

Oregon wins Byron Jamboree

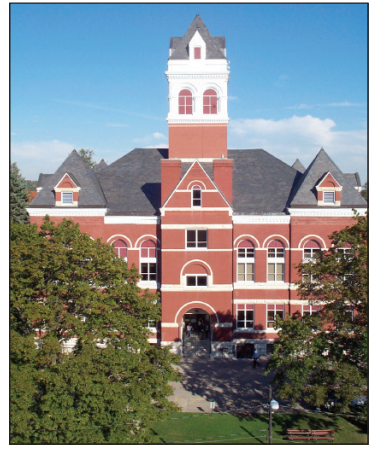
The Oregon High School varsity softball team won the Byron Jamboree.

Section B

Ogle County

LIFE

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MONDAY
May 5, 2025

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Speakes named OJSHS principal

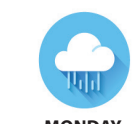
Jen Speakes has been named the new OJSHS principal. **Page 3**



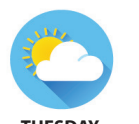
OCUSD names board members

The OCUSD recently named two new school board members. **Page 3**


WEATHER



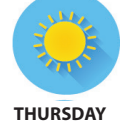
MONDAY
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TUESDAY
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WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
81 48

OBITUARIES

- Harlene 'Bean' D. Alderks
- DeLores Meiners
- Elaine B. Guyer
- Keith Worley
- Betty May (Smith) Homer
- Thomas 'Tom' E. Fane

See page 4

INSERTS

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

March 14 windstorm caused RMU \$516,236 worth of damage

26 total poles lost from weather damage

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A March 14 wind storm that hit the area caused \$516,236 worth of damage and expense to the Rochelle Municipal Utilities electric department through infrastructure and personnel costs.

ROCHELLE — A March 14 wind storm that hit the area caused \$516,236 worth of damage and expense to the Rochelle Municipal Utilities electric department through infrastructure and personnel costs, RMU Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver said April 22.

Around 11 p.m. on March 14, the storm knocked out power to 6,000 RMU customers out of its total of 7,500.

"I still swear it was one big gust of wind," Toliver said. "Because everything was quiet and then everything fell apart all at once. We lost 26 poles total in that storm throughout our territory. Most of those were on our trunk line, our main feeds to all of the different areas of our territory, which is why it took out so many customers. It's one of the worst outages I've worked since I've been here. I've been here almost 12 years and this is the most significant damage that I've seen other than the tornado in 2015."

Within the first 24 hours after the initial response from the March 14 storm, RMU restored power to every home in its territory with the exception of less than 25. Toliver called that feat "pretty significant" considering all the damage that happened.

See **WINDSTORM** page 10



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle-based creative company Do Art Productions has seen recent growth in its workshop offerings in recent years and has added a new performer.

Do Art Productions expands workshops, adds performer

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle-based creative company Do Art Productions has seen recent growth in its workshop offerings in recent years and has added a new performer.

DoArtProductions was established by Rochelle native Jerry Moffitt and his best friend, Chester Roush. The business creates comics and art and offers a variety of workshops in a variety of art mediums to inspire community members. It has recently added a new performer in Karen "Miss Karen" Peterson, who specializes in arts and crafts, namely bead art workshops.

See **DO ART** page 2

Serenity Hospice and Home holds 4th Annual Art Dash

OREGON — Art, energy, and excitement filled the air on April 9 as Serenity Hospice and Home hosted its fourth annual Art Dash Fundraiser, an unforgettable evening celebrating creativity, community, and compassion.

Held at the generously donated venue of Rivers Edge Experience in Oregon, the event brought together local and out-of-town artists, enthusiastic dashers, and spirited spectators for a night that was as heartwarming as it was entertaining. With more than 90 unique pieces of artwork—ranging from photography and paintings to quilts, woodwork, and more—the event showcased the incredible talent and generosity of artists who donated their work to support Serenity's mission.

The dash itself was the highlight of the night: registered participants, known as "dashers," were assigned random numbers and called up in groups of four to make their dash around the room and select their favorite piece of art. The suspense and excitement of seeing which artwork each dasher would choose created a fun and electric atmosphere that captivated everyone in attendance.

Some registered as "spectators" and came to cheer on their favorite dashers, admire the artwork, and engage with the artists, many of whom were present to share stories and inspirations behind their creations. It was a beautiful blend of community support, artistic expression, and heartfelt connection.

Guests were treated to a delicious selection of appetizers prepared by chefs Susan and Michael Maddox during the viewing hour. Later in the evening, an intermission featuring desserts from local bakers added a sweet touch before the dashing resumed.


This remarkable event would not be possible without the tireless dedication of co-organizers Karen Virmoche and James Brown, who have led the charge in planning and coordinating the Art Dash for all four years.

See **ART DASH** page 9



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Art, energy, and excitement filled the air on April 9 as Serenity Hospice and Home hosted its fourth annual Art Dash Fundraiser, an unforgettable evening celebrating creativity, community, and compassion.



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LOCAL NEWS

DO ART: ‘The biggest impact is seeing a shy kid come out of their shell and do art’

From page 1

Do Art Productions will host a bead art workshop at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library May 6 and has others planned for later on in the summer in Creston, Malta and Mt. Morris.

“We’ve been expanding our workshops into other states,” Moffitt said. “We went to Florida twice. We did some workshops along the way there and visited some libraries. We have another performer and we’ve been

going to more places. It’s allowed us to reach more people and get the word out there more. We’ve been working in a lot of schools with assemblies with large audiences of 300-500 kids. That’s been fun working with school kids and having larger audiences. We recently did 13 workshops in two days in Lake Zurich. A whole school got to experience our comic book workshop. We’ve been focusing on getting into schools, more states, and doing more workshops.”

Do Art Productions’ comic book workshops consist of the performers and attendees drawing comics on a whiteboard. Moffitt will often do something like juggling, riding a unicycle or playing the guitar to spur attendees’ imagination, and they’re asked to draw him as an animal such as a panda bear or giraffe. Moffitt said small dry erase boards are handed out so the audience can participate and connect through the creative process. Moffitt said Do Art Pro-

ductions has traveled to 17 states so far, stretching from Florida to North Dakota. It will travel to 10 new states in the west and south this summer.

“Seeing the growth has been unexpected,” Moffitt said. “We weren’t necessarily planning on doing workshops and being performers. We get so much of a response from parents, teachers and librarians. That’s very motivating and helps us to keep moving forward. The biggest impact is seeing a shy kid come out of their shell and do art. It’s rewarding to be the catalyst for that.”

Moffitt said that working with kids is a big reason for why Do Art Productions does the work it does. He’s enjoyed being able to implement the things he’s learned in comics to get a response from people and making a hobby into a career path.

Free Comic Book Day is May 3. Do Art Productions has created a comic to give out on that day, titled “Adventure into Comic Books with Mr. Jerry.” The free comic book is geared around what happens at their workshops and how to make



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Do Art Productions was established by Rochelle native Jerry Moffitt and his best friend, Chester Roush.

a comic.

Peterson has been involved with Do Art Productions since it started up, but recently got involved full-time.

“I want to bring creativity to others,” Peterson said. “I really enjoy it and it makes me happy to see others become creative and be happy themselves. I find it rewarding when kids come up to you after workshops and thank you. I do it for the kids and it makes me happy.”

Moffitt said workshops make up about 30 percent of Do Art Productions’ work. The rest is made up of traveling, scheduling,

networking, and creating content. Do Art Productions is currently preparing for the summer, when it will be presenting workshops for kids in libraries and park districts and offering team building workshops for staff at schools and businesses.

“It’s a really empowering feeling to see how far we’ve come since we started,” Moffitt said. “It shows that the work we’ve put in is paying off. It makes me want to take another step forward and take on more performances or bigger events and more crowds. It makes me want to get out of my comfort zone more.”



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28th Annual Chana School Museum Benefit Rummage Sale set for May 30-31

CHANA — It’s time to clean out the garage, sort the closets, and straighten up the basement. Collect all those unused and unwanted items for the annual 1883 Chana School Museum Rummage Sale. The Chana School Foundation would appreciate any donated items for this big fundraiser. Contribution acknowledgements will be available for tax deductions for the IRS. The Chana School Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that maintains and runs the 1883 Chana School Museum.

Mark your calendar for this year’s Sale to be held at the Oregon Coliseum in

downtown Oregon on Friday, May 30 (8-5 p.m.) and Saturday, May 31 (8 a.m. to noon). This fundraiser generates funds to support the old 1883 schoolhouse and its programs. The school museum is run by volunteers and supported through fundraisers, grants and donations.

Donations for this huge event will be taken right after this year’s Oregon City Wide Garage Sales held the weekend of Memorial Day. Drop off days are set for the Chana School Museum Sale for Tuesday, May 27 from 3-6 p.m. and Wednesday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. All

items should be dropped off at the north side of the Coliseum on these dates and times. Some items we cannot take for donation are large entertainment centers, large appliances, blinds, mattress & springs, and car seats. If there are questions concerning what items we can or cannot take please call Ray at 815-979-2903.

The Chana School Museum is on the National Register of Historical Places in the United States. If you’d like to learn more about the Chana School Museum and how you can become a volunteer please call Connie at 815-732-2447. Volunteers are always needed for special projects, school group activities, fundraisers, and so much more. If you would like to help with this year’s rummage sale call Connie. Volunteers have saved, moved, restored, and operate the Chana School Museum. Join us in our continued efforts to keep our local rural history alive for all ages.



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LOCAL NEWS

Speakes named principal of Oregon Junior Senior High School

OREGON — Oregon CUSD 220 is proud to announce the hiring of Jen Speakes as the new principal of Oregon Junior/Senior High School.

“Throughout my career, I’ve been part of many hiring processes,” Superintendent Dr. PJ Caposey said. “This was the finest group of finalist candidates I’ve encountered. Jen set herself apart with her unique combination of instructional coaching experience, high school assistant principalship, and proven success as a junior high principal. She is exactly the right fit for

where OJSHS is headed.”

Speakes brings with her a deep commitment to the Ogle County area and to public education. A lifelong resident of the region, she currently lives in Mt. Morris with her husband, Eric, and their daughter, Harper, age 6. The family has been farming locally for the past four years.

Speakes holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in pre-law from Eastern Illinois University, a master’s in teaching from Rockford University, and a master’s in educational leadership from the American College of Education.

Her professional experience spans more than 15 years, including:

Three years as an English teacher at Belvidere High School; seven years at Jefferson High School, where she served as an English teacher, instructional coach, and assistant principal; and three years of leadership at Meridian Junior High, including one year as principal-in-waiting and two years as principal.

“I’m honored and excited to join Oregon Junior/Senior High School,” said Speakes. “This is a school and district with a powerful sense of purpose and a deep

commitment to students. I can’t wait to partner with staff, students, families, and the community to build on the great work already underway and meet the challenges ahead.”

Caposey expressed gratitude to all those involved in the process. “Thank you to our Leadership Team, Board members, community members, parents, and OJSHS staff who helped guide this important decision. Your input was critical in selecting the next leader for our flagship school.”

Speakes will officially begin her new role this summer.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Oregon CUSD 220 is proud to announce the hiring of Jen Speakes as the new principal of Oregon Junior/Senior High School.

OCUSD welcomes new members to Board of Education

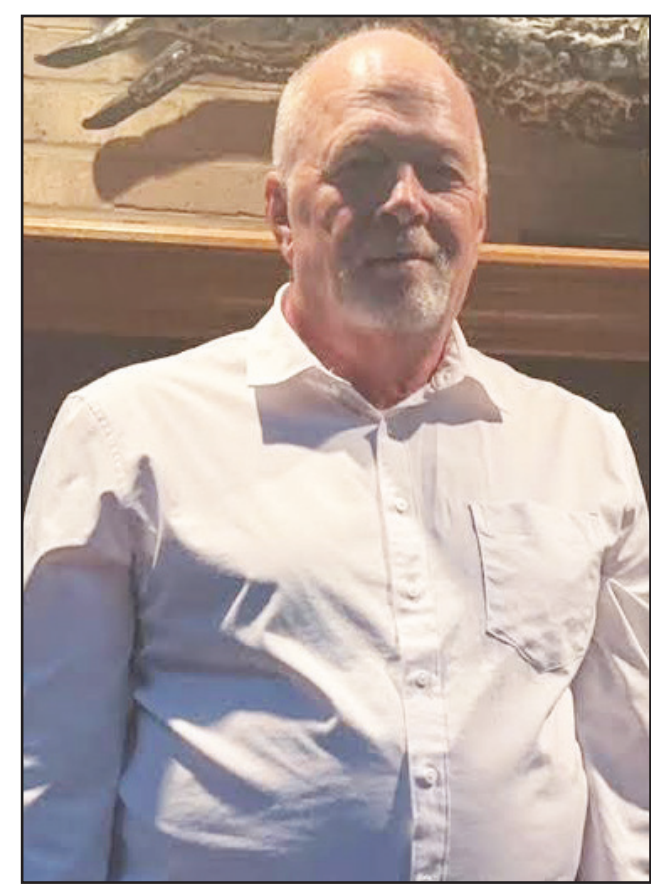
OREGON — Oregon Community Unit School District 220 is proud to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Education: Gary Schrimpscher and Faith McNamee. Their appointments reflect the district’s ongoing commitment to leadership grounded in integrity, people-centered service, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. These values are essential to our shared vision of making OCUSD a place where performance elicits pride.

Gary Schrimpscher has lived in the Oregon district for over 20 years. As the owner of Xtreme Xpress Transportation INC and a passionate beekeeper, Gary brings both entrepreneurial insight and a grounded appreciation for hard work and community engagement. “I wanted to be on the OCUSD 220 Board of Education to promote more transparency, help make our schools the best they can be, and protect the assets of our

taxpayers,” Schrimpscher said.

Faith McNamee is a lifelong resident of the Oregon School District and a proud graduate of Oregon High School. With over a decade of experience in education — as a teacher, coach, and now assistant director at Summit Academy, a regional safe school serving at-risk youth across Boone and Winnebago Counties — Faith brings both professional expertise and deep community roots to her new role. “It’s an honor to give back to the community that helped shape who I am,” McNamee said. “I care deeply about our schools and am excited to contribute my experience and passion in this role.”

Superintendent Dr. PJ Caposey welcomed both members to the Board: “Gary and Faith each represent a powerful combination of dedication, insight, and love for this community. Their contributions will strengthen



(COURTESY PHOTOS)
Oregon Community Unit School District 220 is proud to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Education: Gary Schrimpscher (left) and Faith McNamee (right).

our efforts to lead with integrity and center our decisions around what’s best for our students, staff, and families.”

OCUSD looks forward to the continued growth and success of the district with the support and leadership of its full Board of Education. Together, we remain committed to building a future where every student can thrive — and where excellence is not only expected but achieved.

Extension offers dial-gauge pressure canning testing

OREGON — With summer gardens gearing up, it’s time to take canning equipment out of storage. Illinois Extension in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties offers free dial-gauge pressure canner testing to ensure the equipment works accurately. Testing should be done annually since the needle on a dial-gauge pressure canner can become inaccurate, causing foods to be under-processed, increasing the risk of serious illness from botulism.

Various foods can be

canned at home through boiling water bath canning and pressure canning. Pressure canning is required when canning low-acid foods, particularly meats and vegetables. Having equipment checked every year is an important part of the canning process. Tests are free and take around 15 minutes per canner.

Call your local office today to schedule an appointment: Boone County, 815-544-3710, DeKalb County, 815-758-8194, and Ogle County, 815-732-2191.



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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.



ENTRY FORM

GRADUATE'S FIRST/LAST NAME

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

Person submitting photo:

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

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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OGLE COUNTY LIFE OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 9AM-3PM & FRI 9AM-1PM

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Harlene 'Bean' D. Alderks

POLO — Harlene "Bean" D. Alderks, 59, of Polo, passed away Friday, April 25, 2025, at her home surrounded by family.

Harlene was born, October 16, 1965, in Dixon, IL, the daughter of Harlan J. and Mary (Suter) Alderks.

Harlene will be missed by her family and her Village of Progress family. She enjoyed having fun, traveling to Tennessee, and giving a big hug with a smile that would light up a room. Harlene colored pictures to give away and hopefully bring joy to the person receiving. She was a

true representation of what unconditional love was.

Survivors include sisters: Dawn (David) Fitzgerald of Polo, half-sisters Judy (Russell) Castle of Dixon, Joanne Hitchcock of Oregon, Brothers: Kevin (Dione) Alderks of Freeport, half-brother Mike Gilroy of Dixon; many Nieces and Nephews.

She was preceded in death by her Parents; sisters Kimberly Alderks and Lavona Crossen; step-brother Jesse Gilroy.

Visitation will be Friday, May 2, 2025 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Polo Family Funeral Home, 110 E. Dixon St. Polo. Grave-



side services will be held at 11:30 AM at the White Rock Cemetery in Kings with Rev. Luke Schier officiating.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be directed to the Village of Progress or in her name.

Visit www.polofamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences.

DeLores Meiners

ASHTON — DeLores was born into the Wilhelms family on April 26, 1927 in Shannon, Illinois where she also grew up as a child. Her upbringing was framed by the great depression, World War 2 and the polio outbreak. Following her education, she became a school teacher with her first assignment being in a rural one room school house.

She married Jay Meiners on June 27, 1953 and they moved to Ashton, Illinois where they spent the rest of their lives. Together they raised a family of three boys on small town values and built a business (Crest Foods) that remains a thriving, culture-driven

operation that is at the heart of Ashton today. Jay preceded her in death on October 2, 1988.

DeLores' world revolved around her ever-expanding family where she was at the center of any activity or celebration. She loved to travel, her yard, flowers, birds at the feeders, and her dogs. She didn't seem to know a stranger as she would talk with anyone. She was sassy, irreverent, found humor everywhere, had her own sense of style and enjoyed every bit of her 98 years.

DeLores leaves behind a blessed family of 3 sons: Steve (Mary-deceased), Jeff (Joan), Mike (Joyce) —



8 grandchildren: Garrett (Candace), Erika (Dan), Gary (Tracy), Brandon (Carly), Chelsea (Guillermo), Andra (Erik), Natalie (Justin), Marin (Jazmyn) — 10 great grandchildren: Warren, Wallace, Drew, Ryder, Tanner, Brileigh, Kaelyn, Bennett, Boyd, Etta.

Our world is a better place for having known DeLores.

Keith Worley

ROCHELLE — The family of Keith Worley is saddened to announce his unexpected passing on April 15, 2025 at the age of 64.

He was born on April 1, 1961 to his parents Ray and Helen Worley.

Keith Worley, a proud union carpenter local 792 and friend to many, passed away peacefully. Keith dedicated his life to his craft, but a reputation for hard work, integrity, and pride in every job he touched.

Outside of his work, Keith found his greatest joy in spending time with his family and friends. Whether watching wildlife in the back yard, checking out

swap meets, or simply sharing a meal, Keith's presence was a constant reminder of the importance of loyalty, laughter, and love.

Keith's spirit lives on in the memories he created, the lessons he taught, and the many lives he touched with his kindness and generosity. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him.

He is preceded in death by father Ray Worley, brother Lynn Worley, nephew Adam Aurand, and his grandparents.

He was survived by daughter Jennifer Peterson, grandson Nicolas Peter-



son, mother Helen Worley, brother Ed (Sue) Worley, sister Peggy Worley, sister Christine (Keith) Van Dyke and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Keith's life will be held July 5, 2025 at the Conservation Club in Chana, IL, from noon to 4:00. Please come join us share your memories.

Elaine B. Guyer

OREGON — Elaine B. Guyer, age 78, passed away in her home on Saturday Morning April 26, 2025. Elaine was born on December 22, 1946 in Dixon, IL; the daughter of Jacob & Arlene (Giffrow) Jecklin. She attended the Polocountry school. Elaine married Hale Guyer on June 24, 1989 in Oregon, IL.

Elaine worked as a legal secretary and later with the Byron Bank, and as a local realtor. Prior to that she owned the Eatery in Polo. She was loved by many during each of her careers.

She loved riding the motorcycle and traveling with her husband.

Elaine is survived by her husband: Hale Guyer; brother: Jim (Cathy) Jecklin, Dixon, IL; nephews and nieces: Jeff (Sandy) Shipman, Polo, IL, Tim (Diane) Shipman, Dixon, IL, and Kris (Steve Bardell), Rochelle, IL, Jake and Mitch Jecklin.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son: Scot DeWall; and her sister: Ruth.

Memorial services will be held on Friday May 2, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in All



Saints Lutheran Church, Byron, IL; with Vicar Michelle Wandersee officiating. Visitation will be held on Friday May 2, 2025 from 10:00 A.M. until service time in All Saints Lutheran Church, Byron, IL.

In lieu of flowers memorials to cause for paws.

Betty May (Smith) Homer

SOUTH BELOIT — Betty May (Smith) Homer, age 101, of South Beloit, IL passed away on April 29, 2025 in Beloit, WI. Betty was born August 30, 1923 in Marlette, MI the daughter of Ethel and Egbert (Martin) Smith.

She attended a one room school through the 8th grade, then bussed to Marlette High School, graduating in 1940. Graduated from Baker University in Flint, MI as a Secretary.

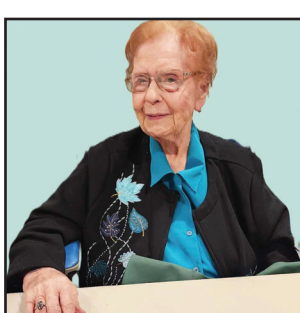
Betty married George Reeves in 1946 and moved to Mt. Morris, IL. She was employed by Watt Publishing Co. as a secretary. One of her greatest joys was when they adopted Randall and Lesa. She was an active member of the Church of the Brethren. George and Betty were active in Boy Scouting and started Troop 99 in Mt. Morris.

In 1970, Betty married Percy Homer and moved to South Beloit, IL. She was an active member of the

Rockton United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and New Century Book Club. Betty enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S. and Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Israel, Europe, British Isles and Asia. She loved antiques and playing bridge.

Betty is survived by and will be missed by her daughter, Lesa (Don) Stevens; granddaughters, Abigail (Savanah) Stevens-Kellman and Jillian (Devon Pilz) Stevens all of South Beloit, IL; step-granddaughter, Anna Peeken; four great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Marguerite Zatt of Barrington, IL; as well as many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Betty is preceded in death by husbands George Reeves and Percy Homer; son, Randall Reeves; step-daughter, Mary Peeken; parents; sisters, Genevieve Hagar of Riverside, CA, Donna Sutton of Pt. Huron, MI; brothers,



Kenneth Smith of Marlette, MI, Harold Smith of Colorado Springs, CO; step-grandsons, John and Tom Peeken of Lafayette, IN.

A Funeral Ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025 in Rockton United Methodist Church, 102 W. Chapel St., Rockton, IL with Pastor Carolyn Lukasick officiating. A visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until time of ceremony, Saturday. Burial in Floral Lawn Cemetery, South Beloit, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Rockton United Methodist Church, 102 W. Chapel St., Rockton, IL 61072.

Thomas 'Tom' E. Fane

OREGON — Thomas "Tom" E. Fane, 80, passed away peacefully with his loving wife by his side in their Oregon home on Friday, April 25, 2025. He was born on August 28, 1944, in Dixon, IL, the son of Eugene and (H) Louise (Miller) Fane. He graduated from Dixon High School and went on to attend Northwestern University. After his time in Evanston, he dedicated over 40 years to Woods as an IT programmer. Tom married the love of his life Deborah Bennett in Oregon, IL, on June 18, 1993. They spent the next 32 years together building a life in the Oregon community. Tom had a well-known passion for golf; not only did he play faithfully in the Tuesday Night Golfers League, but he could also reliably

be found on the Silver Ridge fairways any given weekend. Beyond golf, he was an avid Chicago Cubs and Bears fan, along with the Blackhawks- when they were winning that is. Tom had a noted adoration for muscle and sports cars as well, curating an impressive collection over the years. Recognized by many for his quipish sense of humor, Tom always had a joke at the ready. Above all, Tom's greatest joy was spending time with his family.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents and brothers-in-law, Henry Kasper and Jack Sitter. He is survived by his loving wife Deb Fane of Oregon, IL; sons Dennis Fane and David Fane of Toledo, OH; sisters Betty Kasper and Barbara Sitter of Dixon, IL; special golf



partner Uncle Terry Lewis of Rockford, IL; and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation rites are scheduled with a celebration of life at Silver Ridge Golf Course Clubhouse at 3069 N. Hill Rd, Oregon, IL, 61061 on May 19th from 4pm-7pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to one of his favorite charities: Boys Town or St. Jude's. To leave an online condolence or plant a tree in his memory please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com.

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.

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LOCAL NEWS



Leaf Soaring Eagles 4-H club holds talk and demonstrations activities

On Saturday, March 29, the Leaf Soaring Eagles 4-H club held one of their talk and demonstrations activities. Each 4-Her that wants to participate in the fair judging must perform one talk and demonstration before fair time. This activity helps the 4-Her practice talking in front of a judge. Other 4-H members are there to ask questions and give support during the presentation. Kaden Lingbeck presented his variety of chickens. Lydia Sherburne talked on health, fitness, scrapbooking and food projects. David Wehler discussed his photography project and how to accomplish what he did. Henry Hodson showed his woodworking project and explained how he made it as well as what it was for. (Courtesy photos)



Oregon Lions Club to serve pancakes June 7

Oregon Lions Club committee members recently gathered at The Village Bakery to get the ball rolling for a Pancake breakfast which will be held Saturday, June 7 at the United Methodist Church in Oregon. All proceeds will be gifted to the Ogle County K9 unit. Watch for more information on this important event. (Courtesy photo)

Rock River Valley Blood Center announces new donor portal

ROCKFORD — The Rock River Valley Blood Center (RRVBC) announced the launch of a new donor portal on April 7. The portal is designed to streamline the process of scheduling blood donations and enhancing the overall donor experience. The updated portal offers donors an easy-to-use platform to quickly schedule appointments, track donation history, and receive personalized reminders. This advancement is part of RRVBC's ongoing commitment to making blood donation as accessible and convenient as possible for the local community.

"We are thrilled to offer this new tool to our dedicated donors," said Maggie Anderson, RRVBC marketing and recruitment specialist. "The

new portal will not only make scheduling donations more efficient but will also allow us to better engage with our donors to ensure we can continue to meet the critical need for blood in our area."

The new donor portal is now available on rrvbc.org. Donors can create or update their accounts, manage appointments, and access important information regarding blood donation.

For more information on how to make an impact, visit rrvbc.org or contact (815) 965-8751.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center is your community blood center and is the only provider of blood products and services to Mercyhealth Javon Bea Hospital-Rockton, Mercyhealth Javon Bea Hospital-Riverside, Mercyhealth Hospital and

Medical Center-Harvard, Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center-Janesville, Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center-Walworth, Mercyhealth Hospital and Physician Clinic-Crystal Lake, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, UW Health Swedish American Hospital, UW Belvidere Medical Center, UW Carbone Cancer Center Rockford, Beloit Health System, Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, FHN Memorial Hospital and

Rochelle Community Hospital. The center has three convenient donor centers in Rockford and Freeport and the ability to support up to three mobile drives a day. The Rock River Valley Blood Center ensures that the right blood type is available at the right time for local patients whose lives may depend on it. Patients and their families rely on individuals to provide life-giving red blood cells, plasma, and platelets through blood donation.

ROCHELLE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CLUB

Monthly Steak Fry

\$30 per person
Starts at 6pm

Ribeye, baked potato, corn, beans, a salad and desert

Porkchop or Hotdog
option at reservation

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

Aug 9th

Sept 13th

Oct 11th

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YOUR OWN STEAK
over our charcoal pits!

Covered outdoor and indoor seating enjoy your meal surrounded by nature and good friends.

Please RSVP no later than 5pm the Thursday before the steak fry and call Nick - 815-677-8981

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ROCHELLE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CLUB

Country Road Greenhouses to hold annual public sale May 17-18

CRESTON—Country Road Greenhouses, LLC, wholesale growers of native plants and the exclusive producer of the Prairie Plugs™ grow method, will be hosting its eighth Annual Spring Sale May 17-18 at its grow facility near Rochelle. A wholesale supplier of native plants to governmental and nonprofit groups for environmental projects, Country Road will host the sale, which is open to the public, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

CRG continues its quest to help the environment that began on their farm 40 years ago. Bought by the Redington Family from lifelong grower Larry Creekmur, the farm has been providing solutions to landscaping challenges for the past 40 years with resolutions that are time-tested. Peggy and Bryan, along with son Ryne, have more than 25 years of environmentally friendly growing experience. Peggy also is a lifelong horticulturist. The Redingtons purchased their legacy farm in 2018.

"We sell only native perennial forbs, grasses, sedges and also native trees and shrubs," co-owner Bryan Redington said. "These plants are friendly to pollinators such as butterflies and bees, etc."

The native plants to this region that will be featured at the sale include milkweeds, native sunflowers and asters that are utilized in emergent wetlands and woodlands to full-sun dry areas. Plants native to Illinois also are native to Wisconsin, Iowa and Indiana. For an entire list of plants to be offered at the sale, see the CRG scrolling list at PrairiePlugs.com.

Throughout the year, exclusive sales from various

plants grown on the farm are made wholesale to groups and organizations such as Wild Ones, a native plant not-for-profit. Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. Other CRG wholesale clients include the Friends of the Chicago River, The Wetlands Initiative, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Lake County Forest Preserve District, St. Charles Park District and the Rockford Park District.

The farm is located 12 miles west of DeKalb, three miles east of Rochelle and one mile north of Casey's gas station in Creston. The Spring Sale is open to the public. The sale will include individual vegetable plants and trees, as well as plants grown with their exclusive, patented "Prairie Plug" method.

The Prairie Plug™ method is a native plant grown in a flat container with a hole on the bottom that can be used to pop the plant out for easy planting.

"Plug Trays are the most popular way to purchase native prairie plants to 'Go Native' when for restoring land to its native state," Peggy Redington said. "These plants have deep roots up to 15 feet deep that are flood and drought resistant. Prairie plants are like the icebergs of the real world. Their true scope can only be realized beneath the surface. Each spring we burn the fields to eliminate weeds and other invasive species. The root systems remain intact and plants begin to resurface almost immediately."

The sale also features first and second-year trees and shrubs in three-gallon containers.

Residential electronics recycling collection event is May 17

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to noon at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 16.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators,

phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven (7) large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

Knox College students named to winter 2025 Dean's List

GALESBURG — High-achieving students were named to the Knox College Dean's List for the 2025 Winter Term. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have earned at least 2.5 credits in the term,

with a grade point average of 3.6 or better (on a 4.0 scale).

Locals honored included: Jed Bothe of Oregon; Luke Mathieu of Byron; and Alexis Reisinger of Davis Junction.

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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 19, 1536, Anne Boleyn, the unfortunate second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded at the Tower of London on charges including adultery, incest and conspiracy against the king, after just three years of marriage.

* On May 20, 1992, in an attempt to end the blight of graffiti vandalism, the Chicago City

Council passed an ordinance banning the retail sale of spray paint and large markers within city limits, describing them as "weapons of terror."

* On May 23, 1979, rocker Tom Petty declared bankruptcy in an effort to free himself from his contract with Shelter Records.

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How Democrats can become the party of the American people

THE following is part of a speech I made recently to the *ABT* (Action for a Better Tomorrow), an affiliate of the Democratic Party in Lee County. I introduced myself as "a moderate liberal, an independent who reliably votes Democratic," and presented ideas about how to communicate with moderates and conservatives.

The history of both parties has often been one of failing to speak in the language of persuadable voters, overinterpreting mandates, enacting policies that the public isn't ready to accept; and then suffering defeat at the next election. The Democratic Party came to an end of this cycle last November. The Republican Party is now at stage one, as it institutes one unpopular policy after another, under the delusion that it has a mandate. The Democratic Party must in my opinion escape that cycle if it hopes to be the voice of the American people.

on the political spectrum, along with an increasing inability to understand and communicate effectively with conservatives.

This presents a challenge to be overcome if Democrats are to get their message across to a broad segment of the public and expand their base of support. Indeed, Mr. Haidt attributes the political successes of conservatives over the past several decades to their ability to appeal to the full range of moral foundations, and the inability of Democrats and other liberals to do so.

We won't overcome this barrier by using logical arguments based on our own moral foundations and our own version of reality. We can, however, enlist conservatives in support of change if we work from within their worldview, including the moral foundations that they cherish. Researchers found, for example, that describing LGBTQ people to conservatives as "proud and patriotic Americans who contribute to the American economy" significantly increased their support for same-sex marriage, while appeals to "fairness" had no effect.

This is not a panacea, but it is a part of what we must do to reach the persuadables who voted for Donald Trump in the last election. These are the moderates and non-MAGA conservatives who will listen to reason if it's expressed in their language and with respect for their values. These are the people who can make the Democratic Party the party of the nation as a whole.

I believe that Democrats can aggressively oppose the policies of Donald Trump while also communicating effectively with moderates and conservatives. That will require us to express opposition in a manner that won't alienate those voters and won't energize the MAGA base.

Underneath it all is the need for civility—principled opposition that respects the humanity of everyone and doesn't ridicule or demonize the people we disagree with. Abraham Lincoln is my role model for that approach: He made it clear where he stood without resorting to uncivil words and behavior. How we express ourselves in the months and years ahead will be as important as our message.

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



Lowell Harp

Letter: Small farms, big farms

DEAR editor,

Table crops: "The federally funded Local Food Purchase Assistance and the Local Food for Schools programs, both begun during the pandemic, focused on small, local farms in aim of building stronger domestic food supply chains. Grants allowed schools and food banks to buy meat, dairy and produce from small farms. Trump administration last month nixed more than \$1 billion for local food programs. Kristi Jones, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture: Illinois had been planning on nearly \$15 million from the next round of funding for the food bank program. Farmers already had begun planning and spending on seeds and equipment. (Stateline)

They're also big spenders, laying out billions on the heavy equipment, seed and fertilizer they use. Which makes them doubly vulnerable to tariffs." (IPM)

"More than 20% of farm income comes from exports," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "Tariffs will drive up the cost of critical supplies, and retaliatory tariffs will make American-grown products more expensive globally. The combination not only threatens farmers' competitiveness in the short-term, but it may cause long-term damage by leading to losses in market share," said Duvall.

"During his first term, when a trade war he started with China cut deeply into U.S. agricultural exports, Trump's Department of Agriculture compensated farmers with \$28 billion in aid. Recently, just after cutting the local food programs, USDA announced it was expediting \$10 billion in direct payments to commodity farmers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program. The White House is reportedly considering billions more in farm subsidies. Many farmers believe Trump will take care of them again this time. Not Vance Ehmke [farmer]. He said

he 'wouldn't bet 5 cents' on a bailout, given all the budget cuts in Washington." (IPM) "Joe Janzen, an agricultural economist with the University of Illinois notes that Trump is working to drastically slash spending across the federal government." (-Fortune) "None of us like [direct payments]," said farmer Andy Hineman, who is vice president of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association. "We don't want to live on government handouts. We'd rather sell the crops we grow. (IPM)

"Farmers endured Trump's previous trade war with China during his first term. But this time, Trump's tariffs extend around the globe, so China likely won't be the last country to retaliate with tariffs of its own. "The hope for farmers is that Trump's tariffs will lead to negotiations with other countries that will lower tariffs and other trade barriers. 'That's the type of positive development that we can do that's good for everybody involved, and that's what we need to look for,' American Soybean Association President Caleb Ragland said. 'Instead of beating each other up with higher and higher tariffs — it's just like punching each other in the face. We're not go-

ing to gain anything from it. It's just going to cause us to hurt. That would be my encouragement to the administration, is to look for opportunities and get some great deals done proactively.

"One of the biggest long-term concerns is that American farmers and ranchers will lose market share as China turns to Brazil and other countries to buy the soybeans, beef, chicken and other crops it consumes. Loss of market share is a big deal. It takes decades to build trading relationships. The U.S. has long enjoyed a good reputation as a reliable food supplier. Farmers don't want to throw that away. But Kenneth Hartman Jr., president of the National Corn Growers Association, worries that his best export partner, Mexico, will soon be looking elsewhere for corn. 'If we get tariffs for too long, these other countries are going to start talking to Brazil and Argentina, and they can take a lot of our markets away,' said Hartman. 'And when you lose markets, it's hard to get them back.'" (APNews) "North of the border, Canadian agriculture economists worry that the U.S. tariffs have already done irreparable damage to the economies of both countries." (CBC)

Henry Tideman, Oregon

Ron Kern: Concerns about tariffs

AS I write, according to the "old timers", I've got about 10 more days left to plant my potatoes. Not sure where the old norm of getting tubers in the ground before Good Friday came from, but I do know those "old timers" will even get out there in the mud to make that deadline.

For me I'm moving at my own pace. Been planting spuds for over 30 years and never had a failed crop and made the Good Friday timeline only about half the time. So you will find me out planting those little starch carriers when the soil is fit and my back isn't aching.

Plenty of angst in the farm community over trade tariffs imposed last month by the Trump Administration. With a majority of the potash we use for crops in the U.S. coming from Canada it will be interesting to see how producers react to fertilizer needs.

We at the Illinois Farm Bureau support a rules-based approach to trade, and our farmers simply cannot

afford the uncertainty of a potential trade war. Farm income has declined for a second straight year, and we know from experience that farmers and rural communities are the first to suffer from retaliatory tariffs. We hope the administration will consider the economic impact on Illinois farmers and rural communities when contemplating tariff implementation.

Illinois is the largest total exporting state in the Midwest and the fourth largest in the country. Illinois is the third-largest exporter of agricultural commodities in the country. Total exports from Illinois in 2023 were estimated at \$81 billion. Of that, approximately \$13.7 billion can be attributed to agriculture. Since 2019, Illinois' total exports have increased by \$18.9 billion, or 31.7%. Export activities support over 800,000 jobs in Illinois.

Illinois Farm Bureau continues to meet with

Illinois congressional members to share our concerns about tariffs. Our message is clear:

Trade and tariffs are a real concern for our farmers and understand the significance in free trade.

Trade and tariffs are a national legislative priority for IFB in 2025.

Our priorities are:

- Defend trade deals for Illinois farmers,
- Ensure blanket tariffs are not the trade policy of the United States,
- Explore new markets for Illinois agricultural products, and
- Expand current trade agreements, remove barriers, and increase demand for Illinois agriculture products.

Export markets are a key to agricultural profitability. Export markets for agricultural goods are essential for keeping farms financially healthy and trade figures represent significant contributions to farmers'



Ron Kern

bottom line.

Establishing new, diverse market opportunities and eliminating existing trade barriers are vital to the financial sustainability of U.S. agriculture.

The U.S. continues to sit still and lose big on trade while our competitors strike new deals and expand market access/market share for their goods.

Enforcing existing agreements and ensuring that countries uphold their trade commitments is crucial.

Agriculture needs strong advocates for trade in Congress and the White House.

Tariffs are a tax on the consumer. The consumer will pay that tariff. Tariffs will trigger retaliatory tariffs, and agriculture is always the focus of those retaliatory tariffs. Rather than tariffs we would like to see the Trump administration expand current trade deals and create new trade deals.

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

Letter: 100 days and still a Republic

DEAR editor,

Over the last few weeks many letters and articles have mentioned the phrase "our democracy", the thing we are to hold dear, but our Republic of States was created to preserve liberty, not democracy. Democracy is the seed to ruin of liberty. The closer we get to pure democracy, the further we are from liberty. Democracies consolidate power, republics balance and decentralize power. Under pure democratic rule the majority simply votes away the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of the minority, even inalienable rights under disguise of law.

The 1776 era was a

demand for recognition by a capricious arrogant monarch refusing the rights of Englishmen, refusing them the power to regulate themselves, and denying representation in decisions concerning them. The ultimate consolidation of power. Upon our separation and in consideration of the failures of history a representative form of government with independent branches was designed. The purpose was to keep central government limited and decentralized.

Starting with Federalists immediately overreaching their limits, here we are today with the claim to the largest government and

military in history. The original decentralization of power by congressional districts of 30,000 people was lost by 1929 Act of Congress limiting House membership to 435. Today's districts are about 750,000 people each, diluting citizens to 1/25th of their former influence.

In the Illinois legislature are two bills consolidating power. HB2515 and SB2217. Both seek to merge "small" townships together or into the county. It should be noted that most of these are rural townships, but the decision of the majority will be from urbanized areas whom it does not

affect. The gerrymandered control of Illinois does not properly represent small townships. The persuasions will be efficiencies and cost savings — some possible, others specious. To me those arguments matter little. Even though a small step, it is a further example of government pulling into itself. Call, write, text your representatives and express your ideas of liberty.

Decentralized government preserves liberty. Concentration destroys it.

I close with a reminder to all the dire editorial letters prior to Nov. 5: 100 days and we are still a Republic.

John Dickson, Oregon

LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On April 5 at approximately 5:35 a.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle crash on Illinois Route 64 near the intersection of Kent Road in rural Rochelle. An initial investigation revealed a vehicle was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64 when it crossed over the center line into the eastbound lane before entering the south ditch. After entering the ditch the vehicle proceeded into the field where it overturned coming to rest on its roof. The driver, Douglas Carr, 55, of Rochelle, was transported to the Rochelle Community Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The incident is still under investigation. Deputies were assisted by Hillcrest Fire/EMS, Rochelle Fire/EMS, and the Illinois State Police.

On April 5 at 2:12 a.m. deputies checked on a vehicle in the ditch on Interstate 39 southbound at mile marker 112. After

an investigation, Ciro Nelson Santos, 43, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Santos was also issued citations for driving with no valid driver's license, driving under the influence of alcohol over .08, and aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol. Santos was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On April 5 at 3:44 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office investigated a motorist assist near the intersection of South Meridian Road and East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Daniel J. Lamczyk, 42, of North Lake was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lamczyk was also issued a citation for improper parking on a roadway. Lamczyk was transported to the Ogle Jail and released on a notice to appear.

On April 5 at 7:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a speeding violation. After an investigation, a 15-year-old male juvenile from Byron was arrested for no valid driver's license, and driving under the influence of alcohol. The juvenile was additionally issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol over .08, and speeding. A 14-year-old female juvenile from Oregon, a 16-year-old female juvenile from Byron, and a 17-year-old male juvenile from Byron were also in the vehicle, and issued citations for illegal consumption of alcohol under age 21. All of the juveniles were released to parents or guardians and provided with a future court date.

On April 7 at approximately 12:20 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of East Flagg Road. After further investigation Anthony Frey, 31, of Mt. Morris,

was placed under arrest for an outstanding Lee County warrant. Frey was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On April 8 at approximately 6:16 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 20,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After further investigation Anthony Roman, 41, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Roman was also cited for speeding. Roman was released on a notice to appear bond.

On April 8 at approximately 8:56 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of North River Road. After further investigation Tomas Garcia Larios, 51, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Garcia Larios was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear bond.

On April 9 at approxi-

mately 4:41 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of Queens Road and Flagg Road in Rochelle for a check welfare on the driver of a semi-truck/trailer. After an investigation, deputies arrested David Allen Vaultonburg, 39, of Polo for driving under the influence of alcohol. Vaultonburg was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on notice to appear with a return court date.

On April 9 at 8 p.m. deputies conducted a warrant service in the 700 block of West Indian Terrace in Oregon. Deputies arrested Shannon E. Tompkins, 41, of Oregon on an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear (driving while license suspended). Tompkins was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On April 10 at 6:37 p.m. deputies conducted a motorist assist in area of East Illinois Route 64 and South Kent Road for

a vehicle stopped in the roadway. After a brief investigation, Fernando Hernandez, 76, of West Chicago, was arrested for driving unlicensed. Hernandez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a further court date. Hernandez was additionally cited for unlawful parking.

On April 10 at approximately 5:30 p.m. deputies and Rochelle Fire Department responded to the 12,000 block of East Flagg Road in rural Rochelle for a two-vehicle accident. After a brief investigation, deputies learned a green Dodge Dakota struck the rear end of a red Chrysler 300 that was attempting to make a left-hand turn. Deputies cited a 16-year-old male juvenile from Chana for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. All parties involved were unharmed.

All individuals innocent until proven guilty.

Mother's Day Flower Walk in Genoa is May 10

GENOA — On Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the day before Mother's Day, University of Illinois Extension offers guided wildflower walks at the Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) in Russell Woods Forest Preserve. Russell Woods is located one mile west of Genoa on State Route 72. The Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) is at the end of the forest preserve road. The guided walks will be on the hour, starting at 10 a.m. with the last one at 1 p.m.

"Visitors often ask us to come outside and help them identify one of the many beautiful, spring native wildflowers in the forest preserve," said Peggy Anesi, University of

Illinois educator. "Spring is crucial for these delicate plants. The spring woodland flowers grow in wooded areas but come up early to capture enough sunlight to make food for themselves. If they wait too long, the shade of the trees blocks the precious light they need," continued Anesi. "The spring beauties, one of the earliest bloomers, are one of the most delicate flowers found on the forest floor, and research has shown they are critical for many native pollinators." The upland paved path allows people of all abilities to enjoy the flowers. According to Anesi, people must understand that removing plants from preservation areas is illegal, so capturing with

a camera is the best way to take something home.

All are welcome on the guided hikes. Two local botany enthusiasts, Karen Matz and Brian Hale, will lead the discussion about forest plants and what is blooming. "They love to share their enthusiasm regarding wildflowers," said Anesi, adding, "If people have company in for the weekend, this would be a great destination and activity for everyone to share." There is no fee for the walks, and Extension Master Naturalists will be in the Natural Resource Education Center to welcome visitors while they wait for the next walk. If you have questions, please call the NREC at 815-784-2000.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
The sweet notes of spring are blooming at Highland's Ferguson Fine Arts Center.

Highland CC greets spring with Instrumental, Royal Scots Concerts

FREEPORT — The sweet notes of spring are blooming at Highland's Ferguson Fine Arts Center.

On Friday, May 9 at 7 p.m., The Royal Scots, directed by Dr. Randy Haldeman and accompanied by The Highland Watch Band, will serve up a boot-scootin' performance. It's sure to be a fun-filled evening

featuring a fresh take on beloved country classics.

With Summer's 50th anniversary just around the bend, now is the best time for fans of live theatre to snag the best seats in the house for the widely anticipated production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, with performances running June 20 through 29. While *Cinderella*'s online

ticket sales are now live, phone and in-person sales will open May 19 at 1 p.m.

Tickets for these events can be purchased online at Highland.edu or by calling the Highland Box Office at 815-599-3718. The Ferguson Fine Arts Center is located on the Highland Community College campus at 2998 W. Pearl City Road in Freeport.



Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club helps at Easter breakfast
On April 19, the Leaf River Lions' Club held their annual Easter breakfast and Easter egg hunt. The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club helped with setting up for the breakfast. They served drinks and cleaned up the dishes off the tables. Pictured are David Wehler, Kaden Lingbeck and Lydia Sherburne. Gianni Racanelli is gloved up and helping serve toppings on the waffles. (Courtesy photo)



Oregon Lions clean up Illinois Route 2
The Oregon Lions Club recently braved a quite chilly and blustery day to help clean up a few miles along Illinois Route 2. (Courtesy photo)

Peterson participates in celebration

LEBANON — McKendree University students presented their research

and creative work on campus during the 12th annual Academic Excellence

Celebration on April 24. Participating was Hunter Peterson of Stillman Valley.

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 4
At 7:01 a.m., Oregon Police issued William Noorlag, IV, 58, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 57 in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Washington Street.

At 8:16 a.m., Oregon Police issued Justin T. Trunko, 28, Byron, a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred in the 1,000 block of Jefferson Street.

At 9:47 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a traffic crash at the intersection of North 5th and West Washington Streets involving a 2021 Toyota driven by Leona L. Totosz, 73, Oregon, and a 2012 Chevrolet driven by Jean L. Noonkesser, 79, Mt. Morris. A citation was issued to Totosz for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

March 7
At 8:30 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Richard L. Gallagher, 41, Oregon, on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Gallagher was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officers' custody.

March 9
At 9:47 a.m., Oregon Police issued Trevor L. Ashlin, 23, Dixon, a citation for speeding, 55 in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Washington Street.

At 12:50 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jayden E. Gordon, 21, of Harmon a citation for speeding, 67 in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Washington Street.

At 2:03 p.m., Oregon Police issued Ryan J. Johnson, 24 of Bolingbrook a citation for speeding, 63 in a 45 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of West Washington Street.

March 10
At 11:03 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Jarrett J. Neuenfeld, 38, of Marengo, for driving while license suspended and possession of firearms and firearms ammunition. Neuenfeld was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 1st Street.

March 11
At 3:42 a.m., Oregon Police issued Gabriel C. Todd, 24, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 12
At 7:19 a.m., Oregon Police responded to the 400 block of West Washington Street for a three-car traffic crash involving a 2012 Volkswagen driven by a 17-year-old male juvenile, Chana, a 2006 Honda driven by Alyssa M. Theisen, 24, Mt. Morris, and a 2021 Chevrolet driven by Bode V. Martin, 22, Oregon, the male juvenile was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

At 5:55 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 300 block of North 6th Street for an unwanted subject call resulting in the arrest of Robert D. VanDyke, 44, Oregon, for criminal trespass to residence. VanDyke was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 100 block of South 1st Street.

March 13
At 11:35 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jarrett J. Christensen, 20, Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Christensen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 900 block of Pines Road.

March 13
At 1:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued one 16-year-old male juvenile, Mt. Morris, a cannabis citation for possession of cannabis less than 10 grams. This violation occurred in the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

March 14
At 2:01 p.m., Oregon Police issued Katelyn R. Koper, 18, Oregon, a citation for speeding, 45 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Oregon Trail Road.

At 2:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Paige M. Holland, 38, Byron, a citation for speeding, 44 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of South 4th Street.

At 7:55 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 1500 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a car vs deer traffic crash involving a 2010 Ford driven by Taylor A. Rigdon, 27, of Galesburg. No citations were issued.

March 15
At 3:45 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Mark A. Kemp, 46, Oregon, for violation of orders of protection. Kemp was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officer's custody.

At 6:34 p.m., Oregon Police issued Glenn W. Haidinger, 28, of Oakbrook Terrace, a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 16
At 12:01 p.m., Oregon Police issued Troy D. Maples, 27, of South Bend, Indiana, a citation for speeding, 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 4:14 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of North 3rd Street resulting in the arrest of Anmarie R. Kuntz, 34, Oregon, for aggravated battery to a peace officer. Kuntz was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the corrections officer's custody.

At 8:41 p.m., Oregon Police issued Gonzalez R. Tello, 26, Oregon, citations for disobeying a stop sign and for no valid driver's license. These violations occurred in the 600 block of South 10th Street.

March 17
At 2:36 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-car traffic crash in the 400 block of West Washington Street involving a 2008 GMC driven by Brian A. Bosecker, 61, Byron, and a 2022 Mac driven by Jeffrey A. Burger, 55, Dixon. Also damaged was the building owned by Rebecca Hazzard, located at 412 W. Washington St. Bosecker was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

At 4:32 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Shane M. Nielsen, 41, Oregon, for driving while license revoked. Nielsen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 800 block of Pines Road.

March 18
At 3:55 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 1,100 block of Pines Road for a one-car traffic crash involving a 2008 Pontiac driven by Eli F. Williams, 18, Oregon, that went into the ditch. No citations were issued.

March 19
At 8:45 a.m., Oregon Police issued one 14-year-old male juvenile of Chana a city citation for violating the tobacco products and alternative nicotine products city ordinance. This violation occurred in the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

March 20
At 5:44 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of West Washington and North 5th Streets involving a 2012 Volkswagen driven by Brandon D. Noble, 40, Oregon, and a 2020 Buick driven by Vickie L. Smith, 55, Forreston. Noble was issued a citation for failure to yield at a stop intersection.

At 8:45 a.m., Oregon Police issued Troy D. Maples, 28, of South Bend, Indiana, a citation for speeding 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 7:37 p.m., Oregon Police responded to the 200 block of North 3rd Street for a traffic crash involving a 2000 Ford driven by a 17-year-old female juvenile, Oregon, and a parked 2006 Chevrolet belonging to Rebecca D. Boyden, 35, Oregon. No citations were issued.

March 22
At 8:11 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Lavern A. Dearborn, 61, Dixon, on two warrants, one out of Lee County for failure to appear for violating sex offender registration and one out of Ogle County for failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. Dearborn was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officers' custody.

March 23
At 3:30 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Britini Frye, 31, Clinton, Iowa, and Jessica Deboer, 45, Rock Falls. Frye was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Deboer was charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance – psilocybin, two counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, 15-100 grams, possession of methamphetamine, and possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine. Both Frye and Deboer were transported to the Ogle County Jail where Frye was processed and released with a notice to appear and Deboer was left in the corrections officers' custody. These violations occurred near the intersection of West Washington and Illinois Streets.

At 8:35 a.m., Oregon Police issued Paul D. Holden, 54, Oregon, a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Washington Street.

At 1:32 p.m., Oregon Police issued John F. Vos, 46, Mt. Morris, citations for speeding, 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone, and operating a motor vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance. These violations occurred in the 800 block of West Washington Street.

March 27
At 6:30 p.m., Oregon Police issued Nicole M. Mason, 42, Oregon, a city citation for violating the city code ordinance of allowing dogs to run at large. This violation occurred in the 200 block of North 5th Street.

March 28
At 4:10 p.m., Oregon issued Bethany M. Wah, 40, Sterling, a citation for operating a vehicle with an expired registration. This violation occurred in the 200 block of South 4th Street.

March 29
At 8:32 a.m., Oregon Police issued Divia B. Dunbar, 54, Rock Island, citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle when registration suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 3:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Margaret L. Allen, 57, Dixon, a citation for speeding, 52 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 30
At 6:46 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Robert M. Disch, 54, Oregon, on two outstanding Ogle County warrants. Disch was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officers' custody.

46 verbal warnings and 32 parking citations issued during the weeks of March 3-30. Please note: Any arrests listed below are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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
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Veterans' Services

Ogle County Veteran's Assistance	815-255-9181
Veteran's Crisis Line	988 then press 1
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
Medical Transportation	677-6515

Wellness Services

Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

Dyke was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the corrections officer's custody.

At 11:35 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jarrett J. Christensen, 20, Rochelle, for driving while license suspended. Christensen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 900 block of Pines Road.

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At 1:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued one 16-year-old male juvenile, Mt. Morris, a cannabis citation for possession of cannabis less than 10 grams. This violation occurred in the Oregon High School, 210 S. 10th St.

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At 2:54 p.m., Oregon Police issued Paige M. Holland, 38, Byron, a citation for speeding, 44 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 700 block of South 4th Street.

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At 6:34 p.m., Oregon Police issued Glenn W. Haidinger, 28, of Oakbrook Terrace, a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

March 16
At 12:01 p.m., Oregon Police issued Troy D. Maples, 27, of South Bend, Indiana, a citation for speeding, 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 4:14 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of North 3rd Street resulting in the arrest of Anmarie R. Kuntz, 34, Oregon, for aggravated battery to a peace officer. Kuntz was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was left in the corrections officer's custody.

At 8:41 p.m., Oregon Police issued Gonzalez R. Tello, 26, Oregon, citations for disobeying a stop sign and for no valid driver's license. These violations occurred in the 600 block of South 10th Street.

March 17
At 2:36 p.m., Oregon Police investigated a two-

Pegasus Special Riders Golf Play Day is June 20

DIXON — Pegasus Special Riders will host its Golf Play Day on Friday, June 20 at Lost Nation Golf Course at 9631 S. Lost Nation Road, Dixon, IL 61021. The fundraiser will help Pegasus provide support to individuals with emotional, mental and physical challenges through equine-assisted activities.

For sponsorship opportunities and registration information, contact Pegasus at admin@pegassusspecialriders.org or text 815-973-3177.

Exclusive hole sponsor \$200 (two available): (\$50 discount if purchased with team entry). Larger company signage at hole of your choice. Invited to set up a table and/or tent at the hole to promote your organization and/or play a game.

Hole sponsor: \$150 (16 available) (\$25 discount if purchased with team entry). Small company tee signage at a nonexclusive hole. Invited to set up a table and/or tent at the hole to promote your organization and/or play a game.

Cart sponsor: \$50 Company name will appear on a golf cart on the day of the event. Donate an item for the silent auction or promotional items for golfers. Golf team entry: Spaces will fill quickly. Please register early to save your space! Team entry (four players): \$400 includes 18 holes, golf cart, lunch meal ticket and drink ticket.

For those playing, once payment is received, you'll get notified of acceptance. First come, first serve. First to pay gets to play.

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 21
At 3:03 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Melissa A. Stien, 53, Byron a citation for passing a school bus while loading/unloading. This violation occurred in the 500 block of North Colfax.

March 24
At 10:35 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Tyer S. Bunting, 34, Mt. Morris a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 500 block of East Blackhawk Drive.

At 5:36 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Carlos Perez Jr., 23, Rock-

ford citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle while driver's license is suspended. Perez was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 600 block of East Blackhawk.

At 9 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Alison S. Mitchel, 37, Mt. Morris a citation for operating a vehicle without proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of West Blackhawk.

March 25
At 1:02 p.m. Byron Police Department issued

Cortney M. Davies, 37, Loves Park a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 500 block of West Blackhawk.

At 12:14 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Marissa E. Marsh, 30, Winnebago a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 500 block of East Blackhawk.

At 3:42 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Troy A. Goodwin, 51, Garden Prairie, citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and

operating a vehicle without proof of valid insurance. These violations occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

March 26
At 9:52 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Hezekiah C. Kennedy, 24, citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and driving a vehicle while driver's license is suspended. Kennedy was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released. These violations occurred in the 1,100 block of West Blackhawk.

March 27
At 1:27 p.m. Byron Police Department issued

Melissa D Christians, 53, Rockford, a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

March 28
At 9:26 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Abigail M. Myers, 19, Oregon, a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license. Myers was also issued a civil citation for possession of cannabis. Myers was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released on a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 100 block of East 3rd Street.

March 30
At 11:43 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident involving a 2000 Ford driven by Edward M. Santoro, 42, Washington, Iowa, and a 2011 Dodge driven by Isaac V. Alvarez, 41, Byron. Santoro was issued a citation for failure to stop at a stop sign. This violation occurred in the 400 block of Union Street. There were no injuries reported.

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

ART DASH: Serenity Hospice & Home raises funds and spirits at annual event

From page 1

Their year-round efforts ensure the event remains meaningful, exciting, and impactful, delighting participants while raising crucial funds for Serenity Hospice and Home. "We are delighted that the Art Dash has grown beyond our expectations. It is a great way to support Serenity and promote Art in the community while having a good time," Karen Virnoche said. Serenity CEO, Suzanne

Ravlin, gives the event high praise, "This is an event like no other. The night is successful in many ways. Not only does the event raise funds that Serenity Hospice and Home uses to provide services to our patients and their loved ones, but it is also an opportunity for art dashers to leave with an incredibly unique piece of art. I am always surprised by what art pieces are selected first and how fast people can run! We are grateful for Karen Virnoche and James

Brown's dedication all year long to make this memorable event possible."

Serenity, founded in 1984, serves nine counties in Illinois and is a five-star hospice and palliative care organization dedicated to providing comfort and dignity during difficult times for pediatric patients and beyond.

Though final numbers for the 2025 event are still being tallied, organizers expect it to raise approximately \$30,000, matching the impressive

total from 2024. Proceeds will benefit Serenity's patient and bereavement care programs across the nine counties they serve, enabling them to continue providing exceptional support to those in need.

Thanks to the artists, volunteers, donors, and everyone who came out to support this incredible cause, Serenity's Art Dash once again proved that when a community comes together with passion and purpose, amazing things can happen.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Though final numbers for the 2025 event are still being tallied, organizers expect it to raise approximately \$30,000.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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!

May 8: State Rep. Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) is hosting an upcoming sharps drop-off drive event, alongside the Dixon YMCA and the Lee County Health Department. The event will take place on Thursday, May 8, from 4-6 p.m. at the Dixon YMCA parking lot, located at 110 N. Galena Ave. in Dixon. "All constituents are invited to safely dispose of their sharps at our upcoming sharps drop-off drive," said Fritts. "Properly disposing of sharps is critical for keeping our homes and community safe. I look forward to partnering with the Dixon YMCA and the Lee County Health Department to offer this essential service to our community." Residential sharps only. Please contact Rep. Fritts' district office at 815-561-3690 EXT 2 with questions. For more information about Repre-

sentative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.

May 10: The first Byron Kiwanis pork chop sandwich sale this season is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 in the St. Mary Catholic Church parking lot, located at 220 E. Blackhawk Drive. The sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until chops are gone. A sack lunch is available for \$8 and includes a grilled Eichman's butterfly pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie, and a bottle of water. A single sandwich can be purchased for \$6. These delicious sandwiches sell out quickly so be sure to stop by early. All proceeds benefit programs in our community. Some of the programs Byron Kiwanis supports include Mary Morgan Family Reading Night, youth education and sports, scholarships for high school seniors, Byron Elementary's PBIS program, Crossroads Blues Society, the Byron Schools Food Pantry, Village of

Progress, and Serenity Hospice and Home. The club holds an annual breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus to benefit Operation Santa. It also sponsors the Builder's Club at Byron Middle School and the Key Club at the Byron High School.

May 18: The Marion Township Board would like to extend an invitation to all residents of Marion Township to join us for an Open House celebrating the retirements of Road Commissioner Brian Johnson and Assessor Robert Maas. The Open House will be held on Sunday, May 18 from 2-4 p.m. at the Marion Township Building, 400 W. Roosevelt St., Stillman Valley. The contributions and services these gentlemen have provided the residents of Marion Township have been invaluable. We would like to take this time to thank Road Commissioner Johnson for maintaining the over

50 miles of roads for 24 years! And to Assessor Mass, no one can know the countless hours you have spent taking classes just to acquire and maintain the assessor position over 29 years. Your kind and quick response to the residents of Marion Township is greatly appreciated. It is impossible to serve a Township if you do not have a heart for the people of that Township. These gentlemen have the heart! You both will be greatly missed, but onto the newest chapter of your stories. Simply put, 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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Hair, Skin & Nails



OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS

WINDSTORM: 'For as bad of a situation as we were in, it went very well'

From page 1

He thanked RMU line crews for their work in the first two days of the outage before mutual aid and contractor crews could be brought in to help them finish repairs.

After inquiring with its insurance about submitting a claim for the storm damage expenses, the city will opt to pay the \$516,236 out of pocket as an emergency expenditure utilizing the cash it keeps on hand in case of storms. The city chose that route due to an insurance claim's potential impact on insurance rates or its ability to get insured in the future.

Toliver said the storm had a "substantial impact" on RMU's inventory of electric infrastructure and equipment, including poles, cross arms, braces and insulators.

"We were running out of everything," Toliver said. "We had some of the municipal utilities in the area help us with inventory and

we'll replace their inventory as we stock back up. We're still fighting some challenges of being low on inventory. We ordered a lot after the storm. Within the first 16 hours after the storm, our inventory here for most of our day-to-day items was pretty well cleared out. I'm happy with our relationship with our vendor and they came in and worked on our stock. Dealing with what we dealt with, obviously our day-to-day supplies were depleted very quickly. The amount of help we had from other utilities and our vendors was great. We got parts delivered the next day or were able to go pick them up. For as bad of a situation as we were in, it went very well."

RMU line crews had mutual aid help come in from municipal linemen from Batavia and St. Charles, along with crews from contractor Michels Power. Those were the only crews available due to other utilities throughout

the state dealing with their own issues from the storm.

Toliver said RMU had worked with Michels Power in the past and credited all the crews that helped with the mid-March outage.

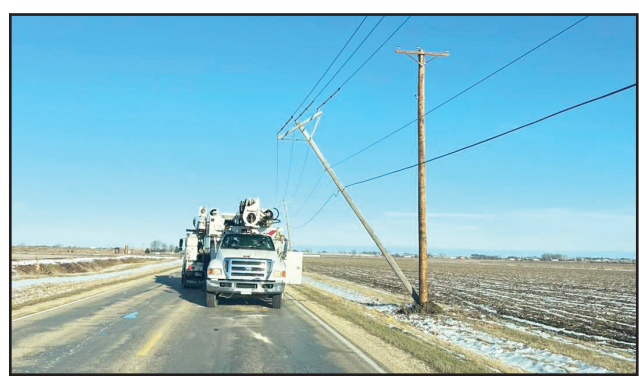
"It was a lot for our crews," Toliver said. "Our crews know our territory, so they had to lead the mutual aid and contractor crews around and show them what to do and how we do it. We were very thankful to get the help we did. St. Charles chose not to bill us because they wanted to be neighborly. We greatly appreciate that and would love to pay that favor back if they ever need help in the future."

The Friday the storm hit saw 75-degree temperatures. As crews worked on restoring the system to normal over the weekend, they saw windy conditions continue, and a snowfall hit on Sunday morning. That caused issues such as stuck line trucks and poor visibility.

"We had trucks stuck

because we left out trucks overnight holding poles up and stuff like that," Toliver said. "It ended up becoming a totally different set of challenges. We dealt with wind and it was still windy afterwards and we had to hold things together. Then we got snow and moisture and trucks got stuck. Visibility was poor for a while. When you have multiple crews working on a line that are relying on visibility between each other, they can't even see the next crew because the snow is coming down so hard. That posed another challenge. It was from one extreme to another."

RMU Assistant Superintendent Jay Mulholland said that local hotels and restaurants came through and helped RMU be able to house and feed the visiting line crews while they were in Rochelle working. A total of 34 linemen were working in the area, with eight from RMU, six from Batavia and St. Charles, and 20 from Michels Power,



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Around 11 p.m. on March 14, the storm knocked out power to 6,000 RMU customers out of its total of 7,500.

plus RMU's support staff.

The RMU generation plant was the first to respond to the outage by providing power to the center part of town (3,000 customers) while linemen were figuring out how to pick up the main arteries of power.

Toliver said he believes RMU was prepared for the storm in terms of procedure and cash on hand. \$516,236 makes up 1.3 percent of the city's electric department's total cash on hand. Toliver said he did not feel prepared for it with inventory, which can be tough to manage due

to not knowing what area of the electric system would be hit and what would be needed.

"We try to be as prepared as we can and keep enough inventory on hand to get through a smaller event, but it's hard to prepare for a large event like this and have enough inventory on hand because of the cost of the materials," Toliver said. "As bad of an event as it was and as much destruction as we had in that short time frame, it went as well as it possibly could have as far as rebuilding."

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MOTHER'S DAY

Great gifts for moms from all walks of life

MOTHER'S Day is an opportunity to show moms how much they're loved and appreciated. Though many moms may insist they don't want anything beyond spending the day with their children, gifts are a big part of Mother's Day.

No two moms are the same, and though standards like flowers and greeting cards will always have a place on Mother's Day, the following are some gift ideas that can put smiles on the faces of moms from all walks of life.

Bookworm
There's no end to the gift options for mothers who love to curl up with a good book. Of course, some new books may delight Mom, but gifts that can improve the reading experience also merit consideration. For example, an ergonomic backrest reading pillow can make bedtime reading sessions more comfortable and ensure Mom's neck and back get ample support as she reads the latest page-turner. A nightstand book holder also can be ideal for moms who can't seem to keep track of their bookmarks.

Fitness enthusiast
Some moms simply love to get in a good workout. Shoppers whose

mothers or wives love to break a sweat might want to look into home gym equipment, as many fitness enthusiasts transformed part of their homes into exercise areas during the pandemic. If that sounds like the mom on your shopping list, then a suspension training system won't take up much room but can provide an intense, full-body workout. A new yoga mat, some wireless Bluetooth headphones or a compression stretching mat are some additional gifts that might make exercise-loving moms smile this Mother's Day.

Traveler
Moms whose children still live under the same roof may not have much opportunity to travel, but empty nesters and grandmothers might. For such moms, a foldable, hanging travel bag can make it easy and convenient for mom to carry all of her toiletries and access them without taking up what's often minimal hotel room counter space. For moms who want to document their excursions, a leather travel journal encourages them to note their experiences and gives them something they can revisit for years to come. Of course, some new luggage can make the perfect gift for newly retired moms who can't wait to start visiting places



on their travel bucket lists.

Businesswoman
Millions of moms manage to juggle the obligations of family life with a challenging career. Mother's Day can be a great time to recognize that

balancing act. A self-heating coffee mug can ensure Mom's morning cup o' joe doesn't go cold as she traverses her way through a hectic morning routine. Another great gift is a charging mouse pad that

can charge all of Mom's devices even while she's working. If you want to help Mom remain calm as she navigates her way through a day filled with personal and professional obligations, an essential

oils diffuser can create a sense of relaxation on the most hectic of days.

No two moms are the same. Fortunately, great gifts can be found for moms from all walks of life this Mother's Day.

Mother's Day crafts Mom will cherish forever

MANY mothers will attest that few things are better than a little rest and pampering on Mother's Day. And when it comes to gifts, homemade items are among the most heartfelt.

Although schools and day care centers may take the lead and guide children through Mother's Day crafts, parents and caregivers looking to encourage kids to make crafts at home can explore these ideas that can turn into wonderful gifts or decorative items for Mom.

Floral votive holders
Kids can create special candle holders that they can customize with pressed or paper flowers. New jars can be purchased from a craft store or empty jars at home can be repurposed. Using Modge Podge or another durable adhesive, children can attach dried, pressed flowers to the outside of the jar by painting the adhesive over the flowers; otherwise, paper flowers cut out from tissue paper or construction paper can be used. Once dry, attach a

piece of decorative twine, yarn or ribbon around the mouth of the jar. Place a tealight candle inside for Mom to enjoy.

Writing pen bouquet
Why not give Mom something that is both beautiful and functional this Mother's Day? Children will have fun making flower pen bouquets. All it takes are a few inexpensive disposable pens, floral tape and artificial flowers. Place an artificial flower stem alongside the pen. It should be short enough that it will not impede writing, so cut if necessary. The petals of the flower should be up at the non-writing end. Starting at the non-writing end of the pen, begin to wrap floral tape snugly around the stem and pen to just before the tip of the writing end. It is better to use too much floral tape than not enough. Repeat the process for as many pen flowers as you'd like to make, then offer as a gift in a vase.

Jewelry dish
Mom can keep her favorite pieces of jewelry safe with a heartfelt clay

jewelry dish. It's easy to make with only a few materials. Using air-dry clay and a heart-shaped cookie cutter, children can roll out the clay and cut out the shape. Turn up the edges slightly to make a rim so that rings or earrings won't fall out of the dish later on. Then kids can press decorative items, such as beads, small seashells, sequins, or faux gems, into the clay. The jewelry dish is beautiful as-is, or it can be painted after dry.

Faux stained glass
This project mixes paint with glue to create a stained glass effect. The colors can be painted on any acrylic surface, whether it's a flat, plastic photo protector in a picture frame or clear, plastic cosmetic bottles. When the light hits the items, it will produce a prismatic effect just like the real stained glass. Take painter's tape and mark off a desired design, such as writing "I Love Mom." Using separate small containers (an empty foam egg carton would work well), add a little bit of clear



school glue and a few drops of desired colors or acrylic paint. Paint the different colors as they pertain to the design or pattern. The glue and paint should dry quickly and extra coats can be applied depending on how intense you want the color to be. Once the stained glass is dry, peel off the painter's tape and gift.

Kids can get busy crafting gifts that show Mom just how much she's loved and appreciated.

Wishing all mothers and grandmothers, a Happy Mother's Day!

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MOTHER'S DAY

Tips to make Mother's Day extra special this year

MOTHER'S Day is celebrated each May and marks a perfect opportunity to show Mom how much she's loved and appreciated. Mother's Day has been celebrated for more than 100 years, and in that time mothers have grown accustomed to certain staples of the holiday. A bouquet of fresh flowers, Sunday brunch at a local restaurant and some gifts from a partner and the children have become standards each Mother's Day.

While Mother's Day standards may never lose their appeal, families looking to make this year's celebration a little more unique can consider these ideas.

- Whip up (or order in) some baked goods. If Mom is the family baker,

surprise her this year with some homemade baked goods. An aroma of freshly baked goodies around the house can set a welcoming tone for the day, particularly if the treats are prepared in the morning before Mom wakes up. Partners and children whose baking skills leave a little to be desired can get some freshly baked treats from a local bakery and have them waiting for Mom when she wakes up.

- Take to the road. Another way to make Mother's Day extra special is to make the celebration a weekend affair. A weekend getaway can be a welcome breath of fresh air for mothers and serve as a great opportunity for the family to unwind and celebrate Mom away from everything that reminds her of the hustle and bustle of

everyday life. A getaway can be an especially ideal surprise for mothers whose children are full grown. Invite adult kids along and make their attendance a surprise for Mom.

- Book a unique experience. Experiential gifts have been wildly popular in recent years, so why not incorporate this trend into Mother's Day celebrations? Book a tour of a local vineyard or winery, take Mom to a live theater performance, or take her out for a day on the water, complete with brunch and a champagne toast. Such memorable experiences won't soon be forgotten and can provide an exciting alternative to previous Mother's Day celebrations.

- Ensure Mom doesn't lift a finger. A truly special Mother's Day will give



Mom a day off. Partners and kids can team up to take care of everything from the moment Mom wakes up until she returns to bed at night. Serve breakfast in bed, order in some lunch and then take Mom out for a nice meal at a local

restaurant. In between meals, let Mom relax any way she sees fit, whether that's curling up with a good book, dusting off her paint brush and engaging in some artistic endeavors and/or squeezing in a rare midday nap. Mom will

undoubtedly appreciate a full day off, which might just make for the best gift of all.

Mother's Day is the ideal time to offer Mom a unique experience that shows her how much she's loved and appreciated.

Learn the meanings behind popular Mother's Day flowers

MOTHER'S Day is a time to express love and appreciation for mothers, sentiments that are often expressed with gifts. Flowers are a popular present to bestow on Mother's Day, as they can brighten a room and bring a sweet aroma to any household.

While any flowers may ultimately suffice on Mother's Day, gift givers may want to select flowers for Mom that convey specific messages. The language of flowers has been recognized for centuries. Though perhaps not as heralded as it once was, flower symbolism persists to this day. Here's a look at some of the meanings behind certain types of flowers to help guide Mother's Day gifting.

- Amaryllis: These plants start as bulbs and are naturally spring-blooming flowers. The name comes from the Greek word "amarysso," which means "to sparkle," and they symbolize pride.

- Aster: These daisy-like flowers are delicate-looking perennials. Asters make great gifts because they symbolize love and daintiness.

- Begonia: There are more than 2,000 types of begonias, and the flower symbolizes deep thoughts. Begonias were made famous by French horticulturist Michel Bégon, who thought the blooms looked like beautiful girls.

- Bleeding heart: These flowers are red and pink blossoms that look like the perfect heart shape with

a teardrop at the bottom. They're beautiful and symbolic of love and affection.

- Buttercup: These are associated with youthfulness and cheerfulness and can call to mind childhood days spent picking buttercups and holding them under chins to reveal that you like butter. The flower is known for its beauty and innocent charm.

- Camellia (white): White camellias stand for purity and innocence, but they also symbolize admiration and respect. Camellias make beautiful additions to any bouquet.

- Daisy: Daisies are happy-looking flowers, and according to Norse mythology they represent motherhood and children.

- Delphinium: Delphin-



iums come in pink, white and blue varieties and embody youth and renewal. They're a good pick if you want to convey a continued or renewed affection for a

person.

- Tulip: Tulips with an orange hue are thought to represent understanding and appreciation. They can express appreciation for Mom

or another special person. Yellow tulips symbolize happiness, while pink tulips are symbolic of love. Red blooms should be reserved for sweethearts.

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Oregon High School softball team earns championship at 2025 Byron Softball Jamboree on April 26

The Oregon High School varsity softball team defeated Byron 3-2 and scored a notable victory over state-ranked Dakota 4-3 to win the Byron Softball Jamboree on Saturday, April 26. Olivia Ortega went 2 for 2 with two RBIs against Dakota, while Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 3 and scored two runs in the championship game. Isabelle Berg earned the win in the circle against Byron and Brooke Halverson earned the win against Dakota, striking out six over four innings of work. The team includes Alexi Czochara, Hayleigh Heuerman, Madison Shaffer, Olivia Ortega, Abree Barker, Brooke Halverson, Giselle Zavala, Isabelle Berg, Ella Dannhorn, Kaelin Shaffer, Lola Schwarz, Abbie Ludwig and Emma Schlichtmann. (Courtesy photo)

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First-time buyers represented 32% of home purchases in March, up slightly from the previous month. This increase shows growing confidence among new buyers despite today's competitive market. With inventory still tight and interest rates fluctuating, first-time buyers are staying active, a positive sign for the spring and summer real estate season ahead!

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**MARCH 2025
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outdoor space is equally impressive, featuring meticulously maintained landscaping that enhances its natural beauty. A massive 60x40 outbuilding offers ample space for storage, hobbies, or projects, while the 30x50 detached garage provides additional space for vehicles and equipment. Zoned Ag with walking trails and apple trees, this property is perfect for those with animals, gardening enthusiasts, or anyone seeking a peaceful retreat. Whether you're looking for room to roam, a private country escape, or a place to grow and cultivate your dreams, this home has it all. Don't miss the opportunity to make this stunning property yours!

**NEW
LISTING**



grand views of your own private oasis. Antico porcelain tile and crown molding can be found throughout the main floor. Dedicated master suite with large walk in closet, en-suite bathroom, exercise room and heated, outdoor shower for year round use! Grand four season room with tall ceilings and views of the professional landscaping done by Crimson Valley. No longer worry about snow removal or mowing the yard as this yard is entirely permeable and the entire driveway is heated! There is also a heated garage and workshop. Two staircases lead to the basement also has 2 framed in bedrooms and additional bathroom along with a full bathroom, laundry area and ample storage. Call for a full amenity list and your private showing today!

**NEW
LISTING**



feature separate utilities, and the units are recently updated with all kitchen appliances staying. The building boasts a strong rental history with consistent occupancy. With very little upkeep required, this is a turnkey opportunity perfect for investors seeking reliable income in a growing market.

**NEW
PRICE**



dining area make entertaining a breeze. The spacious living room adds to the home's open and airy feel, with large rooms throughout ensuring plenty of space for everyone. Downstairs, the finished lower level offers even more versatility, with a rec room and an additional space ideal for an office or workout area. With loads of storage and over 5 beautifully wooded acres, this property is a rare find in a gorgeous location. This home is also close to Grand Detour's private school, Faith Christian School k-12! Don't miss your chance to own this peaceful retreat.

2989 W Pines Road Oregon \$370,000 Call Rebecca

Welcome to this beautiful 4-bedroom, 1-bathroom home nestled on 15.66 acres in the desirable Oregon School District. Just minutes from town, this property offers the perfect balance of serene country living with the convenience of nearby amenities. Step inside to discover an inviting open-concept kitchen with an eat-in area, seamlessly flowing into the spacious living room. The main floor also features a convenient laundry area and master bedroom. Upstairs, you'll find three additional bedrooms, providing plenty of room for family or guests. The property's

401 Lillemor Lane Oregon \$799,000 Call Rebecca

ONE OF A KIND! Custom built with no expense spared, this remarkable 2x6 stucco construction home is the true definition of luxury. Boasting tremendous curb appeal, you will be amazed the moment you pull onto the paver brick driveway at all this property has to offer. Featuring over 5,000 square feet of living space on the main floor with additional square footage in the basement, this home offers plenty of fabulous space indoors and out. Open concept living space with grand kitchen featuring custom cherry cabinets, dining area with custom built ins and living room with gas fireplace. Oversized windows and sliding doors with custom blinds and

200 N Washington Street Rochelle \$385,000 Call Carla

A fantastic investment opportunity is now available in Rochelle, IL—a 5-unit commercial/multifamily brick building located in a prime downtown location, just minutes from I-39. This property offers excellent cash flow with minimal expenses for the landlord, making it an ideal low-maintenance asset. All units

7261 S Ridge Road Grand Detour NOW \$324,900 Call Carla

New Listing in Grand Detour! – Charming 3-Bedroom Ranch on 5+ Wooded Acres Nestled just outside Grand Detour, this custom-built, one-owner ranch home offers the perfect blend of privacy, space, and comfort. Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this charming home boasts a large screened-in porch where you can relax and enjoy the scenic wooded views. Inside, the family room with a cozy fireplace provides a warm and inviting atmosphere, while the expansive kitchen and formal

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SPORTS



Forreston's Jaiden Schneiderman (top left), Ashlyn Rinaldi (top right), McKenna Rummel (bottom left) and Isabella Thiel (bottom right) are four of the eight athletes who have signed letters to play collegiate sports during the 2024-25 school year.

Forreston High School athletes sign to play collegiate sports

FORRESTON — Eight student-athletes at Forreston High School will be competing in athletics at the collegiate level after signing during the 2024-25 school year.

Jaiden Schneiderman, daughter of Nick and Andrea Schneiderman, signed a letter of intent to participate on the volleyball team at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Jaiden has been a four year varsity starter on the volleyball team at Forreston

High School. She earned team offensive player of the year all four years. Jaiden has earned All-Conference volleyball honors in 2021 (2nd team) 1st team (Unanimous) in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Jaiden set the single game records this year with most kills (28). She had the single season kill percentage (47.9%) this year. Her career records include Most Career Kills (1,655), Career Kill Percentage (43.8%), Career Aces (147). Her career

record kill (1655) places her 10th in the IHSA Volleyball All-Time records. She plans to major in Elementary Education. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreston Jr/Sr High School wish Jaiden congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Ashlyn Rinaldi, daughter of Randy and Emily Cross signed a letter of

intent to participate on the track team at Sauk Valley Community College. She has been on the track team for four years at Forreston High School. She plans to major in Business at Sauk Valley. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreston Jr/Sr High School wish Ashlyn congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Sauk Valley Community College.

McKenna Rummel,

daughter of Michael Rummel and Krista Smith signed a letter of intent to participate on the softball team at Sauk Valley Community College. She has played varsity softball for four years at Forreston High School. McKenna earned 2nd Team All-Conference honors in 2024 and Most Improved Offensive Player team honors. She plans to major in Ag Business. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreston Jr/Sr

High School wish McKenna congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Sauk Valley Community College.

Isabella Thiel, daughter of Chris and Becky Thiel signed a letter of intent to participate on the softball team at Sauk Valley Community College. She has been a four year softball player. Isabella plans to pursue a Nursing Degree.

See FHS page 3

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Remember your loved one with a special tribute this Memorial Day.

With Fondest Memories
David C. Andrews
July 10, 1961 – May 5, 1980

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of Memorial Day

The Rochelle News-Leader will publish memorials of those who are gone but not forgotten. This is a wonderful way to remember those dear to us, and share memories.

Tributes include your choice of verse from the right, and an optional photo if submitted.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send this form, a photo and \$12.00 per listing.

Deadline is Wed., May 21st at 3 p.m.

These tributes will be published in the special Memorial Day section On May 26, 2025.

If you wish, select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in God's heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
9. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
10. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
11. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
12. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
13. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
14. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
15. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.

You can email a high quality photo and verse number/message to: kwhite@oglecountyilife.com. Please call 815-732-2156 to arrange payment or pay with this QR Code.



Fill out the form below and drop off or mail to: Ogle County Life (Gone, But Not Forgotten), 211 Hwy. 38 PO Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068

Name Of Deceased: _____ Verse Number: _____
Relationship To Me: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Passing Date: ____/____/____
Additional Information _____
Your Name _____
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City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
In Lieu of Verse, my message is: _____

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Forreston baseball team cruises over Polo

The Forreston High School varsity baseball team cruised over Polo for a 19-3 win on Wednesday, April 23. Brendan Greenfield went 1 for 2 with three runs and four RBIs, while Darin Greenfield went 2 for 2 with one triple and four RBIs for the Cardinals. Connor Politsch went 2 for 3 with four runs and two RBIs to aid the Forreston side. Gus Mumford and Gage Zeigler each went 1 for 2 with one RBI to lead the Marcos in the Ogle County matchup.

Forreston softball team blows out Hiawatha

The Forreston High School varsity softball team blew out Hiawatha 19-4 on Wednesday, April 23. Caroline Bawinkel went 3 for 4 with two triples and five RBIs, while McKenna Rummel went 3 for 3 with a home run and three RBIs out of the No. 9 hole for the Cardinals. Maddie Chesnek went 2 for 4 with one double and two RBIs and Emma Hundertmark totaled three RBIs in the win. Neveah Scheffner and Alivia Ingram each notched two RBIs to aid the Forreston side.

Polo softball team falls against East Dubuque

The Polo High School varsity softball team fell 7-1 against East Dubuque on Wednesday, April 23. Cam Jones went 1 for 3 with a double and one run scored, while Cheyenna Wilkins went 1 for 2 with a single to lead the Lady Marcos in the loss.

Oregon softball team wins over Genoa-Kings-ton

The Oregon High

School varsity softball team won 11-8 over Genoa-Kingston on Thursday, April 24. Lola Schwarz laced a two-run triple in the fifth inning and Ella Dannhorn belted a three-run homer in the sixth inning to lead the Hawks in the win. Madi Shaffer and Brooke Halverson each chipped in two hits to aid the Oregon offense.

Polo softball team sweeps games with Amboy

The Polo High School varsity softball team split two games against Amboy this past week. Polo concluded a postponed game against the Clippers on Thursday, April 24, winning 8-7 in a game that started on Tuesday, April 22. Brylee Laskowski went 1 for 3 with a single and two RBIs, while Cheyenna Wilkins went 2 for 3 with one double, one triple and two RBIs for the Lady Marcos.

Polo returned to the field for a second game on Thursday, April 24, winning 8-5 to sweep the two-game set with Amboy. Cheyenna Wilkins shined for the Lady Marcos, going 3 for 4 with one double and three RBIs while striking out seven over five no-hit innings in the circle. Leah Tobin chipped in two RBIs and Brylee Laskowski went 2 for 5 with two singles and an RBI.

Polo baseball team drops two games against Amboy

The Polo High School varsity baseball team dropped two games against Amboy this past week.

See SPORTS page 3

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Forreton's Chloe Weegens (top left), Ayden Book (top right), Aubrey Sanders (bottom left) and Maddie Chesnek (bottom right) are four of the eight athletes who have signed letters to play collegiate sports during the 2024-25 school year.

FHS: Cardinal student-athletes sign to play sports at collegiate level

From page 2

The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreton Jr/Sr High School wish Isabella congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Sauk Valley Community College.

Chloe Weegens, daughter of David and Terri Weegens signed a letter of intent to participate on the

softball team at Sauk Valley Community College. She has played softball four years. She earned the team Cardinal Heart/Hustle Award in 2024. Chloe plans to pursue a Nursing degree. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreton Jr/Sr High School wish Chloe congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Sauk Valley

Community College.

Ayden Book, son of Adam and Alyssa Book signed a letter of intent to participate on the baseball team at Blackburn College. Ayden has been on the baseball team all four years. Ayden plans to major in Sports Management. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreton Jr/Sr High School wish Ayden congratulations and best

wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Blackburn College.

Aubrey Sanders, daughter of Brian and Holly Sanders signed a letter of intent to participate on the softball team at Carthage College. Aubrey has been a four year varsity softball player. She earned 2nd Team All-Conference honors and team Most Improved Player in 2023. Aubrey plans to major

in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The administration, coaches and student athletes of Forreton Jr/Sr High School wish Aubrey congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Carthage College.

Maddie Chesnek, the daughter of Josh Roop and Sara Chesnek signed a letter of intent to participate on the softball

team at Clarke University. Maddie has been a four year softball player. She earned team honors of Most Improved Defense in 2024. Maddie plans to major in Elementary Education. The administration, coaches, and student athletes of Forreton Jr/Sr High School wish Maddie congratulations and best wishes for a successful academic and athletic career at Clarke University.

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 2

Polo resumed a postponed game on Thursday, April 24, falling 14-10 in a game that started on Tuesday, April 22. Lucas Nelson went 3 for 5 with three singles and two RBIs, while Korbin Cavanaugh went 2 for 4 with two singles and two RBIs. Dawson Foster added two RBIs.

Polo returned to the field for the second game on Thursday, April 24, falling 16-1 to concede the sweep to the Clippers. Henry Donaldson went 1 for 3 with an RBI for the Marcos in the loss.

Forreton softball team loses against Durand

The Forreton High School varsity softball team lost 7-1 against Durand on Thursday, April 24. Caroline Bawinkel went 2 for 2 with one triple, while Maddie Chesnek went 1 for 3 with an RBI to aid the Cardinals in the loss.

Oregon softball team shuts out Ashton-Franklin Center

The Oregon High School

varsity softball team shut out Ashton-Franklin Center 11-0 on Monday, April 28. Emma Schlichtmann struck out seven batters in a one-hit performance over five innings, while Olivia Ortega went 2 for 4 with two runs and three RBIs to lead the Oregon offense. Abree Barker went 2 for 3 with two runs and one RBI, Hayleigh Heuerman went 1 for 2 with two RBIs and Alexi Czochara went 2 for 2 with one RBI in the win.

Polo baseball team scores one run in loss to Fulton

The Polo High School varsity baseball team scored one run in a 11-1 loss against Fulton on Monday, April 28. Gage Zeigler and Aiden Messer each notched hits and Dawson Foster collected one RBI for the Marcos in the loss.

Polo softball team tallies one run in loss to Fulton

The Polo High School varsity softball team tallied one run in a 13-1 loss against Fulton on Monday,

April 28. Brylee Laskowski, Cheyenna Wilkins and Bella Witkowski each recorded base hits in the loss.

Forreton softball team takes loss from Amboy

The Forreton High School varsity softball team took a 9-3 loss from Amboy on Monday, April 28. Isabella Thiel, Maddie Chesnek and Alice Kobler each finished with one RBI for the Cardinal offense, while Aubrey Sanders, Ayla Kiper and McKenne Rummel each totaled one base hit.

Oregon softball team falls against Winnebago in extra innings

The Oregon High School varsity softball team had an 11-game winning streak snapped with a 10-9 extra-inning loss against Winnebago on Tuesday, April 29. Isabelle Berg struck out 10 batters over five and two-thirds innings pitched and Madi Shaffer went 3 for 5 with two RBIs to lead the Oregon offense. Olivia Ortega went 2 for 5 with three RBIs and Lola Schwarz chipped

in two RBI for the Hawks, who also saw Kaelin Shaffer finish 2 for 4 with two runs scored.

Polo baseball team scores close win over Ashton-Franklin Center

The Polo High School varsity baseball team scored a 10-9 win over Ashton-Franklin Center on Tuesday, April 29. Aiden Messer went 4 for 5 with two RBIs, while Lucas Nelson and Korbin Cavanaugh each recorded one hit and two RBIs in the win.

Polo softball team

strikes down Ashton-Franklin Center

The Polo High School varsity softball team struck down Ashton-Franklin Center for a 13-4 win on Tuesday, April 29. Leah Tobin went 2 for 5 with two runs and three RBIs, while Cheyenna Wilkins went 2 for 4 with two runs and Bella Witkowski went 4 for 5 with two runs and an RBI. Cam Jones pitched three and two-thirds innings and struck out seven batters in the win.

Oregon girls soccer

team rolls over North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team rolled for a 7-1 win over North Boone on Tuesday, April 29. Anna Stender totaled four goals and two assists, while Shaylee Davis added one goal and one assist. Bezzali Cadenas and Sarah Eckardt both scored goals and Aniyah Sarver chipped in two assists to aid the Oregon offense. Noelle Gorton earned one save for the Hawks (8-5-1, 3-3 BNC).

Compeer Financial Awards scholarship to Monroe Center's Hall

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. — Compeer Financial has awarded 41 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Illinois who are pursuing fields related to agriculture. Each student receives a \$1,500 educational scholarship from Compeer's Fund for Rural America.

Among the 41 recipients in Illinois was: Gwendolyn Hall, Monroe Center.

"Agriculture and other industries in rural areas offer amazing career opportunities for aspiring young people today, and Compeer is proud to help these students succeed,"

said Karen Schieler, manager of Corporate Giving at Compeer Financial. "Our vision is to create a world where agriculture and rural communities are dynamic, collaborative and thriving. These hard-working students are a testament to that vision and will help make it happen."

Scholarship recipients were selected based on their academic achievement, essays and involvement in agriculture and community organizations.

In all, Compeer Financial awarded 123 scholarships across its three-state area of Illinois, Minnesota

and Wisconsin. Among this year's recipients, animal science is the most popular major, followed by agriculture business. South Dakota State University and Iowa State University are tied for the most popular school, followed by the University of Wisconsin — River Falls. In addition, 24% of recipients will attend a community college or technical school.

This is the eighth year for the scholarship program from the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America scholarship program, which has now awarded a total of 960 students with more than \$1.4 million in scholarships.

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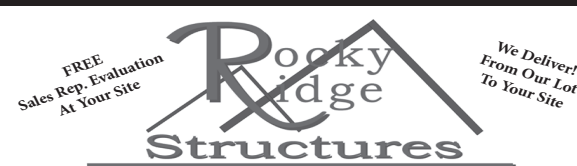


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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

IHSA navigating transgender issues and right to play

ORIGINALLY set up in 1900 as an organization to simply oversee inter-scholastic competition in Illinois, the beleaguered IHSA continues to get pounded by issues that were never foreseen at its inception.

Besides the on-going pressure of the public-private school competitive imbalance, officials at the IHSA are now juggling how to handle transgender issues and something called “right to play”.

In regard to whether transgender athletes should be allowed to compete in gender specific activities, the IHSA simply wants clarification. Do their marching orders come from a Presidential Executive Order or the Illinois Department of Human Rights?

A non-political entity, the IHSA stays out of the fray and simply tries to

comply with the applicable law, without taking a position either way. Still, there remains a very large contingent of Illinois citizens that believe the IHSA should not allow transgender athletes to compete in girls sports, citing unfairness.

For the record, the IHSA doesn’t legislate how school districts handle this matter in everyday athletic competition. Its jurisdiction is for a state tournament series, of which there are 15 for the boys and 17 for the girls.

As a pole vault person, I’ve watched with some interest a political hot potato in the state of Maine, whereby a teenager who previously competed in the boys track and field, switched to girls and won the state pole vault title as a trans athlete. The controversy has reached a boiling point among state and national politicians.

It might just a matter of time before this explodes in Illinois, as the IHSA patiently waits for definitive direction from federal and/or state authorities.

On to the “Right to Play” House Bill, which is much simpler to explain, but still chockfull of social ramifications.

It asks that athletes be given the opportunity to compete in tournament play outside of the actual high-school sport they are playing in.

Right now, if someone is a club ball player and his or her club is having a competition while that sport is going on during the high-school season, the IHSA doesn’t allow them to compete in it.

This bill would allow kids to step outside the IHSA rules and play whatever tournament they

want during the season in question. Bear in mind, kids can compete in club sports throughout the school year, just not during the season that sport is going on.

The IHSA opposes the bill, stating its mission centers around the character development of young people while representing their schools and communities. They contend that travel (club) sports have a very different end goal.

IHSA’s mission is to support its 800 member schools, and not have any affiliation with club ball.

Additionally, the IHSA warns against the effect it would have on fielding teams, which is already a huge problem for schools all over Illinois. It also cites the undue pressure it puts on high school

coaches.

Very true and something that is frustrating to coaches everywhere. Often, kids do not report for practice or games because they are practicing with their travel (club) team. With a shortage of players to fill a high-school team out, coaches are left with an ethical dilemma.

Do you make a concession to kids that have a greater allegiance to their club team than to their high school simply because you don’t have enough bodies and desperately need all hands on deck?

It’s gets stickier when the club sport athlete is more talented than his peers in high school. Does the coach allow the absentee athlete to receive more playing time than the lesser-talented kid who makes every practice and is truly committed to the team?

I guess it depends if winning is the primary goal?

One final factor not connected to the proposed House Bill is the conflict high-school coaches feel with club sports. They are forced to navigate their own coaching techniques versus what a travel coach is telling an athlete.

It is so much easier to coach your own way without outside interference. However, some would argue that a kids receive more specialized training from an outside coaching, and dare we say, even better.

I’m staying out of that argument, but it is a reality permeating coaching high-school sports all over the country.

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

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. BRIDE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1000 Highway 64, West (Hwy 64 W & Mongan Drive on Liberty Hill), Oregon
732-7211 – Office Rev. Eldred George
Webpage: saintrbides.org • E-mail: saint.bride.church@gmail.com
Worship Services: Sunday 10 am Holy Communion with Hymns
Christian Education Available

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255
polo@crossroadsccn.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.crossroadsccn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN

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



LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Special Hours
The Byron Public Library will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. We will re-open for our regular hours on Tuesday, May 27. We hope all of our patrons have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

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 - 5:00 pm, Monday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 1:00 pm & 5 - 8:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Friday & Saturday closed.

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

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

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.

Tween Scene: Charrades
Program. Three words. Sounds like a great time. It's Tween Scene: Charrades! 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 4th 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.

Short and Sweets
Join us at the library for an engaging discussion of Caroline Anderson's short story, "Homing." Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. Copies of the reading available at the Circulation Desk. Adults.

Genealogy Community Workshop
The life of a researcher can get lonely — why not head to the library and share your findings?

ROCK RIVER CENTER ACTIVITIES

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

FRENCH CLASS
Next Meeting - May

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Job Opening
Forreston Public Library has a part-time position open for approximately 10-12 hours per week, including every other Saturday morning. Customer service and technology skills are preferred. Responsibilities include assisting patrons, checking materials in

and out, shelving items, answering phones, faxing, etc. If interested, please pick up an application at the library. The deadline to apply is May 13, 2025. If you have any questions, please email forreston-publiclibrary@gmail.com.

Book Sale
May 1st-May 17th. It's



Patrons enjoyed learning different techniques for adding sparkle to their homemade cards. Patrons also enjoyed learning from mushroom expert Hunter Le Duc as she taught patrons all about shiitake mushrooms including their history, lifecycle, and how to cultivate them.

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.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Visit the Byron Library Facebook page, or subscribe to our newsletters at byronlibrary.org, to keep up to date on library

news and programs! Be sure to also check out the Byron Library and Byron Library Teen Instagram pages!



Last Friday, teens stopped by Julia Hull District Library, to create edible Peeps nests using Rice Crispy Treats, jelly beans, and flavored Peeps.

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.

Tween Scene: Lawn Games
Game face: ON! The sun is shining and we're playing games on the library lawn. So, dust-off your skills for corn hole, ring toss and more...and prepare to crown a team



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

champ. Tuesday, June 3, 6 p.m. Ages 10-13. Registration required: 815-645-8611.
Create Your Own Salsa
Enjoy home salsa all summer long. Learn the best vegetable and herb

varieties for making salsa, and how to grow and harvest them. Class will include a salsa-making demo and FREE salsa recipes to attendees. Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

7. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Advanced Registration Required.
CTC – Lab Hour
May 8. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Registration Required.
PENNING YOUR PAST
May 12. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Advanced Registration Requested
OUTING OF THE MONTH
May 15. Anderson Japanese Gardens. Lunch Afterward at Frescos.

Register by May 12
WOOD CARVERS
Tuesdays–9:00–11:00 a.m.
Boot Scooters
Adult Line Dancing Fun. When: Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Where: Rock River Center. A Great Physical and Mental Activity. Despite its effortless appearance, line dancing offers a significant workout for muscles, especially in the legs, core, and upper body. Regular

participation strengthens muscles, boosts stamina, and enhances overall fitness levels, vital for orthopedic health and function. Key Takeaways: Line dancing offers cardiovascular, balance, and coordination benefits. It stimulates cognitive function and can improve mental health. The activity promotes social connection and boosts individual confidence. Whether you're a seasoned pro or taking your first steps, we

have a place for you in the line. "If you can walk, you can line dance."
SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 4th Wednesday in February, May, August & November. Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. 24 Hour Advance Registration Required.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 3rd Tues-

day of the month. Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meets: 1st Wednesday of the month. Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
LOW VISION GROUP
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

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

Spring Dance
Join us on Friday, May 2nd for our Spring Dance! All are welcome starting at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Donations accepted and snacks will be provided.
Crafts at The Shed
All are welcome to join us for crafts each

month at the Serenity Shed. On Tuesday, May 20th at 9:00 am we will meet at The Shed to paint spring canvases.

The cost is \$15 and you MUST be signed up by May 13th.
Call The Center to sign up today!

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LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ogle County Mini Food Center Pantry

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

Preschool Story Time

(18 months – 6 years). Story Time 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. 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 Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, May 22 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The Guest* by Emma Cline.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings

The Mount Morris Library will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day.

Mount Morris Library Hours

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

Ink with A Friend

Monday, May 12th at 5pm. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, May 12th 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 5th!

Mocktails For Fun!

Wednesday, May 14th or May 21st at 6pm. Summer is coming and that means family gatherings and outdoor fun! Mocktails are a wonderful, inclusive way to share in the fun!

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.

Family Fun Night Bash

Wednesday, May 7 at Oregon Elementary School from 5-7 pm. 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 injustice 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] *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*

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 Wel-

come 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

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, May 20 at 1:30pm or 5:30pm (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

come

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

library.com.

Movie Time is Back!

Wednesday, May 21 at 2:30 pm. Join Buzz and Woody for an entertaining time by calling the Library, 815-732-2724, or going to our website to register. Once registered you can receive a ticket for the show. Children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent and the movie will start promptly at 2:30pm. For more information, contact the Library.

Functional Fitness

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

Knit & Crochet

Mondays at 1:00pm. This group meets every Monday at 1 pm and is open to anyone. From beginner to expert, all skill level are welcome to join. Bring any hand craft and work on

HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.

Adult Programming

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

Memorial Gifts

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

Newspaper Available!

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

Curbside Service is available!

We want to remind ev-

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

Meet 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 Circles All Around Us by Brad Montague. At

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



PET OF THE WEEK
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org





Mini

Hi there! I'm Mini, and I've got a lot of personality packed into a small package! I may be a little spicy at times, but I promise I'm full of love and curiosity. I like to be the center of attention and will definitely let you know when I've had enough of being doted on - I'm a girl who knows what she wants! I prefer to live in a home with no other pets, so I can have all your love and attention to myself. I'm very curious and always want to know what's going on around me, so be prepared for me to investigate everything you do! I love being talked to - I'll listen to every word and probably chime in with a little meow of my own. If you're looking for a cat with a bold personality who enjoys being the star of the show, I could be your perfect match. I might be spicy, but I promise, I've got a lot of love to give when I'm in the mood. Come meet me and see if we're a perfect match - I can't wait to show you just how much fun I can be!



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or

Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

to advertise on the Pet of the Week Page!



LOCAL NEWS/COMICS



Leaf River Lions Club hosts Breakfast with Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt
The Leaf River Lions Club hosted a Breakfast with Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. We enjoy serving the community with this annual event. The picture is the three winners of the Easter Baskets. We thank everyone that attended. Next up - Watch for information on the upcoming Leaf River Summer Daze Festival on June 6, 7 and 8. We will have our usual Friday night food, music and fireworks. (Courtesy photo)

Byron Bank invites community to capture local life for 2026 Calendar Contest

BYRON — Byron Bank is proud to announce the return of its annual Community Calendar Photo Contest for the 2026 calendar year. The contest runs from May 1 through Aug. 31, 2025, and is open to photographers of all ages and skill levels.

Participants are encouraged to submit original photos that reflect the beauty, charm, and spirit of our local communities. From historic landmarks and rural landscapes to community events and wildlife, Byron Bank is looking for images that capture what makes our region so special.

"We love seeing the creativity and pride that shines through in every submission," said Samantha Ciaccio, marketing officer at Byron Bank. "This calendar is more than a collection of pictures - it's a way to celebrate the people and places that define who we are."

Thirteen winning photos will be selected to be featured in Byron Bank's 2026 wall calendar. The calendar will be distributed in-branch beginning in November and used throughout the year to celebrate our shared community.

Anyone wishing to enter the contest should email a digital copy of their photo (limit 5 entries per person) and the entry form to sciaccio@byron-bank.com with the subject line: 2026 Community Calendar Contest Entry. All photos should be a minimum size of 5x7, high resolution, landscape orientation (think sunsets), and in JPG format. Photos can be taken anywhere in Northern Illinois with priority given to Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties.

At the end of the submission period, the community will have the opportunity to vote in the month of September. Visit Byron Bank's Facebook page to stay up to date on calendar voting. The cover photo winner will receive a \$250 gift card and monthly winners will receive a \$150 gift card!

Full contest details and the required entry form can be found at byronbank.com/community-calendar. Join us in capturing our communities, one snapshot at a time.

Mother's Day Out Brunch & Pub Crawl is May 10

BYRON — Weezy's Sports Bar & Grill and 2nd Chance Tavern will host their second annual Mother's Day Out Brunch & Pub Crawl on May 10 starting at 11 a.m. There will be 10 stops of local fun. At each stop, grab a petal to complete your flower.

Brunch at 2nd Chance Tavern starting at 11 a.m. and to get your flower stem. End at Weezy's at 4 p.m. for the raffle.

After starting at 2nd Chance, stops include Velvet Poppy, Reruns, The Cave, Bub's Pub, Uptown Lanes, Bath & Body Fusion, Neon Tiger, Dos Amigos and finally Weezy's at 4 p.m. for free pizza and raffling of prizes.

Weezy's Sports Bar & Grill and 2nd Chance Tavern thanked the participating businesses that donated for the event.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Completely

4 Playwright Levin

7 Done with

11 Secular

13 Collection

14 Water carrier

15 Airline to Tel Aviv

16 ET's craft

17 Dutch cheese

18 Ersatz chocolate

20 One-named supermodel

22 Tree fluid

24 Trombone parts

28 Grassy tract

32 January, to Juan

33 Grassy area

34 Shade provider

36 FBI guy

37 Alpha's opposite

39 "The Hunger Games" heroine

41 Dance clubs

43 Prefix with athlete

44 Tom Joad, for one

46 Urged (on)

50 Hive population

53 Schlep

55 Luau dance

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56 57 58

59 60 61

56 Vegetarian's no-no

57 Mine material

58 Russian ruler

59 Saturates

60 Scale member

61 Blasting stick

DOWN

1 Sir Guinness

2 In — land

3 Deceitful person

4 Terre Haute sch.

5 Mortgage again, for short

6 Molecule parts

7 Exciting Broadway event

8 YouTube clip, for short

9 Clean air org.

10 "The One I Love" band

12 Loan application fees

19 "Cheers" setting

21 Pub order

23 Bakery purchase

25 Singer Lovato

26 Historic periods

27 Male children

28 Trudge

29 Actor Malek

30 Dazzles

31 Caribou kin

35 Yoga pad

38 Fine, to NASA

40 Italian "three"

42 Farm towers

45 Franc replacement

47 Sudden wind

48 Flair

49 Scurry

50 German auto

51 Shoe width

52 Have breakfast

54 Solidify

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MAGIC MAZE • MOTHER'S DAY

C Q N L J G E C Z X V S C T R

D P N L J H N E C A N E Y W V

T O L W I S D O M O L S R P N

L K O I I G R E I E C O Y C B

Z X V H N W A T B T U R L H S

R P E O R E C R M L I J I I I

G E **E N D E A R I N G** D M L D

B A L U F T H G U O H T A D Y

X W U F I T S T E Q P O F R N

L K A O S R E W O L F J H E T

Y D N A C G F H T M R A W N D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: LIFE IS A BED OF —

- Affection

Candy

Card

Celebration
- Children

Endearing

Family

Flowers
- Lineage

Love

Motherhood

Thoughtful
- Tradition

Warmth

Wisdom

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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.

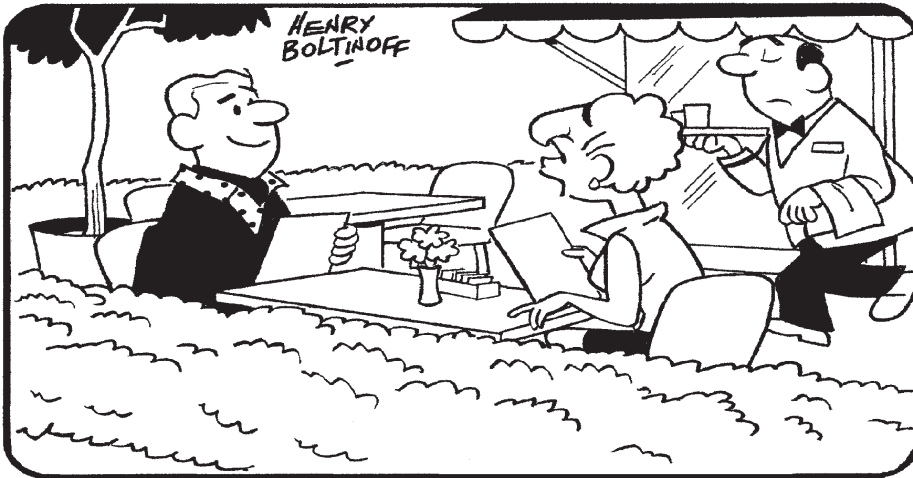
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Nametag is missing. 2. Chair is missing. 3. Vase is different. 4. Table is wider. 5. Planter is different. 6. Stripe is added to towel.

I	N	T	S	S	M	E	T	S	
T	N	I	S	S	M	E	T	S	
A	V	A	I	S	M	E	T	S	
T	N	I	S	S	M	E	T	S	
A	V	A	I	S	M	E	T	S	
T	N	I	S	S	M	E	T	S	
A	V	A	I	S	M	E	T	S	
T	N	I	S	S	M	E	T	S	
A	V	A	I	S	M	E	T	S	
T	N	I	S	S	M	E	T	S	

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —

A	D	A	C						
L	O	S	E						
E	R								
L	O	S	E						
E	R								
L	O	S	E						
E	R								
L	O	S	E						
E	R								
L	O	S	E						

MOTHER'S DAY

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: 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 within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after the claim has been filed. SHERRY BENIKE Independent Executor No. 0412 (April 21, 28 and May 5 2025)

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:

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 Holly 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 Courthouse 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 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. Dated: April 14, 2025 Kimberly A. Stahl Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County, Illinois Courtney E. Kennedy (6322625) Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 (FAX) kennedy@egbclaw.com NOTE: This law firm is deemed to be a debt collector. No. 0414 (April 21, 28 and May 5 2025)

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Cord Construction intends to contract for the following items and services; specifications are on file with BuildingConnected.com. Cord Construction invites qualified subcontracting firms to submit respective proposal packages for a 13,253 SF Pre-Engineered Metal Building addition and remodeling for the Oregon IL Fire Protection District. Proposals will be Publicly opened at Oregon Fire Protection District Station 1 located at 100 Washington St, Oregon IL 61061. Cord Construction reserves the unrestricted right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive or not to waive any informality, or to accept the bid considered to be in the best interest of the Oregon Fire Protection District and Cord Construction. Proposal No. 9241 – Balance of all trades packages Oregon Fire Protection District. Bid Opening: Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. CST at Oregon Fire Protection District Station 1 located at 100 Washington St, Oregon

IL 61061. BY Jake Dykstra, Estimator / Project Manager Steve Howlett, Architect (Architect of Record) No. 0501 (May 5, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS SS COUNTY OF OGLE

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Mt. Morris Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Old Ogle County Courthouse, Third Floor County Board Room #317, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed April 15, 2025 of DG Mount West, LLC, 700 Universe Blvd E5E-JB, Juno Beach, FL for a Special Use Permit in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow the construction and operation of a 2 MWac Community Solar Energy Facility on the property described as follows and being leased by the petitioner: Part of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4); and part of South Half (S1/2) of G.L.1 of Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Fractional Section 19 Mt. Morris Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 17.58 acres, more or less of the 177.40 acre site Property Identification Number: Part of 18-19-100-007 Common Location: 8400 W. Haldane Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this special use is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecounty.org/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 15th day of April 2025 #03-25SU No. 0503 (May 5, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS SS COUNTY OF OGLE

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons

in Mt. Morris Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed April 1, 2025, of John M. Pasakarnis, 505 W. Hitt St., Mt. Morris, IL for a Variation in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow a residential accessory building to be constructed 60 feet from the right-of-way line of W. IL Rte. 64 in lieu of 80 feet as required by the Ogle County Amending Ordinance on property described as follows and owned by the petitioner: Part of the East Half (E1/2) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 27 Mt. Morris Township 24 North, Range 9 East of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL Property Identification Number: 08-27-326-003 & -004 Common Location: 505 W. Hitt St. aka W. IL Rte. 64 All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this variation is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 27th day of March 2025 #01-25VAR No. 0505 (May 5, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS SS COUNTY OF OGLE

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons in Monroe Township that a Public Hearing will be held Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board Room #317, 3rd floor of the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon, IL, to consider the request filed March 27, 2025, of Sandor Kunyik, 437 Cavalier Ct., Unit 311, West Dundee, IL 60118 for a Variation in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow a barn to be constructed 25 feet from the right-of-way line of E. Royster Rd. in lieu of 40 feet as required by

the Ogle County Amending Ordinance on property described as follows and owned by the petitioner: Part of the East Half (E1/2) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 19 Monroe Township 42 North, Range 2 East of the 3rd P.M., Ogle County, IL, 0.82 acres, more or less Property Identification Number: 12-19-476-014 Common Location: 15,000 E. Royster Rd. All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard. Any person who also wishes to appear as an interested party with the right to cross-examine others at the hearing must complete and file an appearance form with the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department no later than five (5) business days before the date of the hearing. The application for this variation is on file with detailed description and available for examination at the Planning & Zoning Department, 911 Pines Rd., Oregon, Illinois or at the following URL: http://www.oglecountyil.gov/departments/planning_and_zoning/zoning_board_of_appeals.php. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RANDY OCKEN, Chairman Dated at Oregon, Illinois this 27th day of March 2025 #01-25VAR No. 0505 (May 5, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 22, 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:

Valley Soil 8690 N Grouse Run Stillman Valley, IL 61084

Dated: April 22, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 0506
(May 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman's Lawn Care & Tree Service. 26 Years of Experience. Fully Insured. Weekly Mowing, Spring Clean Up & More. Call Jeremy 815-761-9619 (RNL04162025)

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.

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking!

Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Timely & Meaningful Consultation and Title 1 meeting for the Byron Community School District #226 will be held on May 14th at 4:00 pm in the Mary Morgan Elementary Library.

103 AUCTIONS

FLEA MARKET SAT & SUN 10A-4P

All Outside: Antiques, Collectibles, Primitives, New Items. Welcome to the General Public. Going through the Whole Month of May, Weather Permitting.

620 South Stone Hill Rd Chana, IL

Off of RTE. 64, West toward Oregon Watch for the Signs "Different Items Weekly"

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

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

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad

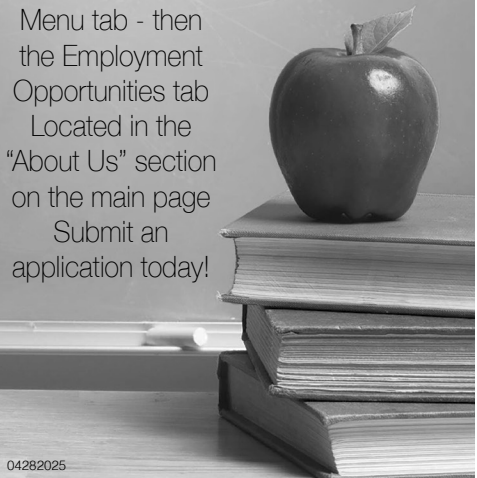


203
HELP WANTED

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

Click on the
Menu tab - then
the Employment
Opportunities tab
Located in the
"About Us" section
on the main page
Submit an
application today!



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

Multimedia Sales Consultant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ROCHELLE
News-Leader**
RNLHOUSE

**ROCHELLE
News-Leader**

Part-time local delivery driver

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

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

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

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

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

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

205
SITUATIONS WANTED

LOOKING FOR DRUMMER.

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

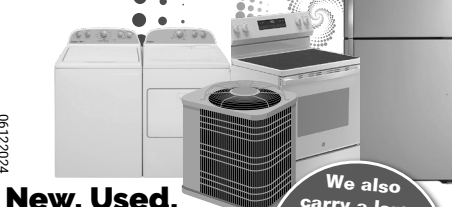
For info
call Steve
815-751-8719 or
815-751-0059



307
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New, Used, Scratch & Dent

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Stoves
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Dehumidifiers

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carry a large
selection of
refurbished
appliances
with a
warranty.

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Sell?



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Potential Local Buyers!

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**ROCHELLE
News-Leader**

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online classified ads!



It's time for
"qualified"
to mean
qualities,
not just a
bachelor's
degree.

Keith, Data Analyst,
Google Career Certificate Graduate,
STAR

Tear the paper ceiling that is keeping you
from discovering over 70 million STARS: workers
Skilled Through Alternative Routes that are being
held back by degree screens, stereotypes and more.
Find out how STARS can meet your talent needs.

TEAR THE PAPER CEILING.ORG

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ALTERNATIVE ROUTES...



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**ad
COUNCIL**

NURSES WEEK

Nurses serve in a variety of important roles

NURSES are invaluable professionals within the medical community. Whether they work in hospital settings, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, doctor's offices, or elsewhere, nurses provide vital services to individuals in need every day.

Nurses wear many hats, and that's evidenced by the different types of nurses making a difference each day. Individuals considering a career in nursing should know that talented nurses are in high demand and career opportunities in the field are expected to grow in the years to come. For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that employment of registered nurses will grow by 6 percent between 2022 and 2032. That growth rate exceeds the average expected for all occupations. Whether individuals want to become a nurse or gain a greater understanding of the many ways nurses contribute each day, this rundown of the various types of nurses can shed light on these unsung heroes of the medical community.

• Pediatric nurse: Pediatric nurses make a strong impression because they are the first nursing professionals many people recall

interacting with, and those interactions may last from early childhood through adolescence. Pediatric nurses perform a range of tasks, including the administration of medication; monitoring of vitals like temperature, pulse and blood pressure; health evaluations to identify symptoms; and even speak with parents to calm any nerves or anxieties they may have. Pediatric nurses typically work in doctor's offices or hospital settings.

• Geriatric nurse: Geriatric nurses figure to be in especially high demand in the coming years, as an analysis from the Bipartisan Policy Center indicates more than four million individuals in the United States will turn 65 in 2024. AARP has characterized that surge in the over-65 population as a "silver tsunami," and geriatric nurses will play pivotal roles in ensuring the aging population gets the care it needs in the decades to come.

• Family nurse practitioner: The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® notes family nurse practitioners (FNPs) provide a wide range of family-focused health care services to patients of all ages. FNPs perform physical exams; order or



perform diagnostic tests; prescribe medications; develop treatment plans; and treat acute and chronic illnesses. If that sounds like a role played by physicians, it's not far off, making this among the most challenging jobs within the nursing profession.

• Emergency room nurse: Individuals who think a fast-paced work environment is for them may want to consider a career as an emergency room nurse. ER nurses treat patients of all ages from all walks of life. No two emergency room patients are the same, so ER nurses will rarely, if ever, have the same day on the job more than once. Accurate assessment skills are vital for ER nurses, who also must be skilled communicators, as emergency room patients are often in distress.

Long shifts are another example of nurses' commitment to quality care

FEW likely forget scenes that emerged during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic when nurses working in hospitals overwhelmed with sick and dying patients were applauded by local residents. Such public expressions of appreciation were a testament to the sacrifices and risks nurses accepted as COVID claimed more and more lives.

In those early days of the pandemic, nurses worked especially long hours, and even though the pandemic is over, nurses continue to work considerably longer workdays than the average for their profession. The American Nurses Association notes that 12-hour shifts are the standard for many nurses working in hospital settings.

The lengthy, often exhausting shifts worked by nurses are another example of their devotion to their

patients, as the ANA notes one of the reasons nursing shifts are so long is to ensure better continuity of care for patients. With just two shift changes per day, hospitals reduce patient handoffs, and the ANA notes that decreases the risk for miscommunication or misunderstandings that could compromise patient care and health.

Though 12-hour shifts are the norm for nurses working in hospitals, the ANA notes that such schedules can have drawbacks, and those can adversely affect nurses. Fatigue from 12-hour shifts, which can and often do last longer than 12 hours thanks to paperwork and additional tasks nurses may not be able to get to during ordinary working hours, can lead to burnout.

In addition, nurses typically have limited downtime on workdays, which means they have few hours

to spend with family and friends on days when they work. And nurses working 12-hour shifts may find they spend a significant portion of their time off recuperating from their long shifts, which can adversely affect their overall quality of life.

Twelve-hour shifts are another example of the selfless commitment exhibited by nurses working in hospital settings.

Nurse's Week • Thank You

The Care You Give Means Everything!

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HOSPICE & HOME

The Serenity Shed
BUILDING A NEW NORMAL

Angel Treasures
RESALE SHOP

[Serenityhospiceandhome.org](https://www.serenityhospiceandhome.org)
815-732-2499

Happy National Nurses Week

Thank You, Nurses

Training the next generation of health care heroes.

kish.edu/nursing

KISH
KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

International Nurses Day

May 12, 2025

Caring for our nurses strengthens economies.

Rochelle
Community Hospital
No Place Like It

Bushman's Service

Call us anytime!
We're here to help.

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Milledville, IL

On Farm Tire Service

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ROCK RIVER CENTER, INC.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR GENERATION

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(815) 732-3252
(800) 541-5479

'Sincerest Thanks' to all nurses from Rock River Center, Inc.

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

WOODEN FRITZ'S NICKEL

RESTAURANT & BAR

EST. 1991

Thank you to all the local nurses!
Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Downtown Stillman Valley • 815-645-9828

LOCAL NEWS



Best of Show was presented to Stephonie A. Schmitz of Dubuque, Iowa for "Fire Sky". Awards were presented for the Focus on Photography Art Exhibition at the Coliseum Museum on Friday evening April 11 by Judge Rich Ankeney from Galesburg. The reception also included music by Jeffrey Little.

Awards presented at Focus on Photography Art Exhibit Reception at Coliseum Museum

OREGON — Awards were presented for the Focus on Photography Art Exhibition at the Coliseum Museum on Friday evening April 11 by Judge Rich Ankeney from Galesburg. The reception also included music by Jeffrey Little. Best of Show to Stephonie A Schmitz of Dubuque, IA for "Fire Sky"; First Place to Sam Tucibat, Baileyville, for "Ascension"; Second to Jane Erlandson, Gilberts for "Weathered Blush"; Third to Peter Toth, Sterling for "Navajo Mysteries #1"; and Honorable Mentions to Rick Brant of Oregon for "Hyde's Mill" and Jeanne Garrett, Arlington Heights for "Bandaged Earth".

Visitors to the Coliseum Museum can also vote for their favorite art piece with the People's Choice winner announced at the close of the exhibit on May 17. Participating artists include Rick Brant, Bob Cholke, Raymond Cox, Rick Davis, Brooke Engberg, Jane Erlandson, Jeanne Garrett, Lynn Garrison, Rob Gieraltowski, Stephen Hart, Kat Heitzman, Matthew Klein, Linnea Koch, Amy May Laskye, Bob Logsdon, Joann Murdock, Gary Pearson, Paul Pinzarrone, Robin Poole, Joe Popp, Stephonie Schmitz, Beth Simeone, Steve Toole, Peter Toth, Sam Tucibat, and Joseph Virbickis. The Coliseum Museum in Oregon is pleased to announce the opening of the Focus on Photography Art Exhibit featuring 26 artists with a total of 52 works of art on display from April 4 – May 17.

Focus on Photography is an exhibit for photographers only working in all forms including digital, film, mixed and unique processes.



Guest speakers bring special treat to Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club

On April 14, the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club had their monthly meeting. Bernie and Joe Gleiter were special speakers that came to the meeting. Joe Gleiter discussed the importance of cleanliness when working in the kitchen by keeping hands, surfaces and utensils clean. He explained how fast bacteria can grow on surfaces and some of the health issues bacteria can cause. Bernie Gleiter taught the 4-H group how to make salsa and guacamole. Each person was able to make their own salsa or pico de gallo. Each 4-Her sampled their salsa along with the guacamole on chips. Everyone had a lot of fun, enjoyed their snacks and learned new information. The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club meets the second Monday of each month. For more information, please contact Nickie Lingbeck at (815) 275-2492. Finn Slattery is pictured making salsa with the help of Bernie Gleiter. The group photo is of David Bagwell, Kaden Lingbeck, Finn Slattery, Bernie Gleiter, Hazel Friday, Joe Gleiter and Kolton Motszko. (Courtesy photos)

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