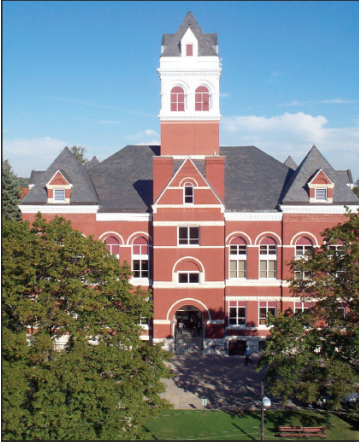




Student of the Month named
Polo Community High School named Bri Kuhn as its March Student of the Month. **Section B**

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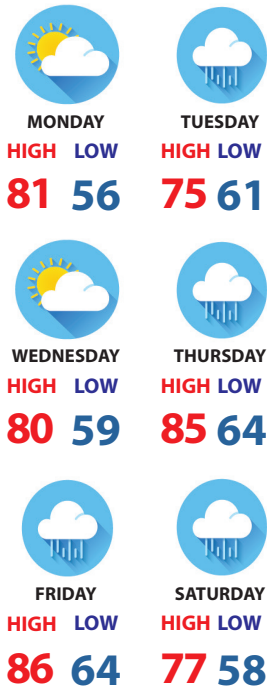


Coliseum event set for May 16
The Coliseum Museum will present a WWII Radio Hour Concert on May 16. **Page 7**



Gardeners celebrated
Local Extension groups recently honored program participants. **Page 5**

WEATHER



OBITUARIES

- JoDee Bardell
- Sheryl E. Piros

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Ace Hardware
- Polo Foods
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Runnings
- Snyder Pharmacy
- OC Community Guide

'We are probably moving along at a record pace'

OCFB's Kern: Farmers ahead of schedule, looking for rain this spring

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLER COUNTY — Spring planting is in full swing for farmers in Ogle County, with dry conditions allowing field work to be done in recent weeks, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said April 29.

Ogle County farmers typically look to wrap up planting by June 1. Kern said that likely won't be a problem this year.

"We are probably moving along at a record pace with spring planting right now," Kern said. "We haven't had many days that brought weather that kept us out of the fields. Planters have been just rolling constantly these past 7-10 days. I would be surprised if we didn't have everything wrapped up by Memorial Day. Research shows getting crops into the ground sooner helps with growth. Later planted crops can lose yield come fall."

Spring work for farmers includes putting anhydrous ammonia on corn acres, along with getting equipment ready and having seed, fuel and fertilizer purchased and delivered. Some farmers spray prior to planting and some spray afterwards depending on their setup, Kern said.

Once out in the fields planting, Kern said days can get long for Ogle County farmers, though many will have the chance to get caught up to potentially alleviate late nights.

While dry conditions have lent themselves to getting field work done, Kern would like to see rain in the forecast in coming weeks to help with



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Spring planting is in full swing for farmers in Ogle County, with dry conditions allowing field work to be done in recent weeks, Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Ron Kern said April 29.

the growing season.

"We've been dry," Kern said. "We've been getting some rain in the past 2-3 weeks, and that helps. We just really haven't had any significant rain. Recently it's been a quarter of an inch or a half an inch. Some days it dries out the same day and tractors can get back

into fields. We really could use a good soaking rain. Farmers like to plant into moisture so the seed will sprout. I'm not sure if we have those conditions now. We're running out of moisture in the top two inches of soil."

See **SPRING PLANTING** page 9

RACF holds Community Needs grant award event

Rochelle-based philanthropic organization marks 20 years of giving

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, April 30, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Community Needs grant award event at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle. 41 grants were presented to area nonprofits and organizations at the event.

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

The event also celebrated RACF reaching 20 years of operation. Since it was founded in 2005 by the late Leonard Carmichael, RACF has granted more than \$1.3 million back into the community.

"Tonight is when we celebrate all of the incredible work being done in our community and share the impact of the community's generosity through grant-making," RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said. "We wouldn't be here without the vision and commitment of those who laid the foundation for the organization. Our founder, Leonard Carmichael, launched RACF with both his heart and foresight and his legacy lives in every grant we make."

RACF Board President and Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke at the event that saw



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)


On Wednesday, April 30, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Community Needs grant award event at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle.

41 local programs see support.

"This organization is far more than a grantmaker," Fiegenschuh said. "It's a beacon of hope, opportunity and collaboration. The foundation provides a trusted way for people to give back, lift others up and strengthen the community we all love."

A thriving city needs a strong community foundation, one that listens, responds and ensures that resources go to where they're needed most. That's exactly what RACF does."

See **NEEDS EVENT** page 3



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LOCAL NEWS

Mega Millions Jackpot purchased in Cortland claimed, winner receives \$349 million

CORTLAND – The long-awaited mystery is finally over. After more than a month of excitement and anticipation, the Illinois Lottery players who won the \$349 million Mega Millions jackpot in the March 25 drawing have officially come forward to claim their life-changing prize.

“We took a chance and bought a single Quick Pick ticket,” shared the lucky winners, nicknamed “Blessed.” “We’re abso-

lutely ecstatic and feel incredibly blessed. We plan to use this money to do good – this unbelievable prize will truly be the gift that keeps on giving.”

The winning ticket was purchased at Casey’s General Store, located at 70 S. Somonauk Road in Cortland. For selling the winning ticket, the retailer received a bonus of \$500,000.

This historic win marks the fourth time an Illinois Lottery player has won a

Mega Millions jackpot in nearly four years:

In June 2024, an iLottery player won \$552 million – making this the largest prize ever won by an online lottery player in the U.S.

In July 2022, a ticket bought at a gas station in Des Plaines won a \$1.34 billion Mega Millions jackpot - which remains the largest lottery prize ever won in Illinois.

In June 2021, a Mega Millions player won \$56



(COURTESY PHOTO) The lucky Mega Millions jackpot winners from the March 25 drawing are feeling beyond “Blessed” as they come forward to officially claim their \$349 million prize.

million at a Citgo gas station in Crestwood.

Every ticket sold is also a big win for education in Illinois. With nearly \$24 million in total Mega Millions ticket sales during the jackpot run, the Illinois Lottery was able to return over \$9 million to the Common School Fund to support K-12 education

in Illinois.

Tonight’s Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$70 million, and each ticket costs \$5. Tickets for the game can be purchased in-store, online, or on the Illinois Lottery app. For more information or to buy tickets online, please visit IllinoisLottery.com.

As the Mega Millions jackpot continues to grow, the Illinois Lottery encourages players to remember it’s a game of chance. For more information about the odds of winning, visit the Mega Millions game page on IllinoisLottery.com. Be Smart, Play Smart®. Must be 18 or older to play.



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Residential tire collection event is June 7

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will conduct a residential tire collection event, scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. This event is for Ogle County residents only. This initiative aims to promote responsible tire disposal and decrease the potential for insect breeding areas.

In partnership with Liberty Tire from Montgomery, Illinois, the OCSWMD invites county residents to participate in this vital endeavor. The event will accept a variety of tires, including those from cars, light trucks, lawnmowers, bikes, and UTV/ATVs. Whether with

or without rims, these tires will be repurposed for mulch, road construction, fuel, playground surfaces, athletic fields, and other reuse opportunities.

Advance permits are required to participate in this collection event. Call 815-732-4020 to sign up for a time-specific permit. Permits will be allocated for specific hour increments, allowing for organized drop-off times. Limit of one permit per household, with provision for standby permits in case of unfilled time slots. The deadline to obtain a permit is Wednesday, June 4 at noon. Limit of 10 tires per permit.

There is a fee of \$2 per tire, with a maximum of 10 tires per permit.

Payments can be made in cash or check, payable to Ogle County Solid Waste. The remaining expense is subsidized by the OCSWMD. The total approximate cost for hauling and recycling of each tire is \$4.

Participants will need to present their permits and IDs upon arrival, and to adhere to their designated time slot. Business, fleet, agricultural, and semi-truck tires are not accepted at this event.

For more information about this collection event call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, email at solidwaste@oglecountyl.gov, visit www.oglecountyl.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.



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(815) 222-9771



SEAN HOSSEINI
(815) 200-8490

LOCAL NEWS

Volunteers' passion helps to grow the next generation of leaders

OREGON — Volunteers play a vital role in supporting 4-H youth clubs and programming. University of Illinois Extension's 4-H youth development program in Ogle County honors over 100 volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 20-26.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the continued impact that volunteers have. "Volunteers are the lifeblood of our clubs," Patricia McGlaughlin, 4-H youth development specialist for volunteer development, said. "On average, 4-H volunteers give more than eight hours per month to their program. Annually, that time is worth almost \$3,000 per volunteer. But the gift of their time, skills, and passion is really invaluable to the youth they support."

4-H clubs and programs benefit from volunteers, but volunteers also benefit from the volunteering experience; gaining skills in teaching,

leadership, and communication that are useful in their work and lives.

"Most of our volunteers report that they gained useful skills, increased their confidence, and made connections in the community," McGlaughlin said. "Volunteering is a two-way street in 4-H. Volunteers give to the clubs, but the clubs really give right back."

There's no one path to volunteering with 4-H. Ways to volunteer could include leading or beginning a local or special interest club, teaching a skill through workshops, judging projects at fairs and competitions, planning or helping at events, or serving on club advisory boards.

4-H clubs are always looking for new volunteers to share a passion, skill, talent, or time to help impact today's youth. For more information on 4-H and becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact your Ogle County Extension Office at 815-732-2191 or email jbmgrtnr@illinois.edu.



On March 25, the Highland Community College Foundation hosted a reception to celebrate the new installation. Pictured front to back: Highland President Chris Kuberski, Geoffrey Mikol of River Bend Gallery, David Shockey and Dan Dick, foundation executive director, celebrate the permanent installation from River Bend Gallery, donated by Shockey.

Highland celebrates art donation and installation

FREEPORT — The entrance to Highland's Student/Conference Center has been transformed into a celebration of the region's natural beauty, thanks to the generosity of David Shockey and the talents of Geoffrey Mikol of River Bend Gallery in Galena.

"As a long-time supporter of Highland Community

College, I am honored to give the gift of the photography of Geoffrey Mikol of River Bend Gallery, which depicts the rural landscape of Northwest Illinois and the Highland Community College district. I hope this donation will serve as an inspiration for years to come and a reminder of the uniqueness of the Highland district," said Shockey.

To mark this stunning installation, the Highland Community College Foundation hosted a special reception on March 25 to celebrate the transformative display.

"Highland is a special place. Northwest Illinois is a special place. This art installation is important because it allows students and community members

to see and appreciate the beauty of this region while on our wonderful campus," said Dan Dick, foundation executive director. "It's a privilege for the Foundation to bring visionary ideas together and create something truly inspiring for our community. Thank you to David for supporting this meaningful project!"

NEEDS EVENT: 'Tonight is when we celebrate all of the incredible work being done in our community'

From page 1

Mayor John Bearrows spoke at the event as well and said the city is proud to be a partner in the work RACF does and looks forward to continuing the collaboration for many years to come.

"Rochelle is the most caring and sharing community that I know," Bearrows said. "That spirit of generosity is a part of our identity and is embodied in every grant RACF gives out. This foundation connects donors to meaningful causes, strengthens nonprofits, addresses urgent needs and helps build a better future for everyone who calls Rochelle their home."

RACF Grants Committee Chairman Terry Dickow spoke about his experience doing the work behind the scenes that resulted in the grant awarding event.

"This has been such an eye-opening experience since I got involved," Dickow said. "The differences that this endeavor makes in the community with the homeless, the hungry, the needy, with neglected and abused children and more, it's really heartwarming."

Past RACF Executive Directors Ann Rice and Kim Montgomery were honored during the event for their past service to the organization and community. It was also revealed during the meeting that a future mural will be commissioned in conjunction with the City of Rochelle, the Daniel & Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts, local artists Mat and Mandey Steder, and a business owner that has provided wall space, to honor Carmichael for his establishment of RACF and his work in the community.

"The location will remain a surprise for now, but we promise it will be a powerful and lasting reminder of Mr. Carmichael's impact," Fiegenschuh said. "Leonard's spirit lives on in every grant we award, every life we touch, and every future we help to shape. He taught us what it means to lead with heart, purpose and generosity."

Recipients

Rochelle Township High

School Alumni Association for Alumni Scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 of which \$631 was from the Tobler Family Fund, and \$4,369 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

City of Rochelle for the Community Mural in the amount of \$5,000 of which \$1,291 was from the Daniel & Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts, \$1,132 was from the Arts Enrichment Fund and \$2,577 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Basketball Club for the Rochelle Basketball Club Program in the amount of \$5,600 of which \$2,000 was from the Ed and Ann Rice Giving Fund, \$2,347 was from the Berg-Burkholder Family Fund, and \$1,253 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Village Of Progress for the Cycling Program in the amount of \$4,088 of which \$1,000 was from the Empowering the Community Fund, \$1,139 from the Community Advancement Fund, and \$1,949 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Rescue Mission for Supporting Those Without Shelter Within Rochelle and the Surrounding Areas in the amount of \$10,000 which was fully funded by an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Vince Carney Community Theatre for Full Lighting Part 1 in the amount of \$2,500 which was fully funded by H.P. "Jim" Walker Memorial Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Christian Food Pantry for Acquiring Eggs in the amount of \$15,000 of which \$3,438 was from the Jacobs Family Fund and \$11,562 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Rochelle Elementary District #231 for Dual Language Immersion Program at Central School in the amount of \$658 which was fully funded by the Steve Pfeiffer Memorial Endowment Fund.

Pegasus Special Riders, Inc for Pegasus Special Riders in the amount of \$9,000 of which \$379 was from the Tom Hall Community Giving Fund, \$433 was from the Plant the Seed Fund, and \$8,188 was from the

RACF Endowment Fund. 4C-Community Coordinated Child Care for Outdoor Adventure Event in the amount of \$700 which was fully funded by the Tyler "Smitty" Smith Memorial Endowment Fund.

Tilton Elementary School for Dual Language Immersion Program at Tilton School in the amount of \$1,068 which was fully funded by the Tyler "Smitty" Smith Memorial Endowment Fund.

Hub City Senior Center for Operation Heating & Cooling in the amount of \$7,352 of which \$1,220 was from the Hub Senior Center Agency Fund, \$2,107 from the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Fund and \$4,025 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lincoln School for Enhancing Early Childhood Learning Through Sensory Equipment in the amount of \$775 of which \$733 was from the Hintzsche-Hinkston Classroom Support Fund and \$42 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center for Healthy Minds, Healthy Body Camp in the amount of \$3,000 of which \$243 was funded by the Health and Human Services Fund and \$2,707 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rock River Blood Center for Empowering Donor Care; Supporting A1C Testing in Blood Donations in the amount of \$1,031 of which \$550 was from the Health and Human Services Fund and \$481 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Elementary District #231 -Hub Project for Rocking our Way to Learning in the amount of \$2,500 of which \$1,296 was from the Inspire Learning Fund and \$1,204 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois for Girl Scout Leadership Experience in the amount of \$2,700 of which \$594 was from the Kay and Jim Beardin Community Endowment Fund and \$2,106 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library for Sensory Things in the amount of \$3,550 of which \$858 was from the Jeffrey W. Cole

Family Memorial Fund and \$2,692 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Serenity Hospice and Home for Holiday Meals in the amount of \$500 which was fully funded by the Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund.

Serenity Hospice and Home for Hope and Healing Bereavement Retreat in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Northern Illinois Food Bank for Mobile Market in the amount of \$8,000 of which \$7,857 was funded by the Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund and \$143 was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scouts of America for Helping Youth Lead the Way-Scouting in Rochelle in the amount of \$2,000 of which \$1,372 was funded by Youth in Philanthropy and \$628 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Community Action Network-CAN for CAN-Annual Christmas Shopping Trip in the amount of \$7,500 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Hope of Ogle County for Community Outreach/Marketing/Education in the amount of \$5,000 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Creston-Dement Public

Library for Autism Sensory Project for Children in the amount of \$1,600 which was fully funded by RACF Endowment Fund.

Camp Cedar, Illinois for Camp Cedar in the amount of \$2,500 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery for Rochelle Recovery Support Services Center in the amount of \$2,000 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival for Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in the amount of \$2,000 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Creston Booster Club for Making Our House Accessible to Everyone in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for Affordable Housing for Older Adults in the amount of \$2,500 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Stepping Stones Preschool for Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten in the amount of \$1,682 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Township High School for Immerse Yourself in a Good Book in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the

RACF Endowment Fund. Farmworkers and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP) for FLAP Immigration Support and Outreach for Low-wage Workers in the Rochelle Area in the amount of \$5,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 for Dual Language Immersion Program at Tilton School in the amount of \$438 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

District #231 for Project Hub-Futbolistas in the amount of \$307 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Police Department in the amount of \$534 from the Ron "Stoney" Stonebreaker Police and Fire Memorial Fund.

Rochelle Fire Department in the amount of \$534 from the Ron "Stoney" Stonebreaker Police and Fire Memorial Fund.

Todd Ackland Legacy Fund in the amount of \$450.

Livingston Bible Church Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$4,809.

RTHSEF Endowment for Education in the amount of \$1,445.

Rochelle United Methodist Church Endowment Fund in the amount of \$2,372.

The Public is cordially invited to an Open House celebrating Karin Ropp's 90th Birthday. Join her for cake and refreshments on May 18th from Noon to 3pm at Valley Covenant Church, 103 S. Maple St. in Stillman Valley, IL.

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

JoDee Bardell

POLO — JoDee Bardell of Polo IL, age 84 died peacefully on May 4, 2025 in Oregon at Serenity Hospice and Home. She was born on November 25, 1940 in Des Moines, IA.

JoDee married Ron Bardell and celebrated 64 wonderful years together this past September.

When she wasn't caring for children or spending time with her own, she loved being an active member of the Polo community. She supported the Marcos, volunteered at Second Hand Rose, and the Polo Nursing Home. She was a long-time member of the Polo Athletic Booster Club. She and Ron were the 2018 Polo Citizens of the Year. She was also an active St. Mark's Lutheran Church member, teaching Sunday School, First Communion, and Confirmation.

Outside of the Polo community, she volunteered at Home of Hope and performed community outreach by providing hand

massages to cancer patients.

Her family and friends were her biggest joy. She loved spending time with them playing cards, around the table, visiting, or taking road trips. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, encouragement, and positivity. JoDee took great pride in helping raise many kids in the Polo community and was affectionately known as "Aunt JoDee" to those she cared for. Even as adults, those same daycare kids would often stop over for advice and hugs.

JoDee is preceded in death by her daughter Vonda, parents Alberta and Hartly Golly, brother Bob, and sisters Nancy and Barbara.

JoDee leaves behind her husband Ron Bardell, sons Cliff (Amy) Bardell, Steve (Kris) Bardell, and Jeff (Mendy) Bardell, Grandchildren Nancyjo (Michael) Rongner, Tommy, Joey, Riley, Carson, and JJ Bardell, Keaton and Logan Hudson, Bryce (Tyler)



Koerth, and Sage Walrath, and great-grandchildren Malone and Lola Rongner and Emberly Koerth. She also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and her chosen family of special bonus people.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm - 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Polo. The funeral will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 10:30 AM with luncheon to follow. A memorial has been established for Home of Hope and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. A private graveside service will be held for her in Iowa at a later date.

Sheryl E. Piros

CHANA — Sheryl E. Piros of Chana, IL., passed away Feb. 19, 2025, after a long illness. She was born Oct. 7, 1948, to Lorin and Phoebe (Gibson) Larson in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Sherry graduated from Stillman Valley High School in 1966 and Blackburn College in 1970. She taught English to middle school students in Rochelle from 1970 to 1973, and, after staying home to raise her three sons and earning a master's degree from Northern Illinois University, she taught English part-time at SVHS and then English and drama full-time at Byron Middle School from 1987 to 2004.

She wrote many of the plays her eighth-grade students performed, including Road Kill Café, and after she retired, she continued writing and performing plays in a senior-theater troupe. Her Pie Ladies plays were published and have been produced nationally. Sherry loved reading, particularly Louis L'Amour novels and nonfiction about the Old West. She also loved trying new recipes and learning crafts such as painting, making corn-husk dolls, sewing, crocheting, and tatting. She volunteered

at the Chana School Museum, with the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County, and at the Leydig Center in Dixon.

Sherry was a thoughtful, caring, and funny person. Her sons knew her as a wonderful mother, strong, supportive, and loving. She showed us how to take care of a family while also satisfying her creative interests, and her boys followed her in their own artistic pursuits.

She married Gene Hagemann in 1971 and with him had sons Matt (Maria Berger) Hagemann, Nace Hagemann, and Dan (Christine) Hagemann. After Sherry and Gene divorced, Sherry later married fellow middle-school teacher Robert Piros in 1994, and after they retired, they spent many years together gardening and growing prairie plants at their farm at Chana, hosting family and friends for meals and ping-pong in their finished barn loft, and camping and canoeing in the Midwest and beyond.

Sherry was preceded in death by her ex-husband, Gene Hagemann, in 1999, and her father, Lorin, in 2016. She is survived by her husband, her mother, Phoebe, her sons, her granddaughter, Ava, and



her siblings: Christine (Joe Stemke) Rackley, Masonville, New York; Larry (Marcia) Larson, Lucky (Diane) Larson, and Bruce (Carolyn) Larson, Stillman Valley, IL; and George (Heidi) Gonzalez, Rockford, IL; and many nieces and nephews and stepdaughters.

Sherry's family is so thankful for the care and love given to Sherry by Chileane Brown-Friar and by the staff of Serenity Hospice & Home.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Sherry's family would appreciate donations to Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon, IL.

Cremation care provided by the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N 6th St., Rochelle. Guest book at www.UngerHorner.com



Stillman Valley High School's April Students of the Month named
Stillman Valley High School Students of the Month for April were named. Pictured from left to right are SVHS Assistant Principal Jeff Voltz, Michael Orlando (12th grade), Evan Stahl (11th grade), Jakob Hanna (10th grade), Cecilia Bishop (ninth grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Jennifer Simons. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)



Oregon Elementary School April Students of the Month named
Oregon Elementary School recently named its April Students of the Month. Students honored included: Henry Schleicher, Madilyn Stalkfleet, Carson Johnson, Luna Bluhm, Wendy Stone, Khloe Blume, Daniel Hitchcock, Oliver Sosa, Logan Gilrroy, Kason Blumeyer, Helena Typer, Fiona Moreland, Clara Meeker, Talia Pope, Ava Meinheit, Clay Meeker, Colin Larsen, Amelia Anaya, Adrianna Benitez, Harley Duncan, Maleah Peterson, Vivian Broach, Emma Gilbert, Tegan Davis, Summer Frey, Henry Nobis, Blake Arbogast, Adelyn Miller, Leo Helton, Kimberly Carrillo, Reina De Leon-Smith, Jayce Pumfrey, Tanner Smice, Wesley Rogers, Briannah West, Novalee Bicknese, and Jonas Kalnins. (Courtesy photo)

IDHS announces summer EBT benefits for 2024-25 school year

CHICAGO — The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced today that Summer EBT benefits will be issued to families for the 2024-25 school year starting in May.

The Summer EBT program aims to provide essential support to economically disadvantaged children during the summer months, ensuring they have access to nutritious meals. IDHS and ISBE are working together to inform families facing food insecurity about the eligibility process for Summer EBT this year. Each eligible school-aged child will receive a one-time benefit of \$120.

"No child should ever have to wonder where their next meal will come from — not during the school year and not during the summer. With the Summer EBT program, Illinois is ensuring our most vulnerable children have access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive," said Governor JB Pritzker. "After becoming one of the first states to successfully launch this assistance program last summer, we're proud to continue investing in the

well-being of our children and families."

Important steps for families: Most eligible households will receive benefits automatically, but some households will need to apply.

1. Complete the screener to see if the child or children who live with you already qualify at abe.illinois.gov/sebtPortal. Summer EBT issuances are planned for May 19-26, 2025, for children who are automatically enrolled. Families will receive Summer EBT benefits on existing LINK cards if they already receive electronic benefits. Families without existing cards will be sent one in the mail.

2. If the child or children do not automatically qualify, review the eligibility requirements, and submit an application, online, at abe.illinois.gov/sebtPortal. Applications are due by August 13, 2025.

"For children who rely on school for regular meals, summer can be a time of food insecurity, causing increased hunger and anxiety," said Dulce M. Quintero, IDHS secretary. "Summer meal programs are a lifeline for families in need and it's extremely

important that we help households put nutritious meals on the table for their children."

Summer EBT benefits are intended for the household to buy groceries when school is not in session. Summer EBT is available in addition to free meals that children of all ages get at summer meal sites in their communities. To learn more about the additional summer food programs available, visit: wegotyouillinois.org

"One in four families with children in the Chicago Metro area is experiencing food insecurity. Many children in these families endure a summer nutrition deficit, which can have a devastating impact on young, growing bodies," said Kate Maehr, executive director and CEO, Greater Chicago Food Depository. "We are grateful to have reached so many families last year and to help get children connected to Summer EBT. We look forward to building on that success this summer, ensuring that children across Chicago and Cook County have access to the food they need to thrive."

"At the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, we know that access to nutritious food is a basic right, not a privilege," said Audra Wilson, president and CEO, Shriver Center on Poverty Law. "Summer EBT is a critical part of Illinois' commitment to the health of our children and communities."

For more information about Summer EBT benefits, visit: abe.illinois.gov/sebtPortal

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LOCAL NEWS

Local Extension groups celebrate program volunteers

OREGON — The Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle County Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteers are comprised of trained and dedicated individuals. These individuals come back year after year because they are devoted to giving back to the community, helping and teaching others, making a positive difference in others' lives, and sharing their knowledge, experience, and passion for gardening, nature, and the environment. Extension volunteers form friendships and believe the knowledge they pass on to the community is vital.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Master Gardeners teach community members of all ages. Extension volunteers are devoted to giving back to the community.

Extension in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties is celebrated its Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist volunteers during National Volunteer Week from April

20-26. These volunteers served over 5,800 hours in the community last year by helping at various Extension programs and events, working in community gardens,

leading programs through the Speaker's Bureau, and answering the Horticulture Help Desk questions. These individuals help Extension grow and succeed in our

communities. For more information on the Master Gardener or Master Naturalist program and how to become a volunteer, contact the Boone

County Extension Office at 815-544-3710, the DeKalb County Extension Office at 815-758-8194, or the Ogle County Extension Office at 815-732-2191.

Ogle County Farm Bureau scholarship winners announced

OREGON — The Ogle County Farm Bureau recently awarded 10 scholarships totaling \$19,000 to students in Ogle County who will be graduating high school, or are enrolled at an accredited University or College. Kendall and Kade Boatman, both graduating this spring from Byron High School were awarded scholarships. Kade was the recipient of the Don Bybee Memorial Scholarship sponsored through the generosity of the Bybee Family to honor Mr. Bybee for his many years of service to agriculture in Ogle County. Kendall was awarded the Del Flessner Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was created to honor the legacy of long-time

Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager, Del Flessner. Both scholarships are in the amount of \$2,000.

Both will be attending Lake Land College in the fall studying Ag Business. Kade and Kendall are the children of Tom and Tammy Boatman, Rockford.

Braden Rogers and Blakelynn Swanson were named winners of the \$2,000 General Farm Bureau Scholarship.

Braden is the son of Anthony and Michelle Rogers, Chana. He graduated from Stillman Valley High School last year and is currently studying Civil Engineering at the University of Wisconsin Platteville.

Blakelynn graduated Stillman Valley High

School in 2023 and is currently studying Agribusiness through Colorado State. Her parents are Matthew and Michele Swanson, Stillman Valley.

Levi Eden is the recipient of the Mark Detig Memorial Scholarship awarded in the amount of \$2,000. This scholarship honors the late Mark Detig for his service to the Ogle County Pork Producers Association and Ogle County agriculture.

Levi will graduate from Oregon High School this spring and plans to attend University of Wisconsin Stevens Point majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Management. His parents are Mark and the late Lisa Eden.

Nicholas Cassens, son of John and Diane Cassens,

Byron is the Ag Technology Scholarship winner. Nicholas will be graduating Byron High School and has been accepted from various universities and plans to study Ag Engineering. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$2,000.

Brooklynn Strohecker is the recipient of the \$2000 Mary LeFevre Memorial Scholarship, sponsored in cooperation between the Farm Bureau and the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family. The scholarship focuses on students pursuing a nursing career. Brooklynn plans to study nursing in Rockford.

Mazy Queckboerner was awarded the George LeFevre Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. It also is funded with the cooperation of

the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family, recognizing Mr. Lefevre for his lifelong service to Ogle County agriculture. Mazy will be graduating Polo High School and will study Ag Business at Iowa State University.

Gracie Prose was awarded the Susan Young Memorial totaling \$2,000. This scholarship was made possible by Ms. Young's estate through a generous donation to the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

Gracie is a 2023 graduate of Oregon High School and is currently attending University of Wisconsin Platteville majoring in Agribusiness. She is the daughter of Nick Prose, Oregon.

Allissa Martin is the

recipient of the \$1000 Stan Eden 4-H Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Skyler and Annette Martin. Allissa is a 2024 graduate of Oregon High School and currently is studying at Kishwaukee Community College.

This marks the 27th year that the Ogle County Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to member dependents who seek to pursue course studies in agriculture at an accredited institution of higher education.

Scholarships will again be awarded in 2026 and applications will be available in January. For information on the Ogle County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program contact Ron Kern at 732-2231.

ISP releases Move Over or Get Pulled Over information

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are warning drivers to Move Over or Get Pulled Over. The Move Over Law, known as Scott's Law in Illinois, requires drivers to move over and slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated. If changing lanes is unsafe or impossible, drivers must slow down to a safe speed, proceed with caution, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

"We've all heard it, move over and slow down for emergency vehicles on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "Despite this, we continue to see to crashes, including deadly crashes, because someone refused to move over and slow down. To help end this reckless behavior, we want the public to know that if you fail to move over and slow down in Illinois, you will get a ticket. The days of receiving a warning are over. Move over or get pulled over."

The Move Over Law not only applies to law enforcement vehicles, but ambulances, fire vehicles, IDOT Emergency Traffic Patrol vehicles, tow trucks, and other authorized emergency vehicles as defined under the Illinois Vehicle Code. However, ISP and IDOT urge drivers to move over and slow down for any vehicle with flashing lights stopped on the side of the road.

"The main goal of the Move Over Law is to eliminate preventable crashes, injuries and deaths," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi. "But the easiest way is to please slow down and give plenty of extra distance

to people and vehicles on the side of the road. With your help, we can make our highways and streets safer for everyone."

When seatbelt laws first took effect in the 1980s, adoption of this life saving practice was slow. To increase compliance with the law and reduce the number of unnecessary traffic deaths, law enforcement began issuing citations, not warnings, when there was sufficient evidence seatbelts were not being used. Today, seatbelt use is commonplace, in large part because of the strict enforcement of seatbelt laws, and many lives have been saved. ISP and IDOT are looking to make the automatic response to move over and slow down for an emergency vehicle as commonplace as wearing a seatbelt.

To provide advanced notice that a driver needs to move over and slow down because of an emergency vehicle stopped on the road ahead, ISP partnered with Google Public Sector and HAAS Alert to provide a warning to drivers through apps like Waze and Google Maps, as well as through certain vehicle onboard infotainment systems, including Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Mercedes-Benz, RAM, and Volkswagen.

The fine for a Move Over Law violation is between \$250-\$10,000. If the violation results in the injury or death of another person, it's a felony and driving privileges could be suspended up to two years.

Already in 2025, ISP has suffered five move over crashes resulting in four troopers injured. Since the beginning of 2019, ISP has suffered 71 Move Over Law injury crashes, including three troopers killed. There were hundreds more Move Over Law crashes over those years involving

fire and IDOT vehicles, ambulances, tow trucks, and others.

The Move Over Law is named Scott's Law in

Illinois in remembrance of Lt. Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department. Gillen was struck and killed by an intoxicated

driver while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

More information about Illinois' Scott's Law can be

found on the ISP website, as well as a Scott's Law dashboard that includes information and data about ISP crashes.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

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

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@oglecountylife.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	
Address	
Phone Number	
City	
State: Zip:	
In Lieu of Verse, my message is:	

05052025

Ogle County Life May 26, 2025

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

The Ogle County Life is a division of
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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On May 26, 1897, Bram Stoker's now iconic horror novel "Dracula" went on sale in London. Stoker's editors had deleted the first 101 pages from his manuscript and altered the text to seem less "real," since there just so happened to be a serial killer known as Jack the Ripper on the loose in the city at that time.

* On May 27, 1949, the unemployed, 22-year-old model-actress Marilyn Monroe earned \$50 for posing nude for a Los Angeles

photographer against a red velvet backdrop. Though it became the most famous calendar photo in history, she never earned another cent from the picture, as she had signed away all her rights to it in a release form.

* On May 30, 1993, after being stalled for four days by a blizzard 4,000 feet below the summit, Joni Phelps became the first blind climber to reach the top of Denali, North America's tallest mountain. She was guided by her twin sons.

Ending your life is not the answer to your situation

YOU are at the end of your rope and you can't take it any much longer. You are in pain and you feel there is no hope. The first step you need to do is to seek treatment for your mental health issues. Do not make the decision to end your life when you are in these kinds of fearful situations. With this in mind, here are seven reasons why suicide is not an option regarding your problems.

1. Things change over time: Regardless of your circumstances, events do not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things are not as bad as they seem.
2. There are always other options: You may feel lost and confused, but the answers to your

factor changes everything.

4. Focus on the facts of your situation and not your thoughts: When people are depressed, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are depressed, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think. Do not assume anything regarding your current situation.
5. Worrying makes things worse: A lot of times, our worrying can make the problem even worse. All the worrying in the world will not change anything. All you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and when something does happen, take it in stride. The key is not to get upset and learn how to manage your negative thoughts.
6. Go to the hospital when it is that bad: If things are so bad that you are unable to function, drop everything and go to your local hospital or crisis center immediately. The people at the hospital or crisis center will take care of you right away.
7. No situation is hopeless: There are many people and organizations that are willing to help you, but you must be willing to take advantage of this help. Regardless of your situation, take advantage of the assistance that is around you. Every problem has a solution. You just have to find it.



Stan Popovich

specific problems are out there. The key is that you have to find the answers; the answers to your anxieties and depression will not come to you. As mentioned before, the first step in finding the solution to your problem is to seek help from a qualified professional.

3. You can't predict the future: Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.

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

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

Letter: Solicitors

DEAR editor, I recently read in your paper about the county and its latest act, allowing door-to-door solicitation. This is putting the public (your voters) in danger. I believe our city has had an ordinance against this for many years. We got our sign at City Hall years ago. I also believe it is a way for criminals to see if anyone is home. People who live alone will not appreciate this ordinance either. Some "solicitors" pay no attention to the sign and I have experienced a

sample of this within the last week. For many years we have had two signs on our vacant lot. One is "private property, no trespassing." The other is "No Dogs" and it is large. Two days this week some man was playing with his dog and the dog was using it as his private toilet. I called Chief Kalnins so he would have a record of it. So signs aren't always observed, but they help. Get one. I think they are free.

Patricia Stroh, Oregon

Letter: Current migration practice in America

DEAR editor, We are a nation on the move. Over my lifetime I have moved four times for work-related reasons. Now retired I am considering moving either because of climate or to be nearer to family. Moving about is a current world-wide trend. It is known as migration. People migrate for reasons noted above as well for personal health and safety, better living, to escape poverty and oppression. While I am free to move

about the country as I see fit, this is not the case for all. We have declared through our immigration laws that skin color and country of origin matter. If you are from the southern American hemisphere you are not welcome. Lady Liberty is only for those of European heritage. A border wall and razor wire symbolize all others migrant status. Consider the use of Federal funds and the expenditure of political capital to en-

force a ban on the insistent human desire to breathe free air and live in the land of sanctuary. These two traits uphold our American ideals and values. Now many must fear being seized, detained and deported while they walk the streets of Ogle County villages and towns. I am astounded that a local legislator vows to stop "illegal" immigration and actively deport these human beings. Oppressive

laws and regulations, dehumanization and humiliation will not stop the very strong urge to provide for those whom you love and have an obligation to provide care. Small mindedness, self-centeredness and ignorance do not serve us well. In our current practice, we would be better served to seek to welcome the stranger in need and seek to be the shining city on the hill.

Rev. Ronald D. Larson, retired clergy, Mt. Morris

Letter: State lawmakers must curb illicit vape sales in Illinois

DEAR editor, In my professional life as a former senior special agent with the ATF and now as an educator teaching in secondary and higher education throughout Illinois, I have a unique view into both the criminal underworld and the communities it harms. I strongly support HB2634 because I believe it is critical to protect our state from the dangerous networks infiltrating our schools and neighborhoods through the illicit vape trade. From an enforcement

perspective, illicit vape sales and associated crimes aren't isolated violations. They are part of complex trafficking systems that rely on cross-border deception, shell distributors, and digital marketing aimed squarely at minors. I've seen these products come through ports mislabeled as electronics, sold in stores without any oversight, and end up in the hands of teenagers who don't understand the risks. In the classroom, I hear students talk about these

products as if they were harmless or even legal. That confusion is by design. Illicit manufacturers are flooding our markets with brightly packaged, fruit-flavored vapes that look like candy, promising anonymity and easy access. Many students are vaping daily without realizing the products are adulterated or contain unapproved chemicals. HB2634 brings essential clarity to a chaotic market. It empowers the state to demand accountability, protect honest

retailers, and cut off the financial oxygen that fuels criminal organizations. As an agent, I see it as an overdue enforcement tool. As a teacher, I see it as a line of defense for kids who are being manipulated and harmed. I urge the state Legislature to vote yes on HB2634 and give Illinois the framework it needs to stand up to the criminal exploitation of our youth. John Rotunno is an adjunct professor at Waubesa Community College and a retired senior special agent with the ATF.

Letter: Protect library services

DEAR editor, We write to you, our fellow citizens, as members of the board of trustees of the Oregon Public Library. Ours is a small library that operates on a tiny budget. The Oregon Public Library is a Carnegie Library. Ours was one of hundreds created a century ago due to the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Today, there is no way our library can possibly house, nor purchase, all the materials desired by our thousands of users and patrons. Therefore, we rely on interlibrary loan services which are funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, or IMLS. IMLS is especially important for small rural libraries and communities. For example, if you

would like to read a book we don't have in the Oregon Public Library we can get it for you from libraries in the area spanning from Dubuque to North Chicago and we can get it to you quickly. Although our local library owns approximately 14,000 items, we have access to over five million items through a library consortium. These books and other materials are shared around the library system. This is made possible by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System, or RAILS, which services 27,000 square miles, much of it in rural areas. RAILS delivers five days a week to the Oregon Public Library. Over the past year, our patrons have borrowed nearly 6,000

items from other Illinois public libraries. There aren't enough programs that help rural communities, but at a very small expense the interlibrary loan service allows our community to order materials from academic libraries, school district libraries, and libraries with significantly larger materials budgets. Local library services are vital for veterans, seniors, young children, people with disabilities, jobseekers, rural residents and low-income individuals. We ask you to please call your elected officials and let them know the value library services provide to smaller rural communities. Our voices sometimes feel forgotten. Defunding this service

will not result in significant savings, but it will cause harm and loss for Oregon and the surrounding community. However, investing in interlibrary loans will pay dividends because it contributes to the strength and resilience of rural communities. Please call Rep. Darin LaHood at 202-225-6201, Senator Richard Durbin at 202-224-2152, Senator Tammy Duckworth at 202-224-2854. Ask them to protect the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Rick Bunton, Martha Bohrer, Pam Steele, Jim Winkler, Karly Spell, Danyel Larsen, and Randi Webb Board of Trustees, Oregon Public Library District

Adding animals is a key ingredient to telling farm story

THE majority of farms in Illinois are family-owned and consider themselves to be stewards of the land who care about feeding communities. Sadly, that is not always the case with the average consumer's assumption. Without our stories and connections, they often consider agriculture to be a corporation that has lost its connection to the environment. It is our time to tell our stories and connect with communities around us. I have been engaging in agriculture outside of the family farm since I was a child. Beginning with my time in 4-H and FFA, and as I moved to Collegiate Farm Bureau to Christian County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee to the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow program to State Young Leader Committee and of course as an Illinois Farm Bureau member, I have learned so many different things. I have learned about the diversity of our state, be it the policy and regulation that impacts our industry or, most importantly, ad-

vocating for what we are passionate about. The most powerful thing that has resonated with me is the need to connect with our communities and tell our stories. In a divided country, it is our time to open the gate of our fence and invite people to our farm and into our family. I have learned that just opening the gate is not enough. We must find a safe space that allows those who do not know agriculture to ask the questions they are afraid to ask. We must be willing to listen and learn with them. It is time for us to change our approach and find new and innovative ways to communicate our story and connect with our community. My first step in connecting with my community is engagement events, including school programs or other activities. I offer to bring my livestock on site to let others see, touch and feel our animals. I make a point to share at least one fact about each animal with everyone I

talk to. I always try to share Illinois Ag in the Classroom materials with the parents and explain where the additional resources can be found. There is something about that personal connection that I find makes a lasting connection. However, this really started when I found my passion to share my family farm stories on social media. The goal is to give a little glimpse into the day-to-day operation. Through this I respond to questions thoughtfully and carefully. I always felt there could be more creative ways to tell our story. As a family, we recently began Bertie's BARK on Facebook with other social media platforms to follow. There's something about telling our farm stories through our dog's perspective to make the community more willing to engage and ask those hard questions. As we think about farm visits, the dog is often a great icebreaker, and why not utilize that comfort level to enable the

hard conversations? You might be asking what is Bertie's BARK? Bertie is the all-around farm dog that goes on adventures and helps with the farm's day-to-day tasks and shares what she is doing from her point of view. I believe that to be an advocate, we must find our voice. Much like we speak, a dog will bark and, in this instance, BARK stands for Be an Advocate: Raise Knowledge. We believe using our dog's perspective is a new, creative, low-pressure and fun way to share the farm story and allow people to ask questions. My request is for all of us to BARK together because you never know who you can impact, and we must be together as one for Illinois agriculture. Amy Heberling represents District 11 on the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeek-Now.com.



Amy Heberling

LOCAL NEWS

Coliseum Museum presents a WWII Radio Hour Concert on May 16

OREGON – The Coliseum Museum in Oregon presents their second spring concert with a WWII Radio Hour Concert on May 16.

Featuring favorites such as “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” “Bei Mir Bist Du Schon,” “In the Mood” and “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree,” the costumed and piano-accompanied trio reenact a 1940s radio hour that is perfect for all ages! While answering musical requests from soldiers and loved ones during wartime, Patti, Maxine and Andrew entertain the “studio audience” with Andrews Sisters-style tunes and choreography, Abbott and Costello comedy sketches, and a touching tribute to Veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with patriotic music by



Shown are performers Matt & Cynthia Gruel, and Beverly Kearns.

pianist Beverly Kearns followed by the WWII Radio Hour at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for CMAAA members and

\$35 for non-members and available by calling the Coliseum Museum at 815-595-5810. You can also register online at www.cmaaa.org/events.html.

The concert is sponsored by Bry Antiques. The CMAAA mission is to present Art, Antiques,



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Americana and history through permanent and rotating exhibits, workshops, music, theater and more. Additional

information can be found on the website, www.cmaaa.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ColiseumMuseum/

Homegrown Healthy programs to take place this summer

ROCHELLE — As the warmth of summer approaches, the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Sauk Valley Community College, and Morrison Community Hospital, along with University of Illinois Extension, are proud to announce a unique educational initiative designed to cultivate healthier lifestyles through the Homegrown Healthy program series. Led by Horticulture Educator Bruce Black, this innovative program integrates weekly topic lessons with hands-on gardening and nutrition components, offering participants a comprehensive exploration of the journey from seed to plate.

Homegrown Healthy is a 10-week series where participants will gather for one hour per week to embark on a transformative journey into the world of horticulture and nutrition. Each session is held either at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Sauk Valley Community College, or Morrison Community Hospital Community Garden. Bruce Black will unveil a new topic, guide

practical gardening activities, indulge in tastings of garden-fresh recipes, and impart essential knowledge on storing produce effectively.

The weekly sessions will cover various topics, ranging from seed selection and soil preparation to plant care, harvesting, culinary exploration, and preservation techniques. By immersing participants in every aspect of the gardening process, Homegrown Healthy promises a holistic understanding of sustainable living and a deeper connection to the food we consume.

Individuals and families eager to embark on this transformative journey are invited to register for the whole series of classes. Committing to the entire 10-week program is essential for optimal learning and growth.

Classes will meet rain or shine. Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Classes will be held in person at the following locations:

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, 619 4th Ave., Ro-

chelle, Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. beginning June 3.

Morrison Community Hospital Community Garden, French Creek Park, 618 Portland Ave., Morrison, Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. beginning May 29.

Sauk Valley Community College Greenhouse, 173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon, Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m. beginning May 28.

Join us as we sow the seeds of health and wellness, one garden at a time. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate, please email Jan Sagiler at jsaglier@illinois.edu or call 815-544-3710. Register online at <https://go.illinois.edu/HomegrownHealthy2025>.

Funding provided by CDC ACTION Grant.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

As the warmth of summer approaches, the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Sauk Valley Community College, and Morrison Community Hospital, along with University of Illinois Extension, are proud to announce a unique educational initiative designed to cultivate healthier lifestyles through the Homegrown Healthy program series.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ogle County 4-H members and their families participated in the 4-H Green Communities Tree Program.

Ogle County 4-H plants trees

OREGON — Illinois was once home to 14 million acres of trees, which included a unique ecosystem called an oak savannah. Now, the oak savannah is considered by the Illinois Forest Action Plan to be the most threatened plant community in the Midwest. A savannah is a plant community with scattered “open canopy” fire-tolerant native oak trees growing in a group. Ogle County 4-H planted 25 oak trees at the Byron Forest Preserve to bring new life to oak-hickory trees. The 4-H Green Communities Tree Program focuses on tackling global issues at a local level.

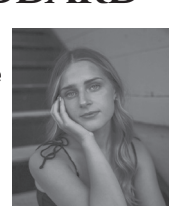
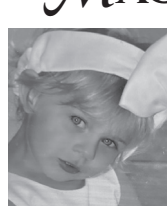
Throughout the spring of 2025, youth in 49 counties throughout Illinois are planting oak trees on public properties in their county for a total of 1,225 newly planted trees across the state.

The 4-H Green Communities Tree Program follows the “learn-by-doing” philosophy of 4-H and is guided by the priorities of the Illinois Forest Action Plan. This project has attracted National attention, as we have established 118 new oak savannas, with Illinois 4-H planting trees in 66 counties in just 3 years. To help support this project, please visit: <https://go.illinois.edu/4hgreencommunity>.

CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2025 YOU’VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

ATTENTION FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CLASS OF 2025!

MACEY STODDARD



Could not be more proud of you! ILYM4E! Mom and Dad

Submit a high quality, scannable baby photo and senior photo of your favorite graduating senior, a message with up to 15 words and a \$12 placement fee to the Ogle County Life office at: 211 Hwy 38 E or mail to PO Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068. High quality photos* and message can be emailed to kwhite@oglecountylife.com. Please call 815.732.2156 to arrange payment or use QR code on this ad.



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:

Ogle County Life • PO Box 175 • Rochelle, IL 61068

815-732-2156

Emailed photos* can be sent to kwhite@oglecountylife.com

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

LOCAL NEWS



Lee, Baker receive scholarships from SV Lions Club
Stillman Valley Lions Club Member Al Unger of the Stillman Valley Lions club presented scholarships to Brooklyn Lee and Gwen Baker of Stillman Valley High School. Two scholarships are presented every year to two students to help with college expenses. (Courtesy photo)

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

<u>Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery</u>	
A.A. Hotline	800-452-7990
<u>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</u>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
<u>Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline</u>	
HOPE of Ogle County	562-8890 or 732-7796
Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs	
<u>Low Income Housing</u>	
Ogle County Housing Authority	
1001 Pines Rd, Suite A, Oregon	732-1301
<u>Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County</u>	
P.O. Box 628	
Oregon, IL 61061	815-222-8869
<u>Mental Health</u>	
Family Counseling Services	962-5585
<u>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</u>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
<u>Senior Citizens Services</u>	
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
<u>Sexual Assault/Abuse</u>	
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	
24-hour hotline	636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon	732-0000
<u>Therapeutic</u>	
Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
<u>Veterans' Services</u>	
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
<u>Wellness Services</u>	
Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499

OCSWMD releases information on its operations

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) has long been the information source locally for all things waste-related, such as reuse options, recycling, composting, proper final disposal options, and solid waste enforcement issues. A very common question relates to recycling and its' viability, and whether materials are even recycled at all.

Common household recyclables include aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, paper, cardboard, paperboard, paper cartons, junk mail, gift cards and plain wrap, magazines, newsprint, unbroken glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs, numbered 1-5. Items should generally be clean and dry for proper recycling, and loose, not in plastic shopping or garbage bags.

Here in Ogle County, as well as the region, most collected recyclables are dropped off at a regional landfill, where empty waste-hauling trucks are loaded with the recyclables and transferred to regional material reuse facilities (MRF's). Most of these MRF's are either in the suburbs of Chicago or in southern Wisconsin.

Recently OCSWMD staff had the opportunity to travel to a MRF in Plainfield, Illinois, which is the site of a new multi-million dollar sorting process and a main destination for our region's

recyclables. OCSWMD staff met with the MRF operators, and toured the facility, from drop-off at the tipping floor to stacked bales of aluminum, steel, cardboard, and plastic, which are sold to brokers to re-enter the economic mainstream.

This state-of-the-art MRF included initial sorting, removal of garbage from the recycling, glass separation, magnetic separators, eddy current for aluminum separation, robotic and AI technology to separate certain plastics, and catchalls for paper and cardboard that was separated from the other materials. Some bales of material were put back through the process a second time for additional purity of the commodity.

It is very important to remember that not everything placed into a recycling container gets recycled. If it does not match the description above then it generally will not be recycled in this process. Certain items were pulled out at the MRF, and included electronics, batteries (these should never be included in household recycling), toys, furniture, holiday décor, fuel cylinders, scrap metal, Styrofoam, lots and lost of plastic bags and films, and many other items.

Here in Ogle County, almost all municipalities have curbside pick-up of your recyclables. Accepted materials in these programs generally match the description above. If you live outside of

a town or village curbside pick-up is not available. One waste hauling truck will collect all of your garbage and recyclables and it will head for the landfill. There are three drop-off points for recyclables in Ogle County if you do not have curbside service. These are located at the Waste Management Orchard Hills Landfill (8290 Hwy. 251, Davis Junction), Ogle County Farm Bureau (421 W. Pines Road, Oregon), and Byron Forest Preserve Maintenance Facility (6845 N. German Church Road, Byron).

In most public initiatives, there are enthusiasts, pragmatics, the middle, conservatives, and skeptics, and recycling is no different. We live in a consumer-driven economy and recycling alone will not solve our waste and recovery issues. Proper recycling is part of an overall process that includes source reduction, reuse, composting, right-to-repair, and then recycling.

For your home or work recycling, remember the guidelines mentioned above, or contact the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020 or via email at solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov. The Ogle County website also has local recycling guidelines. You may also contact your village hall or waste hauler for more information about your local recycling program. Remember items should be clean, empty, dry, and loose to be sure your recyclables actually end up being properly recycled.

Oregon Rotary Club Foundation announces scholarship recipients

OREGON — The Oregon Rotary Club Foundation board members appreciate the many applicants to the Oregon High School scholarship program. We are fortunate to have so many scholars striving for excellence. We would like to thank all the candidates for taking the time to apply and for sharing their talents and leadership in our community.

The Oregon High School seniors whom the board agreed best upheld the ideals of the Oregon Rotary Foundation for 2025 are Josh Crandall, Riley Jamieson, Alease McCain, Maya Mooney-Sotelo, Anna Stender, and Jack Washburn. Their Board further recognizes that of all the applicants, Jack Washburn best upholds the ideals of the Rotary Foundation and has therefore recognized Jack as the 2025

Catherine Ehnen award recipient.

We wish them all heartfelt congratulations for their efforts.

Each scholarship recipient will have a check mailed directly to the college they are enrolled with in the fall. Our hope is that these financial awards will help students pursue their college education and enable them to continue to support our fine community. A separate scholarship opportunity will be announced for individuals who have completed at least one full year at a college or trade school in the fall.

For more than 40 years, this program has awarded thousands of dollars to hundreds of local students who have sought to bring the ideals of Rotary International to our area. Each year the Oregon Rotary Club Foundation selects recipi-

ents whom the board feels best upholds the principles of Rotary International. The annual decision process is a very difficult yet a rewarding experience. The Oregon community should be very proud of these individuals who are not only excellent students but participate in activities geared toward helping others as well.

Rotary is a service club whose mission is to provide community service, both locally and internationally. Becoming a Rotarian provides the opportunity to do something for someone else and to sense the highly rewarding self-fulfillment that comes with the process.

Oregon Rotary Club is always looking for new members. For information or to apply for membership visit their website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/5761> or email them at oregonrotary@gmail.com.



Soaring Eagles 4-H Club donates for National 4-H Day of Service
April 26 is the National 4-H Day of Service. This year the Ogle County 4-H group has partnered with the Ogle County Health Department to donate food to the local mini food centers that the Ogle County Health Department has started in different towns within Ogle County. Some of the items that move quickly are what many think of as basic condiments like ketchup, mustard, salad dressing and seasonings which are considered luxuries to those served by the mini food centers. The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club recently collected supplies for this food drive. The collection will continue through May 1. Donations can be dropped off at the Extension Office in Oregon. Pictured with the donated food supplies are Hazel Friday, David Bagwell, Kaden Lingbeck and Kolton Motszko. Others who donated but not pictured are Finn Slattery, David Wehler and Lydia Sherburne. (Courtesy photo)

LOCAL NEWS

SPRING PLANTING: OCFB's Kern provides update on farming in Ogle County

From page 1

USDA's prospective plantings report recently predicted a five percent increase in corn acres and four percent decrease in soybean acres in the U.S. this planting season. The acreage shift in Illinois is projected to be lighter with three percent fewer soybean acres and three percent more corn acres. Kern said input costs for soybeans are less than corn per acre, but U.S. farmers have had a harder time selling soybeans due to market competition with South America. "South America will be the king of soybeans before long if it isn't already, and prices for our producers are tending to sag," Kern said. "Even though input costs on soybeans might be less, the commodity costs when you sell them are getting a lot of pressure. The U.S. will definitely remain the king of corn. Because that's what we grow here. Corn costs tend to be more per acre to plant. Because

of all these tariffs and the export market, I think this will be a very trying year for farmers." In an interview with the Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life earlier this year, Kern expressed concerns about The White House's planned tariffs and their potential impact on farmers, with tariffs historically affecting agricultural commodities. Kern said that uncertainty is causing farmers to try to be as sharp as possible with their expenses this year along with utilizing every marketing tool at their disposal to try to capture a profit at the end of the year. "I wish I had the answer to what this year will hold in farming and the markets," Kern said. "China recently canceled a huge pork order it had placed. How many more orders of ag commodities like that will be canceled? These are the things that are typically targeted under a tariff war. During the last go around with tariffs in

the first Trump administration, we conservatively lost 20 percent of the soybean market to the rest of the world. When you do these kinds of things and the people you're supplying can't get it from you at a reasonable price, they go somewhere else. And wherever they go becomes their new go-to supplier and you become an unreliable supplier. I don't know if that will happen again. If we lose another 20 percent, that totals 40 percent and now we're talking real dollars and cents." Kern also hopes to see progress made by Congress on a new federal Farm Bill, which it passes every five years to set comprehensive agricultural programs and policies. The current Farm Bill, passed in 2018, has been extended for a year twice, most recently in December. The federal Farm Bill allocates funding for crop insurance, disaster assistance and conservation programs for farmers. "In the coming months,



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ogle County farmers typically look to wrap up planting by June 1. OCFB Manager Kern said that likely won't be a problem this year.

we need rain," Kern said. "At least an average amount if not a little more. I'd love to see Congress get cracking on getting a new farm bill out because the current one has already been extended for long enough. And then I'd like to see some kind of quick resolution to this tariff war we're having. Because we need to get

that done." **Safety** Kern also asked Ogle County motorists to take extra caution in the coming weeks with planters and farm equipment on roads in between field work. "I hope the farmers stay safe out in the fields and in between and I ask folks

on the roadways to please slow down around them," Kern said. "Farmers don't want to be on the road any more than drivers want them there. They're just trying to get to where they have to go as safely as possible. Be very careful when passing farm equipment and please try to see what they're seeing before you pass them."

McCombie honors local female leaders at annual conference in the Capitol

SPRINGFIELD — House Minority Leader Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) held the fourth annual House Republican Women to Watch Conference in Springfield April 22. The event drew women leaders

from across the state on Tuesday to recognize and celebrate their efforts to make a difference in communities throughout Illinois. This spring McCombie called for nominations from her 89th District, which

ultimately produced 16 impressive area leaders. From that number, three were chosen to attend the Springfield event: Daisha Boehm, Katie Herrig and Tracy Bauer. "It is important to contin-

ue to recognize and honor women who have worked hard to make communities throughout our state a better place to live and work," McCombie said. "Beyond that, I am continually impressed with the number of

nominations I received. This is just the beginning, and I look forward to continuing to celebrate all the leaders in northwest Illinois." Leader McCombie plans to invite all event nominees to a special event this sum-

mer to further recognize their accomplishments. The House Republican Caucus will continue to make Women to Watch an annual event, building on the success of the first such event hosted in 2019.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 16-17: The Village of Leaf River will hold its annual Clean-up (Dumpster Days) on Friday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is intended for the Village of Leaf River's residents. The dumpsters will be at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Sewer Plant), 208 Railroad St., Leaf River.

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!

May 19: For our program on Monday, May 19, Country Crossroads Quilt Guild will present a program titled "Trash to Treasure." Mary Alice Hart from Monroe, Wisconsin, will be presenting this program. She will be sharing her journey with scrap quilts. The program will be followed by a business meeting and Show 'n Tell. Visitors are welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Save the

date! CCQG will present our Quilt Show "Garden of Quilts" on April 11 & 12. Jane Addams Community Center, 430 W. Washington St., Cedarville. Hours for the show are Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$5. Guild meetings are held at the Forrester Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forrester, on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. to provide ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. For more information call Program Committee Chair Kay Walker, 815-275-2904, or Guild President Jennifer Newcomer, 708-774-3279.

May 24: The Polo Woman's Garden Club is sponsoring a Spring Flower Show called Buds N' Blooms on Saturday, May 24 at the Polo Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The senior center is located at 101 W. Mason St., downtown Polo. This event is not a contest. There are no prizes, no entry fees or participation fees. It is, however, a fun opportunity for gardeners to share arrangements of their homegrown Spring flowers with others. Please note "home grown". To participate, bring your arrangements, one or more, in a container of choice, to the senior center Saturday morning between 9 and 10 a.m. where they will be put on exhibit for the

day. Please identify what your homegrown plants are and why they are interesting or maybe unusual or special to you. Entries will be exhibited until 3 p.m. that day. For questions or other information about this event, contact Jean at 815-946-3179, or Pat at 815-994-3175 or Judy at 779-226-1900.

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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POLICE WEEK

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Matthew Kalnins



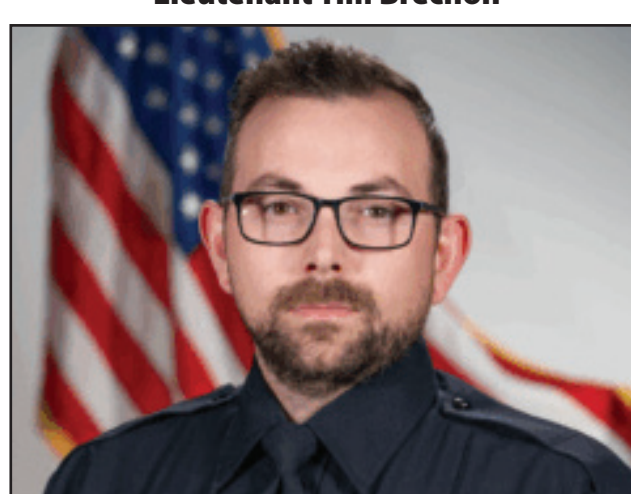
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Sergeant Eric Higby



Officer Taylor Buckwalter



Officer Joshua Cofield



Officer Terry Lester



Officer Zachary McKean



Officer Greg Spencer



Officer Breana Wakefield

MT. MORRIS

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DEPARTMENT



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- Sgt. Brian Sutter
- Officer Paul Lindstrom
- Officer Gerald Bennett
- Officer Nicholas Izer
- Officer Cassie Rogers
- Part-time Officer Vito Ferro
- Part-time Officer Jason White
- Part-time Officer Jason Ferro

Police Administrators: Brooke Duffy and Ali Stauffer

BYRON POLICE

DEPARTMENT

- Officer Hunter Ilkow
- Officer Dalton Powell
- Officer Spencer Morrissey SRO
- Chief Jeremy Boehle

- Sergeant Garrett Henderson
- Officer Michael Curtis
- Officer Tyler Hankins
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Chief Deputy Danielle Hardesty

Patrol Commander Lt. Jason Ketter

Investigations Commander Lt. Jason Plumb

Administrative Commander/Telecommunications

Supervisor Lt. James Messer

Corrections Commander Lt. Jason Lynn

Administrative Secretary Wendy Smice

Administrative Secretary Mindy Becker

OCEMA Coordinator Thomas Richter

Investigations

Detective Chad Gallick

Detective Kevin Most

Detective Emily Hardesty

Telecommunications

911 Coordinator Brittany Carls

Telecommunicators:

Mary DeHaan

Susan Steeves

Darci McCarty

Brian Symons

Jennifer Hoffman

Torri Nichols

Taylor Burke

Samantha Crawford

Matthew Buck

Valerie Jones

Patrol

Patrol Sergeant Jason Clark

Patrol Sergeant Ross Dillon

Patrol Sergeant Michael Halfman

Patrol Sergeant Justin Diehl

Patrol Sergeant Samuel Gendusa

Patrol Sergeant Jonathan Shippert

Patrol Deputy Robert Gemmell

Patrol Deputy Nicanor Anaya

Patrol Deputy Christopher Thiel

Patrol Deputy Evan Ruggeberg

Patrol Deputy Jacob Feldhaus

Patrol Deputy Kyle White

Patrol Deputy Ali VanVickle

Patrol Deputy Brexton Flynn

Patrol Deputy Dylan Anspach

Patrol Deputy Dalton Lewis

Patrol Deputy Joshua Lee

Patrol Deputy Brody Massolle

Patrol Deputy Tad Dominski

Patrol Deputy Aaron Kingham

Patrol Deputy Maison Crawford

Patrol Deputy Nathaniel Dyck

Patrol Deputy Benjamin O'Rorke

School Resource Officer Deputy Jacob Breitbach

Maintenance

Maintenance Supervisor Garrett Koch

Maintenance Jonathan Miller

Light Maintenance Kim Bauer

Light Maintenance Penny Roop

Light Maintenance Jessica Reed

Light Maintenance Cristian Peralta De Minaya

Corrections

Corrections Sergeant Juan Carreno

Corrections Sergeant William White

Corrections Sergeant Anne Arneson

Corrections Sergeant Stephanie Bailey

Corrections Sergeant Ashley Sanders

Corrections/Transportation Greg Bergin

Corrections Deputy Denielle Merkle

Corrections Deputy Alex Ketter

Corrections Deputy Shawn Knight

Corrections Deputy Cody Ebens

Corrections Deputy Christine Tornow

Corrections Deputy Brandon Huddleston

Corrections Deputy Marissa Fuentes

Corrections Deputy Hayden Wiegman

Corrections Deputy Brandon Sieber



Corrections Deputy Cody Flanagan

Jail Nurse Stacey Cavanaugh

Jail Cook April Boom

Jail Cook Katherin Brownderville

Civilian Corrections Clerk Kari Aupperle

Civilian Corrections Clerk Angel Lee Ziegler

Civilian Corrections Clerk Iran Tapia



Sheriff Brian VanVickle

Civilian Corrections Clerk Christina Boelter

Court

Court Security Sergeant Jeannifer Ashley

Court Security Daniel Daub

Court Security Carla Hill

POLICE WEEK



POLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Matt Coppotelli
Sergeant Tim Rockwood

Patrol Officer Geraud Zinsou
Patrol Officer Kaden Coppotelli
Patrol Officer Rodney Lucas

Part-Time Officer Chris Plachno
Part-Time Officer Rebecca Flynn
Part-Time Officer Chris Thiel
Part-Time Officer Joe Head
Part-Time Officer Ross Dillon
Part-Time Officer Kenneth Yingling



POLICE WEEK



FORRESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Officer Blake Klosa
Officer Hannah Sligar

Officer Wendell McClain

Officer Ross Dillon
Officer Brexton Flynn
Officer Justin Merry

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(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Bri Kuhn was the March winner of the Polo High School Student of the Month. She received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation member Alissa Zeigler.

Kuhn named March 2025 Student of the Month at Polo Community High School

POLO — Bri Kuhn was recently named the March Student of the Month at Polo Community High School and received a scholarship from the Polo Schools Foundation for her efforts. She is the daughter of Stephanie Kuhn-Donald and Skip Donald.

Kuhn's extracurricular

ular activities include Band, FCCLA, Drama Club, Game Club, Spanish Club and GSA. After high school, she plans to pursue a career in graphic design.

Upon winning the award, Kuhn filled out a list of questions about her school experience.

If you could create

any new class at your school, what would it be?

-A class that teaches you how to do adult things. Like taxes, writing checks, balancing a checkbook, bill paying, budgeting, stuff like that.

What does it take to be a successful high school student?

-Doing all your work on time, trying your absolute hardest on tests and assignments and most importantly asking for help when you need it.

What class do you find really engaging and why?

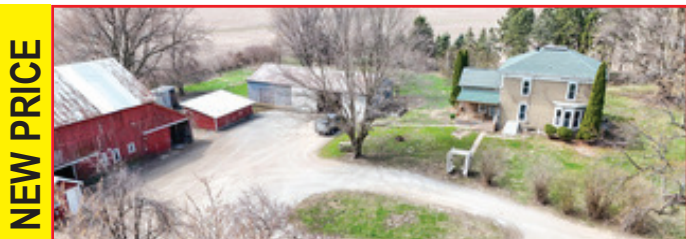
-I find the horticulture class with Stephanie Schultz really engaging.

Right now since we're getting ready for the grand opening plant sale on May 3rd for the greenhouse we've been in the greenhouse every day. I enjoy spending time in our greenhouse with all of the plants.

What are your two favorite extracurricular, volunteer or com-

munity activities you participate in?

-Band and Drama Club are by far my favorite extracurricular activities that I participate in. I think that being a part of a group that's bigger than myself is very fun and it builds values of teamwork and that there is no I in team.



26596 Fairhaven Road Chadwick NOW \$255,900 Call Jessica
The property is a nature lover's dream, surrounded by mature fruit trees, berry bushes, and vibrant perennials. A gentle stream runs through the land, adding to the peaceful rural setting. A well-kept barn and a large machine shed offer plenty of space for storage, hobbies, or livestock. Plenty of concrete surrounds the large milk barn for anyone wanting to raise livestock in a dry lot. The machine shed also includes a recently renovated and insulated office which can easily be heated. The milk house, also recently redone, is heated. The property also comes with an older barn and two nice outdoor sheds which could be used as a chicken coop or a home for other smaller livestock. New pasture fence and gates stay with the property and were added in 2022. Inside the home, recent updates blend seamlessly with its historic charm. The kitchen has been completely remodeled and now features an open flow into the dining and living rooms, creating a warm and inviting gathering space. The flooring throughout has been updated, and the original hardwood floors in the living room have been beautifully refinished. A newly renovated back porch (2024) provides the perfect spot to relax and take in the peaceful country views. Centrally located between Thompson, Dixon, Freeport, and Sterling, this property offers the perfect balance of quiet seclusion and convenient access to nearby towns. Whether you're looking for a hobby farm, a private retreat, or a unique historic home to make your own, this one-of-a-kind property delivers on every level.



502 Franklin Street Oregon NOW \$169,900 Call Becky
Prime Downtown Opportunity with Unlimited Potential! Nestled in a coveted downtown Oregon location, this stunning retail/office building is brimming with possibilities! Whether you're envisioning a boutique retail space, a stylish office, or a trendy salon, this one-level, 1,800+ sq. ft. property offers the flexibility to bring your vision to life! With three separate entrances and a thoughtful layout, you'll find spaces perfect for creating individual rooms, private offices, or open workspaces. Highlights include: Two gorgeous rooms with original hardwood floors (24.1' x 21.2' and 16.6' x 12.6'); two additional spacious rooms (21.2' x 13.3' and 17.1' x 13.3'); two smaller rooms (each 12' x 8.3'); and a partially finished attic bursting with potential. The property also features two bathrooms (one ADA-compliant), custom-built ceiling beams, barn doors on storage closets, and a handcrafted front door that adds undeniable charm. With a new roof in 2023, updated electrical in 2021, five mini-split electric heat & air units, three newer windows, and inclusion in the TIF District, this property is ready to meet your needs today and in the future. Or reimagine the space - with the potential for rezoning to residential, you can turn this gem into the cutest downtown home. Imagine a unique living space that combines historic charm with modern amenities. Don't miss this chance to own a property where your imagination sets the limits! Call today to schedule a showing and start dreaming big!



103 E. Lincoln Street, Mt. Morris - \$119,000 Call Rebecca
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Turn-Key 3-Family Investment Property with Strong Cash Flow! Don't miss this incredible investment opportunity! This well-maintained 3-family property features two 1-bedroom units and one spacious 2-bedroom unit, with two long-term tenants already in place—making this a true turn-key investment. The vacant 2-bedroom unit is move-in ready and perfect for immediate rental to boost your returns. Each unit has separate utilities, with tenants responsible for gas and electric, keeping overhead low for the owner. Additional perks include off-street parking, a large backyard, included appliances, and laundry hookups in the basement for added tenant convenience. With nothing left to do but start collecting rent, this property is a smart addition to any investor's portfolio. Call today for more information or to schedule a private showing!



2211 Canal Street, Dixon - \$124,900 Call JD
Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath home sitting peacefully on the edge of town, offering scenic rural views and a quiet setting. Inside, you'll find fresh updates throughout, convenient main floor laundry, oversized primary bedroom, and a comfortable layout perfect for everyday living. A one-car detached garage and partially fenced yard adds functionality, making this home a great blend of comfort and convenience. With the additional benefit of a new sewer line in 2023, this home is move in ready. Make it yours today!



503 S. Maple Avenue, Polo - \$209,000 Call Rebecca
Lovely 3-Bedroom, 2.5-Bath Home in Polo with Beautiful Country Views. Welcome to this well-maintained and move-in ready home located in the peaceful town of Polo, offering serene country views and modern comforts. This charming 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home features a spacious master suite complete with a large walk-in closet and a private en suite bathroom for your convenience. There are two additional bedrooms on the main floor as well. The kitchen includes a generous eat-in area and opens up to the bright, inviting living room, creating a perfect space for everyday living and entertaining. Downstairs, you'll find a fully finished basement boasting a large family room, a second kitchen, a half bath, and ample storage space—perfect for guests, hobbies, or extended living. Additional highlights include an attached 2-car garage, a storage shed, and a beautifully maintained yard. This home combines comfort, space, and functionality in a quiet country setting. Don't miss your chance to make this lovely property your own—schedule your private showing today!



318 E. Main Street, Stillman Valley - \$190,000 Call Lori
Charming 4-Bedroom Home in Stillman Valley – Modern Comfort & Classic Appeal Welcome to this beautifully maintained two-story home in the heart of Stillman Valley, featuring 4 spacious bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. Ideal for families or multi-generational living, the main level includes a convenient bedroom and full bath, while the upper level offers 3 additional bedrooms and a second full bath. Step into the modern kitchen with updated finishes, perfect for cooking and entertaining. The dining room is bright and inviting, with a large bay window that fills the space with natural light. Relax in the cozy living area featuring a contemporary electric fireplace. Both bathrooms are thoughtfully designed, each with laundry hookups—one in the upper-level bath and another discreetly tucked into the main floor bath closet. A brand new forced air furnace ensures year-round comfort. Outside, enjoy your private backyard oasis, fully enclosed with a privacy fence and complete with a 28' (more or less) round above-ground pool. The pool includes a sand filtration system and a heater—great for summer fun. The large lot also features a garden shed for additional storage. A heated, detached two-car garage sits at the rear of the property with convenient access via a paved alley. Located in a highly rated school district. Don't miss your chance! Property sold AS IS.

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SPORTS

Hodson provides leadership for athletic training students in Ohio

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — There is a growing crisis in intercollegiate athletics, and it goes far deeper than competition and the rising cost to develop a roster.

According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association, college athletics is struggling with a labor crisis that began, in essence, with the "Great Resignation" in the post-COVID-19 pandemic. Today, colleges and universities are finding it more difficult to recruit, hire and retain athletic training professionals.

Cedarville University allied health faculty and students are involved in combatting this crisis. In 2012, the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association (OATA), with the help of Cedarville's Dr. Genna Fusco, launched a student senate to organize educational initiatives and help develop the next generation of athletic training leaders.

Currently an assistant professor of athletic training at Cedarville University, Fusco helped to establish the inaugural OATA student senate while an undergraduate at Heidelberg University. At

the time, she served as the Ohio student representative to the regional Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association (GLATA).

Alongside fellow students, Fusco helped bring to life the concept of the OATA student senate - a body that now provides professional development and networking opportunities for Master of Athletic Training (MAT) students across Ohio. The application to serve on the senate is open to any master's-level athletic training student in the state.

Fusco served as the first vice chair of the student senate and later transitioned into the chair position, now known as the president.

Today, one of her own students, Kyler Conn, a second-year MAT student at Cedarville University, serves as president of the same senate Fusco helped launch. Conn's responsibilities include reviewing applications, managing senate roles, initiating communication with external stakeholders and ensuring all team members have the tools they need to succeed. He also attends OATA executive committee meetings



(PHOTO BY SCOTT HUCK)

Cedarville's Dr. Genna Fusco (left) helped develop the OATA student senate where her current students, Kara Hodson (center) of Mt. Morris and Kyler Conn (right), both served this year.

as a student liaison.

"I've appreciated this opportunity because it has helped me grow as a leader - balancing responsibilities and staying connected with the team," said Conn, a Jeffersonville, Ohio, native. "Anything that pushes you out of your comfort zone is good to do."

Cedarville students have continued to take on leadership within the organization. Reghan Mulder

of Waukesha, Wisconsin, a first-year MAT student, currently serves as the treasurer/sponsorship and donations coordinator, and Kara Hodson, a second-year MAT student from Mt. Morris, served as Student Education Program (SEP) coordinator until January.

Hodson's position, also originally developed by Fusco and her colleagues, involves planning educa-

tional events for students throughout the academic year. This past fall, the senate hosted a quiz bowl to test athletic training knowledge in a fun, competitive setting. At the upcoming OATA annual meeting in May, the SEP coordinator is tasked with bringing in a student-focused speaker.

"Meeting students from other schools and seeing how their programs work helps us collaborate to ad-

vance the athletic training profession," said Hodson. "It ended up being even more beneficial than I expected."

Thanks to the leadership of faculty like Fusco and the ongoing involvement of Cedarville MAT students, the OATA student senate continues to thrive as a statewide resource for growth, collaboration and professional development.

Ogle County track and field teams compete at Oregon Hall of Fame Classic

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

OREGON — With 1A sprint relay powers from Forrester-Polo, Leona-Winslow and Morrison centered at the Oregon Hall-of-Fame Classic, a mini-state meet was expected. However, a short-handed Morrison team scratched out of the 800 and 1,600-meter

relays and used a backup squad in the 400 relay.

Last year, the Mustangs won all three relays at the state meet and returned the bulk of those units, including star runner Brady Anderson, who is currently injured. Forrester-Polo took advantage of this with second-place finishes in all three relays. Senior Noah Dewey anchored sophomore-laden groups

in each.

"My sophomore year, I was taught things by the seniors," said Dewey, a five-time state relay medalist. "I'm trying to do the same thing with these sophomores. We have a lot of fast guys and I love the cooperation it takes, whether it's Polo or Forrester runners."

With Ferris, Milnes and another sophomore,

Brody Schwartz joining Dewey, the quartet ran a 1:31.18 in the 800 relay, second to Woodstock North's 1:31.04 and the fifth best time so far in 1A.

Schwartz, Milnes, Dewey and Hayden Vinnedge were close behind Le-Win in the 400 relay, 43.37 to 43.88. In the 1,600 relay, won by Byron with a 3:29, Ferris, Vinnedge, Schwartz and Dewey were next at

3:32.

Milledgeville-Eastland was close behind in third at 3:33, with Konner Johnson, Micah Toms-Smith, Adam Awender and Draven Zier. The same group was fourth in the 800 meters (1:33.50).

In team standings, Forrester-Polo finished second to Rochelle, 95-76. The Hubs were led by co-MVP Andrew Nuyen,

who smashed the pole vault meet record.

Erik Lindahl of Erie-Prophetstown had the record at 14-9, set in 2002. With a large crowd assembled around the pole vault pit and rhythmically clapping, the nationally-ranked Nuyen cleared 16-6 and had a close attempt at 17-1.

See TRACK page 3



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No Place Like It

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

TRACK: Forreston-Polo boys take second in Oregon Hall of Fame Classic

From page 2

Though Rochelle's Jack Tilton (ranked No. 2 in 2A) won the high jump, F-P dominated the jumps. Sophomore Jonathan Milnes, who had never tried long jumping until this week, surprised the field with a leap of 20-8 to claim first.

"My thought process was to throw my speed out and do the best I

could," said Milnes, who also took third in the high jump at 5-10.

Fellow sophomore teammate Eli Ferris was second in the high jump at six feet. Ferris and Milnes also ran on the 400 and 800 relays that took second.

Senior triple jumper Billy Lowry was first in the triple jump for F-P with a mark of 41-4, done on his first attempt before

the weather turned inclement and the meet was delayed for lightning. Hunter DeWall added a third in the discus with a toss of 140 feet.

The top thrower at Lander-Loomis was Byron shot putter Sam Gentz, who cracked the 17-meter mark (55-9) for the first time. That effort stands at third best in 2A.

In the most competitive event of the meet,

with six runners at 2:01 or lower, Wyatt Widolff of Newman and Daniel Gonzales of Oregon had PRs in attempting to chase down Evan White of Rockford Christian in the 800 meters. White held on to win in 1:57.68. Widolff was next at 1:58.28 and Gonzales 1:58.53.

For Gonzales, it was his first time under two minutes and the junior

has Ian Hussung's school record of 1:56.57 in his sights.

"I got tripped at 450 meters in and lost some momentum," Gonzales said. "I used it as motivation and then on the last 150, I treated it like I was running downhill."

Byron's 1,600 relay of Hunter Haas, Liam Connell, Braden Dietrich and Dylan Springer capped the meet off with sea-

son-best time of 3:29.69. Earlier, Springer took second in the 400 with a time of 51.42.

Tiger distance stand-out Tim Starwalt was second in the 1,600 run, losing a close race to Blake Lindberg of Rockford Christian, 4:36.05-4:36.76.

Of the 21-team field, Byron was 7th with 54 points. Oregon was 13th with 24.

Taking in the Hall-of-Fame Classic

THE big sporting event last weekend was the Oregon Hall-of-Fame Classic, with 21 boys track & field teams competing at Landers-Loomis Field. It was over 100 years ago that Sherman Landers and Frank Loomis were two of the best track athletes in the world, this while still in high school at Oregon.

At the time, Landers pole vault of 12-foot-8 was stratospheric. Today's elite are going over 20 feet, but that is on high-tech, lightweight fiberglass poles.

Landers only had heavy, stiff steel poles. That's a huge difference and one small example of how equipment in sports everywhere has changed for the better.

Compared to Landers, Rochelle's Andrew Nuyen is a beneficiary of better vaulting poles. In what was the fan favorite event of the meet, Nuyen broke the pole vault meet record by nearly two feet with a vault of 16-6.

Currently ranked No. 10 in the nation at 17-feet, the Hub junior was only a nine-footer as a freshman. His improvement is a testament to perseverance and a desire to reach one's potential.

It also helps having a pole vault pit in the backyard at his home in Creston. Nuyen also gets specialized training at a pole vault facility in Joliet.

With another junior from Bloomington over 18 feet, next year promises to be an interesting battle for perhaps the best pole vaulter in the entire country.

Forreston-Polo continues its tradition of one of the top small-school programs in northern Illinois, surpassing Winnebago, Rockford Christian and Lena-Winslow in scoring at the HOF Classic. The relays have long been the calling card for F-P and the potential is there to place in the 400, 800 and 1,600 relays downstate.

Byron looked very good in running a 3:29 in winning the 1,600 relay, but has such brutal competition in 2A compared to 1A. For example, at their sectional, both Sterling and Sycamore have already run 3:22.

And, that is just at a sectional. Imagine how much harder the state meet will be with teams like Cahokia and East St. Louis.

Sam Gentz does look like a good bet to medal in the shot put for Byron. In the distances, Tim Starwalt will have his hands full with all the heavy hitters in 2A.

As a side note from the HOF Classic: Of all the meet records, only three are held by individuals or relays from Ogle County - 16-6 pole vault by Nuyen, 14.73 in the 110 high hurdles by Nick Gallardo of Oregon (2010) and 49.07 by Martin McCormick of Oregon (2005).

Byron's baseball team continues to be on a hot streak, now up 16 straight wins and a No. 11 ranking in MaxPreps 2A. In the BNC, they are 10-0, with everyone else two losses or more.

They have certainly made themselves the team to beat at the sectional.

In the MaxPreps NUIC rankings, Forreston is No. 1 in the conference, followed by Galena, Lena-Winslow, East Dubuque and Dakota. The Cardinals have won 18 of its last 20, with the two losses by one run.

Oregon came up with a big win over North Boone, 7-6. A coach described the Hawks as a team that could get beat in the first game of the regional, but also beat anyone they face - kind of the type of opponent you don't want to see.

Oregon softball is racking up the wins (18-6) and held a very good North Boone squad to 1 run in a 1-0 loss. NB leads the BNC at 10-0, followed by Stillman Valley (8-1) and

Oregon (6-3).

SV had plenty of offensive firepower against NB in a wild 10-9 loss. Stillman Valley's (11-6) only losses have been to much larger schools. As always, watch out for them in the playoffs.

In the past 20 years under coach Shawn Byers, the Cardinal softball program has had winning records.

On Saturday, I had the pleasure to attend an open house in Rochelle for Don Romes, a man who coached for over 60 years. There were so many stories shared by people, whose lives were impacted by Don, be it on the playing field, classroom or church.

Some were quite poignant, such as the gentleman who had no place to go as a young teenager and being welcomed into the Romes family to live and Don becoming his guardian. That was the type of man Don was and it was reflected in his constant thought of how he could serve others.

In chatting with people I grew up with and went to school with, it struck me how fortunate it was to live in place with so many caring educators, coaches and church leaders. As young people, we needed direction, discipline and love in our lives.

We got it from Don and so many others like him. As Don's son Chris said, "You don't really care how much people know until you know that they care for you."

Back in our youth, adults in leadership roles really cared for us and willingly shared that same devotion with us. My hope is that today's youth are able to have that same experience.

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



Andy Colbert

ENAG to host Art Glass Workshop June 28

OREGON — Eagle's Nest Art Group is offering an Art Glass Workshop on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at the Conover Square ENAG Studio, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The workshop is taught by artist Valerie Butcher. It is open to all and is not limited to just ENAG members.

The cost is \$35 and includes all of the glass and

tools required to create your personally designed bird.

If you would like to take this workshop, register by calling Valerie at 815-441-2161 or email her at vabutcher@outlook.com

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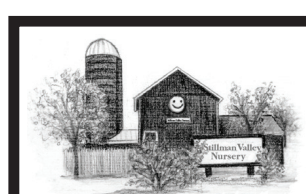
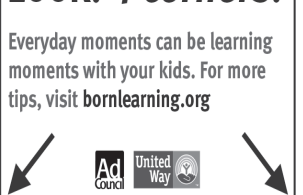
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OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon softball team falls against North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity softball team fell 1-0 against North Boone on Wednesday, April 30. Isabelle Berg pitched all six innings for the Hawks, striking out seven batters and allowing only one hit. Brooke Halverson doubled and Ella Dannhorn singled for the Hawks, who were held to two hits in the loss.

Forreston softball team drops game against Orangeville

The Forreston High School varsity softball team dropped a game against Orangeville, falling 11-2 on Thursday, May 1. Ayla Kiper and Neveah Scheffner each went 2 for 4, while Aubrey Sanders went 1 for 4 with an RBI and struck out three batters over two innings pitched. Isabella Thiel logged three strikeouts over the first three innings.

Polo baseball team concedes shutout loss to Ashton-Franklin Center

The Polo High School varsity baseball team conceded an 11-0 shutout loss against AFC on Thursday, May 1. Gus Mumford went 2 for 3 with one double to lead the Polo offense.

Polo softball team scores win over Ashton-Franklin Center

The Polo High School varsity softball team scored a 9-2 win over Ashton-Franklin Center on Thursday, May 1. Brylee Laskowski went 2 for 3 with two runs and an RBI, while Bella Witkowski went 2 for 3 with one run and two RBIs. Iyanna Drowns added one single and two RBIs for the Lady Marcos, who saw Cheyenna Wilkins and Cam Jones combine for

12 strikeouts over seven innings pitched.

Forreston softball team loses against Orion

The Forreston High School varsity softball team lost 11-1 against Orion on Saturday, May 3. Ayla Kiper went 1 for 3 and Isabella Thiel scored Forreston's lone run in the loss. Aubrey Sanders struck out five batters over three and one-third innings pitched.

Oregon baseball team takes down Polo

The Oregon High School varsity baseball team took down Polo 8-2 in an Ogle County matchup on Saturday, May 3. Gage Zeigler went 2 for 4 and Aiden Messer went 1 for 3 with an RBI to lead the Marcos. Jackson Messenger went 1 for 2 with an RBI and three runs scored for the Hawks.

Oregon softball team concedes game to Rock Falls

The Oregon High School varsity softball team conceded a 6-4 loss against Rock Falls on Monday, May 5. Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 4 with a home run and three RBIs, while Isabella Berg and Brooke Halverson each pitched three innings in the game.

Oregon girls soccer team shuts out Faith Christian

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team shut out Faith Christian 2-0 on Monday, May 5. Anna Stender scored two goals and Addison Rufer added an assist for the Hawks (10-5-1, 4-3 BNC), who saw Noelle Girton total 10 saves in the win.

Polo baseball team scores win against Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity baseball team scored a 9-2 win over Milledgeville on Monday, May 5. Gage Zeigler went 2 for 3 with two runs and three RBIs, while Dawson Foster went 1 for 2 with two RBIs and Gus Mumford went 2 for 3 with three runs scored. Lucas Nelson pitched a complete game with four strikeouts.

Oregon softball team takes one-run loss from Dixon

The Oregon High School varsity softball team took a one-run loss from Dixon on Tuesday, May 6, falling to the Duckesses 5-4. Kaelin Shaffer went 2 for 4 with two runs, while Olivia Ortega went 3 for 4 with one run and Madi Shaffer went 2 for 4 with two RBIs. Lola Schwarz went 2 for 4 with one run and Isabella Berg struck out nine batters over seven innings pitched.

Polo baseball team handed shutout loss from Eastland

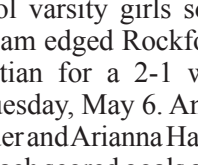
The Polo High School varsity baseball team was handed a 10-0 shutout loss from Eastland on Tuesday, May 6. Lucas Nelson singled for the lone hit in the loss, while Aiden Messer pitched three innings with one strikeout and Dawson Foster added two strikeouts over one and one-third innings on the mound.

Oregon girls soccer team edges Rockford Christian

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team edged Rockford Christian for a 2-1 win on Tuesday, May 6. Anna Stender and Arianna Hammer each scored goals and Noelle Girton totaled three saves for the Hawks (11-5-1, 5-3 BNC) in the victory.

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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 Prairie-Cat app to your phone or mobile device and log in with your library card number and PIN! You'll be able to view your checkouts and holds, renew renewable materials, and search the library catalog. There's even a digital copy of your library card!

Curbside Delivery

The library is open for browsing, but patrons can still use our curbside service! Place your holds online at byronlibrary.org

or call us at 815-234-5107. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! We will call or email you with a confirmation when your holds are ready to be picked up. Call us when you arrive at the library, and we will bring your items out to you, already checked out. A receipt with your due dates will be included with your items.

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Last week on their day off school, teen artists took a pledge with professional artist Kyle White to draw in their sketchbooks that he provided every day for the next month! His guidance and art tips made for a great drawing workshop.

Ogle County youth rank high at state 4-H horse contests

OREGON — Ogle County was represented by six local youth who competed in the Northwest Regional Competition for Illinois 4-H Horse Speaking, Horse Bowl, and Hippology earlier this month and were rewarded for their efforts. This was their first time competing in the State 4-H Horse Speaking contest.

The 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology allow youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting. These contests provide an educational experience for

both participants and spectators. Youth work as a team to answer questions and compete against other teams in the same class, and individually to answer questions. Some 4-H'ers also complete a written exam based on their knowledge. 4-H Horse Speaking contests help youth gain self-confidence, courage, and persuasiveness; share ideas with others; and develop the ability to speak publicly to inform others about horse-related subjects and the 4-H Horse project.

The Junior Horse Bowl team placed second in the state of Illinois. The team consisted of mem-

bers Adalyn Bocker, Kenzie Hongsermeier, Lily Hongsermeier, and Stella Lombardozzi. Adalyn Bocker also placed fourth overall in points individually for Horse Bowl, and Kenzie Hongsermeier placed fourth.

Adalyn Bocker placed fourth in Intermediate Hippology, and Addison Yordy placed eighth.

Lily Hongsermeier placed third in Junior Interpretive Reading for the Horse Speaking Contest, while Kenzie Hongsermeier placed eighth. Adalyn Bocker & Addison Yordy had the third place Junior Team Presentation,



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ogle County was represented by six local youth who competed in the Northwest Regional Competition for Illinois 4-H Horse Speaking, Horse Bowl, and Hippology earlier this month and were rewarded for their efforts.

while Addison Diehl placed eighth in Junior Individual Presentation. Ogle County is very proud of your achievements!

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

BYRON

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH

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

BYRON ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON

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

BEACON HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

402 First Ave., Forreston, IL Phone: 815-938-2380
Worship at 9:00 a.m. (childcare provided) with coffee and fellowship immediately following. Sunday School Age 3-Adult, 10:15 am.
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ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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All are welcome here!
9:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Communion open to all, followed by fellowship hour
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Sep. - May)
102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org
www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church

MOUNT MORRIS

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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Rev. Josiah Youngquist
www.EBENEZERREFORMED.COM • Sunday school 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

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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
poloatcrossroadsccn.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzink 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.thebrickchurch.org
Sunday: Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 9:00 am.
Wednesday: AWANA (Sept - April) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
Men, women, youth Bible Studies throughout the year.
See website for all activities or contact the church office.

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

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! We'll take a break and start back up on Monday, June 2. 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

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Community Puzzle

You finally finished our winter theme puzzle! Our next challenge is one with fireworks. Can we finish it by the 4th of July? Stop in to help! **Stories With Stacey**

Thursdays at 10:00AM: 3 more sessions left before we break for summer. Join Miss Stacey as they finish learning about a variety of animals!

May Book of the Month

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

on Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, May 22 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss *The Guest* by Emma Cline.

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

Month

In *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens Joe Talbert is a struggling college student assigned with the task of interviewing and writing the biography of a stranger. Joe picks a local nursing home resident who was accused of murder. As Joe dives into Carl's history, he does not see Carl being a murderer. Joe, with the help of Lila the neighbor, tries to find out the truth about Carl.

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

October.

Genealogy Community Workshop

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

Summer Reading Challenge

Scoop, here it is! It's finally Summer, and if

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 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).*

Save the Date

Monday, May 19 Level Up at Your Library! Registration begins for the 2025 youth summer reading program at the Oregon Public Library! This program, June 2-July 25, is available to library district residents 3 years old through 11th grade. Activities, books, prizes, story time, special presenters, movies and more are all a part of the program. Registration is required, so contact the library for more details.

Pick up your copy today from the circulation desk.

May Take & Make Craft

Stop by the circulation desk to pick up your kit to make a dreamcatcher.

Spice of the Month!

Paprika is our spice kit star for May. Stop at the circulation desk for a sample, some recipes, and the history of paprika. Find out what animal sometimes gets fed paprika in

you're like us, you're ready to chill... with a stack of library books and plenty of sweet treats. You can satisfy BOTH of those cravings with our 2025 Summer Reading Program: *Scoop Up A Good Book!* When you participate, you'll collect badges by logging your reading, completing fun activities and attending library programs... for a chance to win real prizes. It's fun. It's easy. It's free! ALL AGES. Pre-register starting Monday, May 19. Challenge opens Mon-

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. Bring those May flowers inside and enjoy them all year. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.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.

the zoo!

Coloring Pages

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

Card Making

Card Making supplies are always available for you to create with. Call ahead for room availability.

Game Table

We have a variety of board games, including

day, May 26.

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 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

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 it while socializing. Need help getting started with your knitting project, stop in on a Monday. Registration is requested, visit <http://www.oregonpubliclibrary.com>.

checkers, for anyone to play. Stop in and bring your competitive streak.

Plastic Recycling

No animal feed bags are allowed (cat, dog, bird, etc)* We ask that you make sure plastic is clean with no debris in the donation. Also please remove any ziploc-type seals and paper/sticker labels. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW RELEASES

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.

Toddler Time: Play-dough Party

Join us for dough BEST time! We'll enhance fine motor skills, creativity and problem solving by sculpting with taste-safe playdough. All materials supplied. Friday, June 13, 10 a.m. Ages 1-4. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

library.com or call (815) 732-2724.

Photo Printer at the library!

The library has a photo printer capable of printing 4 x 6, 5x7, 8x10, and 8.5 x 11 from computer, USB drive or SD card. It will not print directly from a phone. Call for more info.

Community Seed Library

Harvesting your garden? Have extra seeds? Donate them to the community seed library. Seeds are FREE for anyone.

Oregon Writers Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am The OWG is a gathering of writers or writer-wannabes who meet to support each other and further their own writing. The purpose of the group is to help and encourage you in your writing. If you need brainstorming ideas, we can help suggest ideas or aid with the creative process.

OPLD Dial-A-Story & Oregon Public Library StoryWalk @Oregon Park West

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto...a story! Current story- *The Circles All Around Us* by Brad Montague. At the StoryWalk is *Chameleons Are Cool!* by Martin Jenkins.

Adult Books

Strangers In Time by David Baldacci

The Protector by Wanda Brunstetter

An Honorable Deception by Roseanna White

Picture Book

I Want to Be A Welder by Julie Murray

50 Things You Didn't Know About Australia by Sean O'Neill

DVD

Sonic the Hedgehog 3

Genealogy Basics: Religious and Legal Records

Aspiring genealogists look at more than just family trees! Religious and legal records can help paint a fuller picture of who your ancestors were beyond names and dates. In this class, we'll discuss types of religious and legal records available on Ancestry and beyond, how to interpret documents such as land grants and deeds and what to do with your discoveries. Monday, June 16, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.



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Christel Ackland 815-561-2153

Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

LOCAL NEWS

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 a 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! Come

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.

Rock River Center Celebrates 50 Years
Saturday, June 21, 2025! OPEN HOUSE: 12:00-2:00 p.m. SHOW-TIME: 5:30-7:00 p.m. Our evening performance will be THE FOUR C NOTES. This is a ticketed event and details are as follows: TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE for purchase at Rock River

Center. Cost: \$60.00 per person. Limited seating available. Appetizers will be served.

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

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

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

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
Tuesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

MORNING MUG CLUB
May 13. 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

FRENCH CLASS
Next Meeting - May

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

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

Display Case Showings
There is a new display in our cases! Artwork from local artists through the years! On loan from Jo Ward, there is a wide range of different types of art from many different artists but all from our local town! Stop by to see this gorgeous collection!

We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are

interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

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

Explore More Illinois
Explore More Illinois users can access, and reserve passes from any of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library website, mtmorris-il.org, under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

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

Book Donations Wel-

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 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-

eryone 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

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On April 11 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North McKendrie and East 1st Street in Mt. Morris. After investigation, deputies placed Jeffery Parsons, 52, of Dixon, under arrest on a Rockford PD warrant for possession of a controlled substance. Parsons was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held pending an appearance before a judge.

On April 12 at approximately 2:03 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Webster Street and 3rd Street in Oregon. After an investigation, deputies placed Jean Bennett, 51, of Dixon, under arrest on a Lee County warrant for a failure to appear. Bennett was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she is being held in lieu of bond.

On April 12 at approximately 7:04 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 111. After an investigation, deputies arrested David Smith, 46, of Rochelle, for driving while his license was revoked and speeding. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail. At the jail, Smith was processed and released on a notice to appear bond for this citations.

On April 12 at approximately 2:51 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South

Illinois Route 2. After an investigation, deputies placed Shannon Adams, 47, of Rochelle, under arrest on an Ogle County warrant for a traffic offense and a Whiteside County warrant for obstructing justice. Adams was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On April 13 at approximately 7:03 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of River Road, Hillcrest for a disturbance. After a brief investigation, Caitlin L. Holt, 28, of Hillcrest, was arrested for battery. Holt was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 14 at 3:20 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and Monroe Center Fire/EMS responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and North Mulford Road in Monroe Center. Upon arrival, deputies found that a car driven by Veronica Rodriguez, 32, of Melrose Park was traveling southbound on North Mulford Road and did not stop for the stop sign before entering onto Illinois Route 72. An eastbound vehicle struck Rodriguez's vehicle on the passenger side. Rodriguez was cited for disobeying a stop sign and given a future court date.

On April 14 at approximately 7:35 p.m. deputies responded to the 16,000 block of West Milledgeville Road, Polo, in reference to

a single-vehicle noninjury accident. After an investigation, Nathan T.J. Hudson, 33, of Polo, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Hudson was also cited for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC greater than .08. Hudson was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Polo Fire and EMS and the Polo Police Department.

On April 14 at approximately 7:47 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of West Orchard Hills Drive in Rochelle for reports of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Deputies located a vehicle at the intersection of East Flagg Road and South Center Road involved in the incident, and arrested Nathan M. Laws, 26, of Rochelle, for aggravated domestic battery. Laws was additionally cited for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol (blood or breath over .08). Laws was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was detained pending an appearance before a judge.

On April 15 at approximately 9:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 20,000 block of East Heal Road in rural Creston.

After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Cesar Soto Piceno, 35, of Creston for no valid driver's license. Soto Piceno was also cited for improper lane usage. Soto Piceno was taken to the Ogle County Jail where he was charged and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 15 at 4:45 p.m. deputies responded to the 400 block of North Hannah Avenue in Mt. Morris for reports of a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, Jared A.A. Babler, 28, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for aggravated battery and domestic battery. Babler was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was detained pending an appearance before a judge.

On April 16 at approximately 10:37 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of West Mud Creek Road and North Limekiln Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Courtney Davies, 37, of Loves Park, under arrest for an Ogle County traffic offense warrant. Davies was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On April 16 at approximately 5:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After a brief investigation, Jovelle T. Moore, 28, of Carpentersville, was placed under

arrest for no valid driver's license. Moore was additionally cited for expired registration. Moore was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 17 at approximately 11:56 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies cited Zackary Helser, 19, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended and no insurance. Helser was given a notice to appear for his citations.

On April 17 at approximately 8:09 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Kathryn Road and Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Jennifer Voorhees, 47, of Sterling under arrest for an active Ogle County warrant for a traffic citation. Voorhees was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On April 17 at approximately 4:45 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Lover's Lane and Oregon Trail Road. After investigation, deputies placed Michael Barnhart, 48, of Dixon under arrest for an active Whiteside County contempt of court warrant. Barnhart was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On April 17 at approximately 8:56 p.m. deputies

conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of East Illinois Route 38. After investigation, deputies placed Meniaka N. Prince-Sadler, 48, of Rochelle under arrest for no valid driver's license. Prince-Sadler was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On April 17 at 10:47 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. As a result, deputies arrested Douglas M. Schuh, 41, of Janesville, Wisconsin, on a Lee County warrant for contempt of court. Schuh was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On April 17 at approximately 9:03 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Jose Rosales-Estrada, 29, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin under arrest for driving while license suspended. Rosales-Estrada was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Rosales-Estrada was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

LOCAL NEWS

2025 Crop marketing program scheduled for June 18

ROCK FALLS — The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of June 18 at the Days Inn, Rock Falls. "Managing Crop Revenue and Market Price Risks" is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions

to capture profit margins through this year into next. Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the Farm & Ag Business Management specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999. He specializes in topics related to government farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing,

grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance. Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually

he reaches more than 200,000 producers, landowners and other agribusiness professionals. During the two-hour program producers will examine the following topics: Global Supply/Demand & Crop Price Outlook; Crop Insurance Coverage Review; Impact of Tariffs on US Trade; Developing & Implementing a Marketing Plan; Understanding Summer Weather Forecasts; and Pre-Harvest Marketing

Strategies & Tools. This presentation will assist producers in designing and implementing a marketing plan that is specific to their own operation. It will present producers with various options they can effectively utilize to capture market profits, manage market risks in this volatile market, minimize cost increases and make informed decisions on input pricing, storage options and position their

marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations. Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net The program begins at 7 p.m. on June 18; Days Inn, Rock Falls.

State Sen. Chesney to co-host pet food donation drive

FREEPORT — A strong advocate for the humane treatment of animals, State Senator Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is partnering with the Northwest Illinois Alliance of Realtors for a pet food donation drive to replenish

supplies at the Friends Forever Humane Society of Freeport. The drive will take place from April 28-May 16. "There is no better pet than an adopted pet, and the Friends Forever Humane Society of Freeport has been

providing loving homes for pets for over 70 years," Chesney said. "Supplies are always needed, and it is my pleasure to co-host a donation drive to ensure their adoptable pets have an adequate amount of food." Specifically, the Society

has expressed a need for the following items: Purina Dog Chow, Purina Cat Chow, Purina Puppy Chow, Purina Kitten Chow, Purina Dog Chow Little Bites, and any variety of Canned Dog Food. Donations can be

dropped off at the following locations: Senator Andrew Chesney's Office at 50 W. Douglas St., Suite #1001, Freeport. Northwest Illinois Alliance of Realtors at 773 W. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 304-A, Freeport, and

1161 Tebala Blvd., Rockford. Keller Williams at 809 Spring St., Galena. For additional information about this event please call (815) 395-6777 or email Ashley at Ashley@nwrealtors.org.

Forreston High School sets Honors Night and Graduation dates

FORRESTON — Forreston High School will be holding its annual honor's night for graduating seniors on Wednesday, May

14 in the FHS gymnasium. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with a welcome from Principal Heinz. This will be followed by presenting

the class of 2025 with scholarships and awards earned. Forreston High school held its Baccalaureate ser-

vice for graduating seniors on Sunday, May 11 in the FHS gymnasium. The service will begin at 7 p.m. The Forrestville Valley

School District and Board of Education will be presenting diplomas to the 2025 graduating class of Forreston High on Sunday,

May 18 in the FHS gymnasium beginning at 2 p.m. Students, families, and community members are invited to attend.

Weekly Brain Busters

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Swedish car
5 Do sums
8 Gym pads
12 Bruins' sch.
13 Cattle call
14 Modern money
15 Tall, thin person
17 Bickering
18 Sound from a hot wok
19 Small bill
20 Elitists
21 Warm-up run
22 "Top Gun" target
23 Fall flower
26 "Hamilton" or "Rent"
30 Old money of Rome
31 Weir
32 Tiers
33 Not generic
35 Flaxen, as hair
36 Stitch
37 Hosp. workers
38 Smiles broadly
41 Bikini half
42 Solidify
45 "The Wire" actor Idris
46 Tilt towards
48 Region (Abbr.)
49 Kreskin's claim

DOWN

1 Long lunches?
2 High cards
3 Regrettably
4 Prohibit
5 Surrounded by
6 Hand (out)
7 Anonymous Jane
8 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
9 Prefix with pilot
10 Chicago paper, for short
11 Lushes
16 Indigent
20 Venus, to Serena
21 "Hacks" actress
22 Silent
23 Cleric's tunic
24 Navy address
25 -la-la
26 Frenzied
27 Bill's partner
28 Bristle
29 Leary's drug
31 Morning moisture
34 — Moines
35 Muffin choice
37 Cover with cloth
38 Wagers
39 Power co. supply
40 "East of Eden" girl
41 Optimum
42 Bitty biter
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Privation
46 French article
47 AOL, for one

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

MAGIC MAZE

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

Arviat	Hay River	Kinngait	Rankin Inlet
Baker Lake	Igloolik	Kugluktuk	Whitehorse
Dawson City	Inuvik	Nauyasat	Yellowknife
Fort Smith	Iqaluit	Pond Inlet	

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is longer. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bracelet is moved.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer

King Crossword

Answers

PLACES IN NORTHERN CANADA

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

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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)

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COMMUNITY STATE BANK OF ROCK FALLS, Plaintiff,
v.
ROBERT L. TURNER, AVEN FINANCIAL INC., d/b/a AVEN FINANCIAL as successor in interest to COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK, GOODLEAP, LLC, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Property Address:
8083 South Green Street
Dixon, Illinois 61021
No. 0255FC20
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
Lots Seven (7), Eight (8), Nine (9) and Ten (10) in Block Sixteen (16) in the Original Town of Grand Detour, according to the revised Plat of the Town of Grand Detour and its Addition, recorded in Book B of Miscellaneous Records, Page 160 in the Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois; situated in the Township of Grand Detour, the County of Ogle and the State of Illinois. PIN: 21-13-107-002.
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 8083 South Green Street, Dixon, Illinois 61021
and which said Mortgage was made by Robert L. Turner, Mortgagor, to Community State Bank of Rock Falls, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Ogle County, Illinois, as Document No. 202202912; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
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, Illinois 61061
On or before June 6, 2025. A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGEMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.
Dated: May 1, 2025
Kimberly A. Stahl
Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County, Illinois
No. 0509
(May 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE
SPRING BROOK MHP, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, Plaintiff,
v.
SAMANTHA MARTINS, Defendant
NO. 2025CH8
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
To: Samantha Martins
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 1967 Duke Mobile Home; VIN: 522257, Title Number 16221697484, located at 501 N. Ash Avenue, Lot 8, Forreston, 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 June 10, 2025. A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGEMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.
DATED: MAY 1, 2025
Kimberly A. Stahl
Clerk of the Circuit Court Ogle County, Illinois
No. 0510
(May 12, 19 and 26, 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.

203 HELP WANTED

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

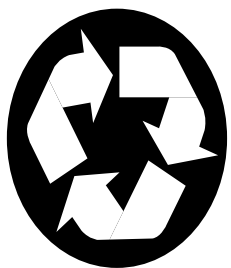
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination.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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

511 STORAGE UNITS

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



203 HELP WANTED

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development Unit 2

The University of Illinois Extension is seeking a Youth Development Educator for program delivery in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties. Master's degree required. 4-H or livestock experience helpful.

- Full-time, benefits eligible
- Background check required

Deadline: May 28.
For more information call 815-732-2191.

EEO Employer.

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!

04282025



305 GARAGE SALES

Multi Family Sales

West Grove Road and Others
Mt. Morris
Wed., May 14th 12-5/Thur., May 15th 9-4
Rain or Shine
6000 West Grove Rd.
6410 West Grove Rd.
7251 W. Northwest Rd.

Men's Clothing xl-xxl women's clothing small large and xl boys and girls clothes 4 T - 10/12 toys books shoes purses home decor holiday items small oak desk dresser's furniture lawn decor flower pots records mirrors old books glassware galvanized tubs / buckets old milk cart ladders garden gnomes metal stools milk cans gumball machine total gym with attachments old stereo console twin bed frame Longaberger vintage collectibles 2012 Forest Wind Jammer M-2102W camper lots of great stuff!

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration

6331 11th Street | Rockford

New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
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We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

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Support, Advocacy, Referral Services, Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.

HOPE of Ogle County



P.O. Box 131
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Public Service Announcement



Place an Ad or Subscribe:
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Ogle County Life
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All in the Classifieds!

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Hacksauction.com



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**If you are
anywhere
in your
journey with
substance
use disorder,**

I want you to stop,
look around
and open your heart.

Revel in the abundance
of your existence.
See how small
substance use disorder
can be when sat next
to all that you are
or ever could be.

Fill your existence
with beauty, purpose
and a life of service.

And your substance
use disorder—
your history of addiction,
the things you
may have done
that you are not
proud of—will one day
be small enough
to deal with
while allowing you
space to live this life
of joy.

Hold on.

We are not the sum
of our scars but rather
a beautiful mosaic of the
life they hold together.

—Joseph
Washington, DC
In recovery from
substance use
disorder

**Learn how
substance use
recovery can**

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NATIONAL
COUNCIL
for Mental
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 **Shatterproof**
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stillmanbank.com

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

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RockValleyProperties.com

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815.732.6851
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BLACKTOP & SEALCOATING

King Blacktop

3499 N. Tower Rd., Byron
815.234.4171
kingblacktop.com

CONSIGNMENT/RESALE SHOPPING

Angel Treasures Resale Shop

201 IL Route 64, Mt. Morris, IL
815.734.0504

ReRuns

120 W. 2nd St., Byron
815.406.8060
rerunsbyron.com

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Central Illinois Loans

310 Eagle Dr
815.561.4035
centralillinoisloans.com

Stillman Bank

608 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron
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1445 IL Route 2 North, Oregon
815.732.7956
101 East Main St., Stillman Valley
815.645.2266
stillmanbank.com

GARDEN CENTER

Hidden Timber Gardens

462 S. Chana Rd., Chana
815.751.4162
hiddentimbergardens.com

HEALTH SERVICES

Rochelle Community Hospital

900 N. 2nd St., Rochelle
815.562.2181
rochellehospital.com

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE SERVICES

Serenity Hospice and Home

1658 S. IL Route 2, Oregon, IL
Serenityhospiceandhome.org

MENTAL HEALTH/COUNSELING SERVICES

Sinnissippi Centers

100 Jefferson St., Oregon
815.732.3157
1321 N. 7th St., Rochelle
815.562.3801
sinnissippi.org

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Byron Forest Preserve

7993 N. River Rd., Byron
815.234.8535
byronforestpreserve.com

The Serenity Shed

131 N. 3rd St., Oregon, IL
815.732.2499

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815.732.5291
rockrivertitle.com

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rockvalleyproperties.com

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Rock River Center

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Community



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www.rochellehospital.com



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LOCAL NEWS



At left from left to right: Advisor Justin Ebert, Hannah Beran (Dixon), Faith Ukena (Polo), Ty Spahn (Hanover), Taylor Robinson (Lena), Lauren Witte (Freeport), Madison Simms (Monroe Center), Rebekah Visel (Lena), Aaliyah Whitney (Pearl City), and Ali Danekas (Polo) represented Highland's Agriculture program at the 2025 National Professional Agriculture Student (PAS) Conference. At right from left to right: Highland students Ty Spahn, Rebekah Visel, Faith Ukena, Lauren Witte, Taylor Robinson, Hannah, Ali Madison, and Aaliyah Whitney sight-see in Custer-Gallatin National Forest.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Highland Agriculture Students attend National PAS Conference in Wyoming

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — Nine Highland Community College students headed out west for their spring break to compete at the 2025 National Professional Agriculture Student (PAS) Conference held March 17-20, 2025, at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming.

"The trip started with a flight to Bozeman, Montana, where students enjoyed sightseeing and shopping. After a few hours in a rental van to reach the conference, our students got down to business and spent the next three days competing with 500 other college students from across the country," said Justin Ebert, Highland Ag Club and PAS advisor.

Students participated in nine different competition areas, which concluded with an outstanding showing in the college quiz bowl. They celebrated with more sightseeing in the mountains and a steak dinner, followed by a safe return flight to Illinois.

Ebert said, "I am very proud of all the work the students put into their preparation for the competitions. The trip allowed them to network with other college students, refine their leadership and communication skills and explore the beauty of the American west."

Congratulations to the following Highland Community College students: Taylor Robinson,

Lena: National Champion: Agriculture Education Teaching Demonstration and National Champion: Agriculture Education Career Progress Project.

Madison Simms, Monroe Center: National Champion: Plant Systems Career Progress Project and eighth place: Agromomic Service Interview.

Faith Ukena, Polo: National Champion: Biotechnology Career Planning Project and National Runner-Up: Floriculture, Landscaping, and Nursery Interview.

Lauren Witte, Freeport: National Runner-Up: Agriculture Education Career Planning Project and fifth place: Ag Promotion

and Marketing Project.

Ty Spahn, Hanover: National Runner-Up: Food Products and Processing Career Planning Project and National Runner-Up: Specialty Crop Interview.

Hannah Beran, Dixon: National Runner-Up: Ag Equipment Interview and fifth place: Plant Systems Career Planning Project.

Rebekah Visel, Lena: fourth place: Animal Systems Career Planning Project and 11th Place: Ag Sales Interview.

Aaliyah Whitney, Pearl City: fifth place: Livestock and Dairy Interview and sixth place: Agribusiness Career Progress Project.

Ali Danekas, Polo: sixth place: Agribusiness Career Planning Project and sixth place: Agribusiness Administration Interview.

Sheep/Goat Team – Fifth place and Witte - seventh, Danekas - 12th, and Beran - 16th.

Dairy Team - Sixth place and Whitney - 10th, Ukena - 13th, and Spahn - 18th.

Equine Team - Ninth place and Visel - 11th, Robinson - 31st, and Simms - 39th.

Highland Community College Agriculture would like to thank the administration, board, Foundation, Anthony Musso, Zachary Green, Hannah Slamp, par-

ents, and the community for supporting both preparation for the conference and the trip itself.

The PAS Organization is a national student organization that provides opportunities for college agriculture students to experience individual growth, leadership, and career preparation through competition and cooperative activities. Launched in 1980, it includes students from 2-year and 4-year agriculture colleges from across the United States. For more information on the Highland Community College Agriculture Program or the PAS Organization, contact Justin Ebert at justin.ebert@highland.edu.

Mighty Clovers 4-H Club members busy with volunteerism

MONROE CENTER — The Mighty Clover 4-H Club has participated in many volunteer opportunities around Ogle County. During the Mighty Clover April

4-H meeting, the club made Easter baskets for nursing home residents in Byron. Over 100 baskets were made to bring the residents joy.

On April 12, members

from local 4-H clubs, including Mighty Clovers, helped the Byron Forest Preserve plant trees at the Byron Forest Preserve. More than 20 new trees were planted to help the

ecosystem in our local community.

On April 26, as part of the National 4-H Day of Service, members of the Mighty Clovers 4-H Club helped clean Mon-

roe Center Park. Their projects included raking, painting, and getting the baseball diamonds ready for games.

Mighty Clovers meet on the second Wednesday

of every month at the Monroe Center Village Hall, 300 Pacific St., IL 61052.

The next meeting will be on May 21. Come join the Mighty Clovers!



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USDA Choice BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN FILETS
2/\$8 8 oz ea

Prices Effective: Wednesday, May 14 thru Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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Sullivan's Signature **FRESH SUPER LEAN GROUND BEEF SIRLOIN**
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US Gov't Insp COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS Family Pack
1.88 lb



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Bakery Fresh GOURMET BROWNIES 6 ct
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Deli TWICE BAKED POTATOES 4 ct
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Single Personal Graduation Cake



\$5

Pick the one or two colors to make it your own.

Graduation Sheet Cake



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Includes: Floral Spray, Cap, and Diploma Choice of White, Chocolate, or Marble Full Sheet Serves up to 80

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