
**ITALIAN BEEF TUB**  
4 lb tub

**11.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Wild Caught  
**COD LOIN**  
4 oz Fillets  
Frozen, 5 lb box

**39.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Sullivan's Signature  
**BRATS OR SAUSAGES**  
Assorted Varieties  
9 - 10 lb box

**39.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Grade A  
**BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST**  
Family Pack

**2.88** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Grade A  
**CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS**  
Family Pack

**1.19** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Grade A  
**CHICKEN THIGHS**  
Family Pack

**1.49** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Wholey  
**COOKED SHRIMP RING WITH SAUCE**  
10 oz

**3/\$12**

**PERFECT FOR GRADUATION PARTIES!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Meat Master  
State Champion  
**BONELESS SMOKED HAM**

**4.99** lb

**AMAZING SMOKED CHOPS SLICED FOR FREE!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Meat Master  
**FULLY COOKED SMOKED BONELESS PORK LOIN**  
Regular or Garlic

**4.99** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Meat Master  
**FRESH SMOKED OLD WORLD STYLE BOLOGNA**  
3 lb chub

**4.49**

**PERFECT IN THE SMOKER!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

US Grade A  
**FROZEN TURKEY BREAST**

**1.39** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Chuckwagon  
**FROZEN CORN DOGS**  
10 lb box

**13.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Wild Caught  
**ALASKAN POLLOCK FILLETS**  
Frozen, 10 lb box

**26.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Wholey  
Farm Raised  
Peeled & Deveined  
**COOKED SHRIMP**  
Frozen, 31-40 ct, 1 lb bag

**6.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Wholey  
Farm Raised  
Peeled & Deveined  
**RAW SHRIMP**  
Frozen, 16 - 20 ct, 1 lb bag

**6.99**

**MELTS PERFECTLY ON BURGERS!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

**SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE**  
5 lb block

**14.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Fresh  
**AMISH BUTTER**  
1 lb roll

**2/\$10**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Frozen, Wild Caught  
**COHO SALMON FILLETS**

**8.88** lb

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Restaurant Grade  
**FROZEN FRENCH FRIES**  
5 lb bag

**6.99**

**DON'T FORGET THE STEAKS!**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Huge, Wild Caught  
**FROZEN LOBSTER TAILS**  
16 - 20 oz

**26.99**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

**IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES**  
5 lb Bag

**2/\$4**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

Nabisco  
**RITZ OR SNACK CRACKERS**  
Select Varieties  
6.5 - 13.7 oz

**2/\$5**

**Buddig BEEF, HAM OR TURKEY LUNCHMEAT**  
24 - 2 oz Packs Per Case

**12.99**

**Fair Market Brand BREADED CHICKEN STRIPS OR NUGGETS**  
Frozen, 5 lb Bag Club Pack

**9.99**

**Bakery GOURMET BROWNIES**  
6 ct

**2.99**

**Deli EGG ROLLS**  
Assorted Varieties  
4 ct

**2.99**

**Kemps ICE CREAM**  
Select Varieties  
48 oz Or 4 - 12 pk

**2/\$7**

**Daisy SOUR CREAM OR DIPS**  
Select Varieties  
14-16 oz

**1.99**

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