



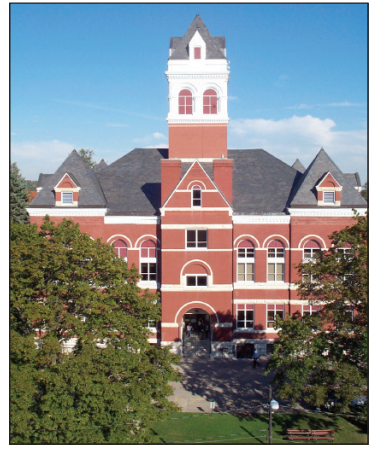
Ogle County athletes sign NLIs

Athletes from Oregon, Byron and Polo participated in Signing Day ceremonies. **Section B**

Ogle County

LIFE

Rock Valley Shopper



VOLUME 37, ISSUE 10

MONDAY
May 19, 2025

FREE

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Meridian CUSD receives donation


The Meridian CUSD received a donation for its lunch program. **Page 14**




NIFB holds ribbon ceremony

The Northern Illinois Food Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new location. **Page 2**


WEATHER




MONDAY
HIGH LOW
66 57




TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
61 57




WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
59 57



THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
66 57



FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
68 57



SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
74 57

OBITUARIES

- Elizabeth Ann 'Betsy' Roe Young
- Steve Johnson
- Lorraine E. Cheek
- Roger A. Sheely

See page 4

INSERTS

- Felker Foods
- Snyder Pharmacy
- Polo Foods
- Menards
- Farm & Fleet
- Grad Tab

Rochelle's Romes marks 65+ years of coaching

"I've always told kids, 'Find something you like to do and make it your career.'"

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—When Don Romes was six years old, he would go down into his basement at night and cut the bottom out of a coffee can and tack it onto the wall and shoot a tennis ball into it.

"I would play imaginary games and even write down the names of the players," Romes said. "The game would always come down to the end and I'd shoot the free throw for the win."

That was where Romes' competitive spirit began. Romes is now 87, and on May 3 the community gathered at The REC Center to celebrate the longtime Rochelle resident's 65+ year career in coaching sports, including stops at Rochelle Township High School, Steward Elementary School, Freeport Aquin and Sterling Newman. This past year, Romes coached his great-granddaughter in basketball at Steward, which may be the final



Don Romes is now 87, and on May 3 the community gathered at The REC Center to celebrate the longtime Rochelle resident's 65+ year career in coaching sports, including stops at Rochelle Township High School, Steward Elementary School, Freeport Aquin and Sterling Newman.

stop in his decades-long coaching tenure.

Romes grew up in Keokuk, Iowa. He started his coaching and teaching career in Belle Plaine, Iowa in 1960 after college as a basketball head coach and assistant in football and track. After three years there, he moved on to Fort Dodge, Iowa to the same position for four years.

See **DON ROMES** page 13

Rochelle DAR celebrates 125th anniversary

Chapter was established in May 1900: 'Our mission hasn't changed'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON—On May 3, the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 125th anniversary at the Creston Opera House.

The chapter was organized May 19, 1900 in Rochelle. Artifacts from different periods of the chapter's history were displayed including the chapter's charter from June 1900, early record books, and the original membership application of Organizing Regent Josephine Waite Barker from 1896.

The celebration began with an ice cream social, which was followed by a program presented by select chapter members in dress ranging from as early as the Revolutionary War period up to the present time. Presenters also wore attire from the early 1900s, 1920, the 1950s and the 1970s. A requirement of joining DAR is being able to trace your ancestry to a patriot of the American Revolution.

"We had some articles about what the DAR has been involved with in the past 125 years," Chapter Regent Debby Katzman said. "The organization has supported patriotism, historical preservation and education since its earliest days. That hasn't changed, and that was great to see."



On May 3, the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 125th anniversary at the Creston Opera House.

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

On April 30, donors, volunteers, neighbors, elected officials, board members, staff and other community partners gathered for a ribbon cutting, open house and tour of the new Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market in Rockford.

NIFB holds ribbon cutting for new Neighborhood Market and Northwest Center

ROCKFORD — On April 30, donors, volunteers, neighbors, elected officials, board members, staff and other community partners gathered for a ribbon cutting, open house and tour of the new Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market in Rockford.

The new Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market relocation and expansion offers some significant improvements: A larger parking lot with better visibility and easier access, right on a major thoroughfare.

An additional 11,000 square feet — which includes two dock doors, increased freezer and cooler capacity, and expanded warehouse space. This means we can store and distribute more food, more efficiently.

The ability to accommodate more volunteers who can help us evaluate, sort, repack and distribute food at one time. We anticipate this will allow us to double the amount of donated food processed.

Our pantries have an expanded shopping area and designated cooler for perishable foods.

A more spacious and welcoming Neighborhood Market — formerly known as the Winnebago Community Market — which now offers an enhanced grocery shopping experience. We're proud to support neighbors through programs like OrderAhead for private online ordering, free grocery delivery through Amazon, and new temperature-controlled lockers for 24/7 grocery order pickup thanks to a grant received by Feeding America, with funding from US Foods.

A dedicated area for wrap-around services and additional resources to fur-

ther support our neighbors in need.

And a new meeting space available for our partners, staff, and the broader community.

Over the past year, the Market has served 1,700 households each week. In Winnebago County, the Food Bank, market, and partner agencies together is serving 57K neighbors monthly, that number continues to climb — even higher than pre-pandemic levels — as inflation and rising costs force families to make incredibly difficult choices.

262 donors supported the

relocation of the Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market. We received gifts ranging from \$1-95,000 and each of those gifts made this Center & Market possible.

Over the past five years, the Food Bank has responded by increasing meal distribution from 5.3 million in FY19 to 8.7 million in FY24 in Winnebago County. How does the food bank meet this incredible need?

Northern Illinois Food Bank collaborates with over 200 member agencies and program sites throughout our Northwest Region in Winnebago,

Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties — which include food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes/shelters, schools, senior centers, and other community organizations — to ensure neighbors have consistent access to nutritious food. These member agencies and program partners are critical to reaching neighbors and meeting the growing need, with dignity, equity and convenience.

For more information about how to donate, volunteer or get groceries, visit SolveHungerToday.org.

Fritts honors Flight Deck for April Local Business Highlight

ROCHELLE — For his April 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.

"This month, I chose to highlight Flight Deck

in Rochelle because of their continued efforts to support and give back to our community," Fritts said. "Ashley Bick, owner of Flight Deck, is on the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Board and the Destination Committee for the City of Rochelle. She also sponsors and hosts many events at her restaurant, such as free photos with Santa, com-

munity fireworks shows with the Chicagoland Skydiving Center, Small Business Bingo, the annual Fireman's Ball, and so much more."

Bick began as the general manager at Flight Deck in 2017. In 2019, she bought the restaurant. She is a mother of six, with two of her children currently working at Flight Deck.

Rep. Fritts continued, "I also want to commend Ashley and her family for their dedication to keeping Flight Deck open, even after the challenges of remaining open through the COVID-19 pandemic. She has continued her hard work and recently bought a catering truck to support her expanding operations. That kind of hard work and determination should



(COURTESY PHOTO)

For his April 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle.

always be celebrated in our community."

Flight Deck is located at 1207 Gurler Road in

Rochelle.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight,

visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.



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LOCAL NEWS

Highland Nursing celebrates perfect pass rate

FREEPORT—Highland’s Nursing and Allied Health program has more than one perfect reason to celebrate this spring.

The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses, reported a “first attempt” pass rate of 100 percent for the Highland Community College nursing program graduating class of 2024. To put things in perspective, the national average is 91 percent and the average Illinois pass rate was 85 percent for 2024.

“This was no accident. It’s what happens when an amazing team digs deep to transform a program and support their students,” said Dr. Stephanie Eymann, DNP, RN, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health at Highland.

The path to 100 percent hasn’t been easy, but it is rewarding. After COVID ushered in a dramatic drop in pass rates both locally and nationally, Dr. Eymann and her team got to work.

From implementing remediation support for students with “at risk” grades to providing all students with free, specialized tutoring, their efforts are paying off. Additionally, the department has elevated hands-on learning. In 2022, Highland cut the ribbon on a new simulation hospital, and last fall,

they unveiled a mobile medical unit.

“We are sending a clear message to prospective students in our district: you will find an exceptional healthcare education right here in your community,” said Eymann.

Eymann explained a large part of their students’ success is because their faculty never view “good enough” as good enough. Up-to-date research and effective tools guide curriculum development. This approach isn’t limited to their registered nurse pathway.

Just last month, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) conducted a compliance review of Highland’s Basic Nursing Assistant Program and reported a perfect score. Cassie Mekeel, BSN, RN, serves as Highland’s Basic Nursing Assistant Coordinator. She explained why the IDPH’s latest review was a major affirmation.

“I was thrilled to open that email from the IDPH that congratulated us on a perfect visit,” said Mekeel.

The IDPH stated the perfect score as “truly rare” and expressed their appreciation for Highland’s investment in the program and excellent state exam scores, adding that their Basic Nursing Assistant Program “stands out in the best way possible!”



Highland’s Nursing and Allied Health faculty and students celebrate a “first attempt” pass rate of 100 percent for (NCLEX), the nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses.

“I was elated to share the news with our team,” said Mekeel. “But more importantly, we are all excited to affirm we are providing our students with the training and skills they need to confidently enter the workplace and make a

positive impact on their patients and community.”

Highland’s Nursing and Allied Health Department offers a variety of healthcare career pathways, including Medical Assistant, C.N.A./Basic Nursing Assistant, Phle-

botomy and Nursing.

Students can complete some certificate programs in as little as five to 12 weeks. Not only are programs affordable, but each year, the Highland Community College Foundation awards \$50,000 in scholarships

and grants to Highland students who are seeking a healthcare education.

To learn more about Highland’s healthcare career pathways, contact Dr. Eymann at 815-599-3439 or e-mail her at stephanie.eymann@highland.edu.

Sen. Chesney launches 2025 Summer Reading Program

FREEPORT — To keep young minds active during the summer break from school, State Sen. Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) is inviting children in his district to participate in his 2025 Summer Reading Program.

“Reading over the summer isn’t just about keeping kids busy, it’s about giving them a head start for the next school year,” Chesney said. “This program encourages young readers to keep their minds sharp while having fun with great books.”

Students entering first through sixth grade are challenged to read eight books over the course of the summer. Books over

200 pages may count as two books. Once a student has completed the readings, a summer reading form should be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. The form can be accessed by visiting senatorchesney.com.

Completed forms should be returned by Aug. 13, to the following address: State Senator Andrew Chesney; 50 W. Douglas St., Suite 1001; Freeport, IL 61032.

“Every student who completes this challenge deserves recognition,” Chesney said. “It’s a great way to celebrate their effort and show that hard work, especially when it comes to learning, pays off.”

Participants who complete the program will receive an official certifi-

cate of recognition from the Illinois Senate and an invitation to a special ice

cream party to celebrate their achievement.

For additional infor-

mation, please contact Senator Chesney’s district office at (815) 232-0774.

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

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

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

*Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

ENTRY FORM

GRADUATE’S FIRST/LAST NAME _____

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

Person submitting photo: _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Photos may be picked up after May 26, 2025. Entries must be received by 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment (\$12) along with this completed form to:

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

815-732-2156

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

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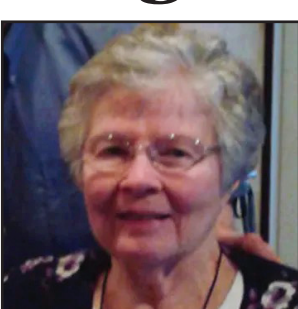
LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Elizabeth Ann ‘Betsy’ Roe Young

BROOKFIELD, Wis. — Elizabeth Ann ‘Betsy’ Roe Young 88 passed away May 26, 2024 at Congregational Home, Brookfield, WI. She was born August 18, 1935 in Rochelle, Illinois to Morris M. Roe and Helen A. Roe, nee Hall. She attended Oregon, IL schools from kindergarten through High School Graduation with high academic standards and many extracurricular activities. She was very active in Girl Scouts in her early grade school years and worked part time in restaurants during high school years. She attended the University of Illinois graduating with a degree in Home Economics in December 1956. She was a member of Delta Zeta Sorority and remained active with the sorority orga-

nizations for many years. Following her graduation she worked as a Home Economist for Northern Illinois Gas Company, Aurora, IL presenting gas appliance cooking capabilities throughout the area. She married John E. Young May 17, 1958 in the Methodist Church, Oregon, IL. In marriage the Youngs lived in Rockford, IL for many years, then Tampa, FL for a few years before moving to Phoenixville, PA for very many years. Betsy was involved with many charitable organizations over the years helping others in need. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband John E. Young. She is survived by her sons Michael (Mindy), David (Patti) brother John H. Roe and grandchildren Jeff,



Beth, Karen, Jack Will and Ian as well as many cousins and long term friends. Interment will be on Sunday, May 25th, 2025 at Lighthouse Methodist Church Cemetery, rural Oregon, IL, following the church service in Lighthouse United Methodist Church, 4938 South Daysville Road, Oregon, IL. Church service will begin at 11:00 AM with the Pastor David Rogula officiating. Visit www.farrellhollandgale.com to leave a condolence or memory of Betsy.

Lorraine E. Cheek

MT. MORRIS — Lorraine E Cheek (nee Hartje) of Mt Morris passed into her Lord’s gentle arms on May 12. She was born October 26, 1929 in Maryland Township and was the 13th of 13 children born to William and Louise (Kreimeyer) Hartje. She graduated from Leaf River High School and married her high school sweetheart, Roger Cheek, on October 23, 1948.

Church activities were always a large part of their life, and at age 35, Roger entered the ministry. Lorraine became an active partner in that ministry as a pastor’s wife. They served many United Methodist churches in Southeast South Dakota and Northern Illinois and made countless friends along the way. Children’s and youth ministries and music were Lorraine’s passions. She sang in and directed many choirs and Sunday School programs throughout the years. Together she and Roger led many MYF activities and camping trips. Lorraine loved the

outdoors and traveling, especially camping and fishing. She enjoyed baking and gardening, but mostly she loved her family and friends near and far! Lorraine always kept her hands busy with crafting and sewing projects and later turned this into a business. She owned Wood ‘N Whimsey in Sterling and later in Galena. She and Roger retired to a small patch of land south of Galena where, with their own hands and the help of family, they built a house overlooking the Mississippi River. Later they moved back to the Mt Morris area.

Lorraine is survived by children Denise, Deb, Belinda of Mt Morris/ Oregon; Edward and wife Becky of DeKalb; Marilyn Mason; Grandchildren Rhonda, Heather, and Ethan (Tara Olsen); and great-grandson Liam. She was preceded in death by husband Roger, her parents, twelve siblings, and dozens of in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends.

An interment service for family will be held



at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Disciples United Methodist Church in Mt Morris. Family will be available for visitation prior to the service at 10:00. There will be a light luncheon following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorials to one of the following agencies. The family wishes to express much gratitude to the staff and community of these organizations for the love and excellent care they provided for Mom and for all of the family.

Allure of Pinecrest/ Terrace Activities, 414 S Wesley Ave, Mt Morris, IL 61054

Serenity Hospice, 1658 IL-2, Oregon, IL 61061

Rockford University Spring 2025 Distinguished Scholars named

ROCKFORD — The following full-time (12 or more credits) students attending Rockford University were named Distinguished Scholars for the Spring 2025 semester,

earning at least a 3.75 with no grades below “C” and having completed all requirements for the semester.

Nicholas Lamb of Oregon, Alana McConnell of Byron, Braden Politsch of

Forreston, Lauren Giddings of Stillman Valley, Macie Boyd of Stillman Valley, Rebekah Starwalt of Byron, Zachary Tucker of Byron, Grace Eisenrich of Oregon, and Linnea Nelson of Byron.

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The Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper

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Published every Monday by Rochelle Newspapers, Inc. at 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068-1183. Subscriptions in our service area are free on a requester basis. Periodicals Postage Rates paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Ogle County Life/ Rock Valley Shopper, P.O. Box 175, Rochelle, IL 61068-9801. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have carrier delivery and your paper fails to arrive by 7 p.m. on Monday, telephone our office at 732-2156, if your paper fails to arrive by mail telephone our circulation office at 562-4171, ext. 112. For subscriptions, call the LIFE office at 815-732-2156.

Steve Johnson

POLO — Steve Johnson of Polo, IL, age 78 died peacefully on May 8, 2025 at OSF St. Katherine’s in Dixon, IL. He was born January 3, 1947 in Rockford, IL to Paul and Ruby Johnson.

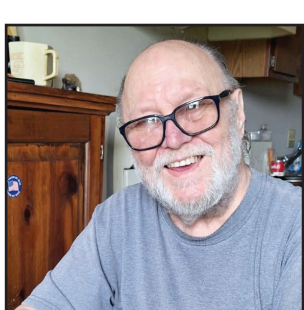
He married the love of his life, Sonja Johnson on April 11, 1970 and was married until her passing on August 26, 1988. They had 3 beautiful girls, Sara, Samantha and Stephanie. Steve drove for Consolidated Freightways for over 30 years until his retirement in 2000. He later married Vonda (Bardell) Craig in August 1999 until her passing on March 1, 2007.

Steve enjoyed fishing and golfing and absolutely loved telling stories from his youth. If you ever needed a movie or TV trivia question answered, he was

your guy! He enjoyed playing cards with the guys and cribbage. Most of all, he loved his girls & grandkids. That’s when his face lit up.

He is survived by his daughters; Sara (Scott) Thorngren of Milledgeville, Samantha (Mike) Olsen of Polo, Stephanie (Matthias) Kemmeren of Dixon, sister, Terry Skogsberg of Rockford. grandson, Devon (Haylee) Plachno of Rock Falls, granddaughters, Siena and Alexis Kemmeren, Linnea and Britt Thorngren, step-grandchildren, Terry (Franny) Olsen, Nichole (Zeb) Harris, great grandchildren, Lilyann and Elijah Plachno, many step great grandchildren and niece, Patty Beman.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at Jeff’s Refs in Polo. Please come share a



favorite story or memory and perhaps a drink with Steve’s family and friends. The family would like to extend a huge thank you to the amazing staff in the ICU Department at OSF St. Katherine’s in Dixon for the great care and compassion given to Steve during his time there.

Cremation rights have been established.

A memorial has been established at First State Bank Shannon-Polo in Polo.

Condolences may be sent at www.polofamily-funeralhome.com

Roger A. Sheely

OREGON — Roger A Sheely, age 77, of Oregon, Illinois passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at his home. He was born May 24, 1947 to Alvin (Banty) Sheely and Marie Klapprodt Sheely at KSB Hospital in Dixon, IL. Roger was a graduate of Mt Morris High School, Class of 1965. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1965 and was a proud Vietnam Veteran.

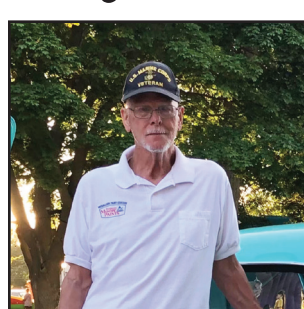
Roger loved his family and his many friends and neighbors. He was also eager to help anyone in anyway that he could. No project was to big or to small. He could fix a hearing aid or a piece of quarry equipment. He would do it by the book or by the “Sheely Fix It” way. Roger started fixing things at a young age. As a very mischievous little

boy he once took his moms sewing machine all apart and no one could fix it so she had to get a new one. This was just a self taught repairman roll, that I believe he instilled in his own sons!

Roger collected many things including Simplicity mowers, motorcycles, trucks and cars. His favorite car was his dad’s 55 T Bird. He loved fishing from the bank of the Pine Creek or his boat in Florida.

Roger was a member of the Rock River Riders Motorcycle Club, and was a hillclimb champion.

Retired from Local 150, worked alongside his brother at Sheely Aggregates. Roger was an avid Lottery Ticket scratcher. If you think about a proud American or PineCricker, you will



remember Roger.

Roger is survived by his wife, Linda Lawson Sheely. Sons: Michael Sheely, Lucas Sheely, Myrl Johnson. Daughters: Shannon Hughes and Ann Miller. Brother; Ken Sheely Sister; Sue Ramage and many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by his parents and sister Kathy Sheely Brooks.

Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 31, 2025 1-4 pm at the Oregon VFW. Wear patriotic themed attire if possible!

Illinois Extension to host webinar on farm property insurance June 23

FREEPORT – The University of Illinois Extension will present the final session of its Legal Training for Illinois Small Farms Webinar Series, focusing on Farm Property Insurance. This virtual event, delivered by Farm Commons, is scheduled for June 23 from 7-8 p.m.

Farm and ranch operations rely heavily on physical assets such as buildings, equipment, vehicles, and supplies. Damage or loss of these resources can significantly impact profitability. This webinar will explore how various property insurance options can mitigate these risks when properly understood and implemented.

“Our Legal Training for

Illinois Small Farms Webinar Series has empowered Illinois farmers with essential legal knowledge in an accessible format, and this final session on farm property insurance continues that tradition by giving producers practical tools to protect their operations from potentially devastating losses,” said Grant McCarty, Local Foods Systems and Small Farms educator, U of I Extension. “Throughout this series, participants have gained confidence in navigating complex agricultural business matters, from land leases to insurance policies, helping them build more resilient and legally sound farm enterprises.”

This webinar concludes

the Legal Training for Illinois Small Farms Series, which has provided farmers with crucial legal knowledge to strengthen their business practices and operational resilience.

How to register: Participation is free of charge. Secure your spot by visiting go.illinois.edu/FarmPropertyInsurance or calling 815-235-4125.

For questions about the series or to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Nikki Keltner at nkeltner@illinois.edu or 815-235-4125. Early accommodation requests are encouraged to ensure proper arrangements.

Series background: The Legal Training for Illinois Small Farms Series is a quarterly program offered by University of Illinois Extension, serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties, in partnership with Farm Commons, a nonprofit dedicated to helping farmers navigate through legal challenges through community support.

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LOCAL NEWS

Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day unites stakeholders to advocate for state's largest industry

SPRINGFIELD — “Agriculture unites us all” was the resounding message as representatives from University of Illinois Extension, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, and nearly 50 diverse agriculture organizations converged on the state Capitol for the 55th annual Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day.

The event, organized by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, brought together agricultural stakeholders to advocate for the industry that serves as the backbone of Illinois’ economy. The state continues to be a leading producer of soybeans, corn, and swine, as well as numerous specialty crops.

The day featured opening remarks from Governor J.B. Pritzker, Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton,

and Director Costello, with additional comments from Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Doris Turner (D-Springfield) and House Agriculture Committee Minority Spokesperson Charlie Meier (R-109th District).

“We are proud to stand alongside our partners to advocate for policies that support the continued growth and sustainability of this vital industry,” said Germán Bollero, dean of the College of ACES. “Illinois Agricultural Legislative Day serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of agriculture, not just to Illinois’ economy, but to the health and well-being of our communities. Our college is committed to advancing research, education, and outreach that empowers future generations of agricultural leaders, from our youth

programs to cutting-edge research in sustainable farming practices and beyond.”

Gathering Bipartisan Support for House Bill 4035: Throughout the day, attendees had opportunities to meet with legislators to discuss University of Illinois’ efforts to support agriculture through research, education, and outreach programs. Key topics included sustaining family farms, expanding agricultural education, increasing access to mental health resources in rural communities, and protecting farmland.

The recently introduced House Bill 4035 seeks to increase Extension funding through the Illinois Department of Agriculture, which will put more educators in the field throughout the state. These educators provide

programs, services, and research-based information to the people of Illinois. Constituents can easily express their support for HB4035 by using Illinois Connections to contact their legislators.

Youth Development: Fostering the Next Generation in Agriculture. Hundreds of young leaders from 4-H, FFA, and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences participated, highlighting the vital role of youth in agriculture’s future.

In a powerful address, Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team Chair Janella Neary shared how the organization has grown dramatically. “The University of Illinois Extension 4-H program reaches nearly 200,000 youth between the ages of five to 18,” Neary told lawmakers.



(COURTESY PHOTO) **4-H Youth Leadership Team Chair Janella Neary.**

Neary, a freshman at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying agricultural education in the College of ACES, emphasized how 4-H provides youth with opportunities to explore agriculture, STEM, community service, civic engagement, and leadership development. She highlighted her journey from showing livestock on her family’s Centennial Farm

to chairing the state’s 4-H Youth Leadership Team. “I would not be the person I am today without 4-H and the guidance given to me by my mentors,” Neary said. “As we reflect today on the impact of 4-H and the dedication of our agriculturist partners, let us remember that University of Illinois and Illinois Extension positively impact the families in your legislative districts.”

Immeasurable impact gained through dedication of Illinois Extension volunteers

URBANA—They are friends, neighbors, family members, or someone we run into at local community events. More than 5,000 of these individuals are University of Illinois Extension volunteers.

These volunteers make a difference in their communities daily by supporting Illinois Extension’s mission of extending knowledge through partnership, lifelong learning, and lifelong impact. Sharing their passions through volunteering finds them alongside programs for community, economy, environment, food and

agriculture, health, partnership, technology and discovery, and workforce excellence.

In 2024, volunteers contributed \$15,735,213 in value back to their communities. Without their dedication and time, Extension could not have reached over 730 communities and over 800,000 program attendees statewide, from Jo Daviess to Alexander counties.

“When visiting an Extension office, there is a high probability of running into a volunteer or five on any given day,” says Sheila Powers, vol-

unteer relations associate with Illinois Extension. “Whether they are there working help desk hours for the Master Gardener program or meeting with Extension staff to plan future events, they always have a great story to share.”

While the numbers show impact, it is the individual stories and relationships that are worth a lifetime. Alongside Extension, volunteers thrive through values including collaboration, credibility, inclusivity, and learning.

Without each and ev-

ery volunteer throughout Illinois Extension’s 111-year history, the organization could not be available to individuals in every county throughout the state. Extension impacts people’s daily lives, and volunteers continue to help drive the change.

To all of those who are Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Illinois 4-H leaders, Money Mentors, and anyone who participates in Extension’s volunteer programs, thank you.

Take a moment to thank those who positive-



(PHOTO: ILLINOIS EXTENSION) **A group of Illinois Extension staff and volunteers converse at a garden tour event.**

ly impact communities and learn more about Illinois Extension’s volunteer programs at go.il-

linois.edu/ExtensionVolunteers. For questions, contact Extension at extension@illinois.edu.

Byron’s Wrede recognized in UW-Whitewater Hired Before Graduation

WHITEWATER, Wis. — More than 220 students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater were recognized for being hired or promoted by an employer, earning acceptance to graduate school, or starting their own business prior to commencement.

The following UW-Whitewater students from your coverage area were recognized:

Byron - Emma Wrede, who will graduate with a B.S. in Psychology.

View the entire album, which includes future plans for all recognized, on UW-Whitewater’s

Facebook page.

Every year, UW-Whitewater showcases the many students who have landed a job, earned a job promotion, been accepted to graduate school, or started a company before commencement. These students are invited to

take a professional photo and be recognized on the university’s social media channels.

As a result of a UW-Whitewater education, students gain valuable and transferrable skills, secure coveted internships and are often hired by employers

before graduation. At UW-Whitewater, our faculty and staff have connections with employers across Wisconsin and the country. Each year, more than 600 employers come to campus for job fairs, giving students a chance to network and even apply for jobs and

internships on the spot.

More than 98 percent of recent graduates report they are employed or enrolled in continuing education within one year of commencement.

To learn more about UW-Whitewater’s Hired Before Graduation, visit www.uw.edu/hired.

Ogle County property tax bills to be mailed out May 13

OREGON — Ogle County Collector Tiffany O’Brien reports that property tax bills will be mailed out on May 13. The first installment will be due on Friday, June 13 with the second installment due on Friday, Sept. 12. This single document will contain tax information and payment stubs for both installments. Therefore, property owners need to save this bill as no additional notice will be mailed prior to the

second installment.

Payment methods include cash, check (payable to Ogle County Collector) or credit card. In-person payments can be made at the Treasurer’s office or at any bank in Ogle County. The Treasurer’s office is in the old Courthouse located at 105 S. 5th St. in Oregon. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday excluding holidays. Their mailing address is Ogle County Collector, P.O.

Box 40, Oregon, IL 61061. Mailed payments must be postmarked by the due date to be considered timely. Late payments will incur a fee of 1.5% per month or part of a month after the due date and must be remitted by mail or at the Collector’s office.

Collector O’Brien’s office is also offering the option of online payments. You may go to the Ogle County website at www.oglecountyil.gov and then

select the Treasurer’s department. Choose the Online Tax Payments link and click the Pay Now button.

Fill in the information as prompted. Be sure to receive a payment confirmation for your records.

Please note that this service carries a fee; review the convenience fees prior to making payment.

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What Is the Church?

Church! This word has a special ring to it. For many people, church is something that they have been acquainted with all their life. I enjoy visiting with my neighbors who say, “I’ve been a member of my church for many years.”

Church? This question brings some deep thoughts. Some people think of the stained glass, burning candles, and the pastor preaching from the Bible. Others think of the place that they fill in the worship service, such as janitor, praise leader, Sunday school teacher, or trustee. Still others think of church as a place to see friends or other people on a regular basis. But a question keeps haunting them: We know that the Bible is true, and that the pastor preaches from the Bible, so why does church membership keep falling and young people are not interested in joining church, even though there is a focus on the Bible at church? Truth will prevail, we know, so why are not more people interested in knowing the truth?

Since church has to do with the Bible, let’s see what the Bible says about the true church. The most famous (and first) reference to church is found in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus told Peter, “On this rock I will build my church.” “On this rock” refers to the confession that Peter had just made when he said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Belief that there is a God is the first truth that church is built on. True belief in God also brings the belief in His Son Jesus Christ.

The second truth in this verse is in the word “I”. Jesus builds the true church, not man. Man can try as hard as he wants to bring people to the church, but the work of bringing men to God and the church is God’s, not men’s.

A third truth in this verse is “MY church.” The true church is built on the principles that God Himself has established. Men can build beautiful buildings that they call churches, but the true church is not the actual building. The true church is a group of people who are “called out” from the mainstream of society to obey all the principles that God has established. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18) I ask you to consider: “Am I a part of the true church of God?”

Brought to you by:
Little Prairie Mennonite Church
Pastor Norm Reinford (779) 861-3700
littlepraieministries@upwardmail.com

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On June 2, 1997, U.S. Army veteran Timothy McVeigh was convicted on 15 counts of murder and conspiracy for his role two years earlier in the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. He was executed by lethal injection on June 11, 2001.

* On June 3, 1956, authorities in Santa Cruz, California, put the city in the national spotlight by declaring a complete ban

on rock and roll at public gatherings, labeling the music "detrimental to both the health and morals of our youth and community" after a policeman at a dance party the night before described the teen crowd as "engaged in suggestive, stimulating and tantalizing motions induced by the provocative rhythms of an all-negro band."

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The prescription for harm: Why tariffs on pharmaceuticals threaten American health

I spent my entire professional life working to serve patients in the Chicagoland area and many of the patients I served were Medicare patients. The cost of prescriptions might not have always been a factor for many of the patients in my care, but I always tried to be mindful of these costs when making treatment recommendations.

Throughout my career, I have seen the profound impact that access to affordable, high-quality medicines has on the health and well-being of individuals and communities. But there is a threat on the horizon that could have a profound impact on the health of Americans across the nation.

I am, of course, talking about the threat of tariffs. Placing tariffs on any product can lead to staggering price increases. This inflation applied to medicines, and the products used to make them, directly reduces the affordability of critical medications. The imposition of tariffs on these

severe health consequences and even threaten the lives of patients.

For these reasons, medicines have historically been exempted from tariffs by nearly all economies that play a significant role in the innovative biopharmaceutical supply chain, including the United States and Europe.

The people most harmed by tariffs placed on pharmaceuticals will be those who are already struggling to make ends meet financially. They will harm those who are facing extremely difficult health care crises and often force them to make choices that no American in 2025 should have to make.

Families across the country will be asking themselves: Do we skip vital life prolonging treatment to pay the rent or purchase groceries? Clearly the elderly and those who are marginalized in our society will suffer disproportionately with a totally chaotic tariff policy. I believe we are a better country than this.

Tariffs on pharmaceuticals are a prescription for harm, undermining the fundamental goal of health care: to enhance our nation's health. Policymakers must consider the evidence and eliminate these counterproductive barriers to accessing essential medicines. The health of the American people — and the future of our health care system — depends on it.

Dr. Peter Norvid serves as the medical director at OP Capital, LLC, in Elmwood Park. Dr. Norvid is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, hospice and palliative care medicine. He served as medical director to numerous skilled care facilities over the years, most recently at Manor Care Hinsdale, Oak Trace and King Bruwaert House. For more than 15 years, he has remained an active advocate for long-term care facilities.



Dr. Peter Norvid

LIFE letters' policy

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

Letter: Taxes in Illinois

DEAR editor,

"Illinois families will pay the highest combined state and local tax burden in the nation this year ... With nearly 3-in-5 Illinoisans believing the value of public services they receive are not worth the property taxes they pay — which are No. 2 in the nation and account for nearly half of their tax burden — lawmakers should be pursuing structural reforms that will keep families in Illinois." (Illinois Policy: antitax group)

Townships: "1848 Constitution of Illinois granted voters of counties ability to divide their county into townships. Of the 102 counties of the state of Illinois, 84 are organized into civil townships; ... Illinois has 1,428 such townships. 17 counties have no township government; each is instead divided into precincts. Unlike townships, precincts have no functions; all their administrative functions are performed by the county." (Wikipedia)

"Illinois has more units of local government than any other state. ... Whatever the precise number, Austin Berg, vice president of marketing for the Illinois Policy Institute (antitax group), say it's too high. 'We can barely get a reliable estimate on how many units of local governments there are. That's how crazy this problem has really become,' said Berg. 'The problem with this massive proliferation of local governments throughout the state is that it was very easy to create these once-upon-a-time,' Berg said. 'That's why we have thousands and thousands and thousands. But it's almost impossible to change them. To redesign them.

To get rid of them. I think what most people in Illinois agree on is that we pay really, really high property taxes — the first or second-highest in the nation depending on how you calculate it — but we're not getting the first or second highest quality in government services.' ... 'Jerry Crabtree, executive director of Township Officials of Illinois: 'only 2% to 3% of property taxes goes to townships, while 62% of most property tax bills in Illinois go to the school district.' ... (WTTW) "Illinois has 17 townships with boundaries identical to their cities, meaning residents are taxed for both. ... History shows that such efforts [consolidation of any governmental units] often invite opposition from those who work for or benefit from the targeted entities." (Chicago Magazine)

Introduced (not passed) Illinois Bill 2217: "Amends the Township Code. Provides that all townships with a population less than 5000 (Senate Bill) or 500 (House Bill) are dissolved and must either consolidate with an adjacent township or the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township." "Representative Joe Sosnowski, bill's sponsor: 'the bill will streamline government and save money. You got to start thinking outside of the box. We just can't keep saying no to everything ... we got to compare ourselves to other states.'" (MyStateLine) "If passed, these townships would merge with surrounding townships or counties, and counties would assume

responsibilities like property assessments, road maintenance, and general assistance." (KWQC) "Ogle County Board voted against the bill, and Janes [Board member] said it would increase the taxpayer burden." (MyStateLine) I can not find mentioned, but seemingly likely to me, that tax revenues of dissolved townships might transfer to their county (discussion needed).

Income tax: Illinois Constitution currently states: "A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations." 2020, Illinois voters rejected change to allow graduated income tax, despite that Constitution now prevents higher tax rate for higher income people, blocking that source of revenue.

Governor Pritzker, a high income person himself, spent \$58 million of his own money to try to get change passed. (Ballotpedia) Pritzker after graduated tax defeated: "There will be cuts [to State expenditures], and they will be painful. ... Our state finances still require fundamental structural change." (Capitol News-Illinois)

Pensions: "The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reports the latest unfunded pension liability is \$143.7 billion. ... (The state's pension system is protected by the Illinois Constitution's pension protection clause upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court and must be [can only be] amended

through voter referendum for costs to come down.) ... Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker: 'Our funded ratio for our pensions is much better today than it was when I took office and it continues to go in the right direction.'" (The Center Square) Governments in Illinois gave pensions to employees without providing money to pay them. That is typical politician work: give to people what they want now, later let someone else deal with paying. For many years to come these unfunded pension liabilities will weight on Illinois' finances.

Debt: "In the fiscal year of 2024, Illinois' state debt stood at about \$69.79 billion" (Statistica); interest payments on that debt are substantial and will continue to be so for many years. Why debt so big? More politician work, as above.

Complaining about high taxes is not enough, we need to enact considered and effective changes to reduce expenditures, and not be deterred by people protesting: *not in my government unit.* From Governor Pritzker's many statements, he seems to be working and struggling to improve State of Illinois financial situation, hemmed in by mandatory expenses, mainly interest and pension payments (read his speeches and commentary about them). With reduction in Federal money coming to State expected, all areas of nonmandatory expenditures within State at every level need to be scrutinized for downsizing (while some new expenditures may need to be considered).

Henry Tideman,
Oregon

The battle after service, helping veterans struggling with addiction

AS Memorial Day approaches, Americans nationwide prepare to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Ceremonies will be held, flags will be flown at half-staff, and families will gather to pay tribute. But amid the solemnity and gratitude lies a quieter, often overlooked truth. Many of our heroes return home not to peace but to a new battlefield, one waged within.

It's a battle that doesn't make headlines and is waged silently behind closed doors, far from the front lines. Military service members and veterans face unique and profound challenges that can linger long after their tours of duty end. While we rightfully celebrate their courage and sacrifice, we too often fail to recognize the invisible wounds many carry, particularly those that lead to substance use disorders.

The harsh reality is that exposure to combat, traumatic injuries, and the pressure to reintegrate into civilian life all contribute to an increased risk of developing a substance use disorder, experiencing drug over-

dose, or suicidal ideation.

The connection between military service and addiction is not often discussed, but it should be. According to census data, in 2022, 475,496 veterans lived in Illinois. While it is challenging to know how many veterans in local communities struggle with addiction and mental health issues, there are some national and state trends among veterans and the general population that offer some insight into the problems.

Veteran suicide data in Illinois, for example, show that after accounting for age differences, the veteran suicide rate in the state was significantly higher than the national general population, according to Veterans Affairs. In 2022, there were 162 veteran suicide deaths in the state.

Nationally, the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports that 6.3% of veterans had a substance use disorder in the past year. Alcohol use, for example, was common among 56% of veterans, while 22% engaged in binge drinking, and 5.2% experienced an alcohol use disorder.

Alcohol abuse, in general, unfortunately, is a common precursor for addiction and suicidal ideation and increases the risk of drug abuse and drug overdose. Opioids, for example, were responsible for 3,261 overdose deaths in 2022, an 8.2% increase from 2021, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Opioids accounted for 83% of all drug overdose deaths in 2022.

We need to normalize conversations around mental health and addiction within military culture.

We should also support community-based organizations and nonprofits doing critical work in this space. Many of these groups offer holistic, veteran-centered services that go beyond what traditional institutions can provide, from non-traditional therapy and outdoor rehabilitation programs to job training and sober housing.

We must also expand access to comprehensive, trauma-informed care, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce. Fortunately,

there are some resources to help, such as the Veterans Crisis Line; dial 988, then press 1, or text 838255 anywhere in the state. The Illinois Helpline is also available by calling 1-833-234-6343 or texting "HELP" to 833234. The Illinois Warm Line is available at 1-866-359-7953 for individuals or family members with mental health or substance use challenges. The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs can be reached at 1-800-437-9824.

The connection between military service and substance use disorders is not a comfortable topic. But it is a necessary one. To truly honor the men and women who defend our freedoms, we must be willing to confront the unseen battles they face and commit ourselves to being part of their recovery. This Memorial Day let's do more than remember the dead. Let's fight for the living.

Jody Boulay is a mother of two with a passion for helping others. She currently works as a Community Outreach Coordinator for DRS to help spread awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.



Jody Boulay

VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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News Media Corporation.

Ogle County Farm Bureau's Kern: The egg situation

THE egg, one of nature's purest foods. I still remember as a lad grabbing that wire basket off my grandma's table and heading out to the chicken coop to collect the eggs the hens had produced from the preceding day.

Collecting was easy if they weren't in the roost; harder if they were. Some chased easy others decided to have a bad day and take it out on me. Regardless there were always eggs in some shape or form (usually fried) for breakfast. Around Easter time they were stored for a few days so my brothers and sister along with myself could color eggs.

I never thought back in the 1950s that eggs would cause such a commotion, but here in the 2020s it's one everyone's minds. So let's do a dive into the egg situation courtesy of the American Farm Bureau and see what all the crowing is about!

Easter and Passover are just around the corner and if dying eggs for an Easter egg

hunt is one of your annual traditions, you may be in for a shock when it comes to egg prices. Egg prices are setting new records in 2025. The combination of inflation and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has caused egg prices to rise more than 350% per dozen compared to this time last year.

Eggs are considered an inelastic good. This means that even when egg prices change, consumers still buy about the same amount of eggs. Unlike other products, in many applications such as baking, eggs don't have good substitutes. They are also a healthy – and typically the most affordable – source of protein, which makes them desirable even if prices go up. This relatively unchanging demand for eggs means that supply factors can have a big impact on egg prices.

The loss of egg-laying chickens from avian influenza is driving up egg prices. In the past two years it has affected over 166 million birds including 127

million egg layers. That's an average loss of 42.3 million egg layers per year, or about 11% of the five-year average annual layer inventory. These losses have resulted in reduced egg supplies and record egg prices. According to USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), the monthly national average price for large Grade A eggs in March was a record-high \$8.15 per dozen. Some 12 million birds, mostly layers, were lost in February, bringing the total number of birds affected so far in 2025 to over 35 million and driving egg prices even higher.

This outbreak has been different than the 2014-2015 outbreak. In 2015, the virus came on strong and basically disappeared after a year affecting over 50 million birds. In past outbreaks of Avian Influenza, we've seen hot weather kill off the virus. Instead of disappearing when the seasons change, the virus has continued to

circulate in wild birds as well as our nation's poultry flock. Another difference between the current outbreak and the one that occurred in 2015 is there are a lot more backyard flocks in the U.S. compared to 2015. This means more birds that are vulnerable to getting the virus, and more opportunities for the virus to spread along the flyways where migratory birds travel.

Higher prices for eggs do not mean farmers are getting rich. On the contrary, these prices are a result of the farmer's loss of millions of birds to disease. USDA

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) does have an indemnity program that provides compensation to the grower or owner for infected or exposed poultry and eggs that are destroyed to control HPAI. However, it can take up to a year for a farm to complete cleaning and raise new chicks to egg-laying

age. This indemnity does not cover costs during the time the farm goes without income.

The United States' primary control and eradication strategy for HPAI in domestic poultry, as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), is de-population. When HPAI is detected, the entire flock is de-populated, for several reasons. When HPAI is present in even one bird in a poultry house or barn, it typically spreads through the whole facility. Another reason is to prevent cross-over into other houses on the premises or wild birds that could spread the virus which also leads to a greater risk for mutation.

Inflation is another, if less dramatic, factor driving up egg prices. While inflation has slowed over the last couple of years, it's important to remember inflation is a measure of growth. Slowing inflation doesn't mean prices are going down, it means they are getting expensive more slowly. Inflation does more than drive up the price

of eggs in the grocery store, it also raises the cost of everything it takes to produce eggs on the farm and get them on grocery store shelves. Even with higher prices for eggs, input costs and the added risk from HPAI makes being an egg farmer a risky business.

Another elevated supply cost for egg farmers is the price of chicks. Chicks that go on to become egg-laying hens cost more to replace than chicks that are used for meat production, which are called broilers. However, flocks used to provide eggs for laying hens are susceptible to avian influenza just like any other birds. Both sides of poultry production – egg layers and broilers – are suffering from increased replacement costs due to HPAI.

"The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed." -Martina Navratilova

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



Ron Kern

Consider this: The feeling of fascism

HAVE we officially moved to the next level? Down, not up. I knew by President Trump's first four years, by his campaign statements, and in reading Project 2025, that he was headed down a path that would make our beautiful country look dreadful. I really didn't know what path we would end on, but I had some idea. I thought dictatorship, oligarchy, authoritarianism, maybe even king. Not, however, fascism. But, with recent events, it appears that may be where we end up.

Event one: In May of 2022, I wrote an article titled "Traveling While Young" about how many countries have high school graduates that take time off before they enter college. Some may also take the time off in between college years. During this hiatus, they travel around the world absorbing various cultures and some find temporary jobs to observe how citizens of other countries live and receive funds to proceed

with their travels.

Some of their countries urge this type of travel to expand their knowledge of how others live, work, and use their time off. There are even some countries that help monetarily with this travel. That is unless a country abruptly changes these plans. A few weeks back, two German girls aged 18 and 19 were traveling in this manner until they arrived in Hawaii. The border officials didn't care for their travel plans and instead of just deporting them, strip searched, clothed them in uniforms, and jailed them over night. You can find more information at "beatofhawaii.com/why-these-hawaii-travelers-were-jailed-and-deported/".

Event two: By this time, we all know about Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was sent to El Salvador's infamous prison by mistake. Even though they have said it was a mistake, the administration is now saying he was a member of the horrible MS-13 gang. They

have not given any proof of this other than their word. This movement of him was done even though a judge in this country had forbidden this and had already determined his innocence. He has not been returned and the Salvadorian President Nayib Bukele said the man will remain in prison. The administration is not pushing against this even though we have paid El Salvador \$6 million to house the detainees. You can find more information at "www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/kilmar-abrego-garcia-deported-el-salvador-trump-immigration-what-know-rcna201708".

Another man has been sent to the El Salvador prison by the administration, seemingly by mistake. Andry José Hernandez, a makeup artist was detained and the administration has said he belonged to the Tren de Aragua gang based on his tattoos. The adminis-

tration also says that was not the only determination but have supplied no additional evidence. You can find more information at "www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/22/congressman-letters-gay-stylist-sent-el-salvador/83193541007/".

Event three: Badar Khan Suri is an Indian national who was duly granted a visa

to enter the United States and was a student at Georgetown University. Georgetown's student newspaper, The Hoya, reported Suri studies religious violence and peace, focusing on the Middle East and South Asia. He is currently teaching a class on majoritarianism and minority rights in South Asia at the university, the report said. His was sent to Louisiana, for reportedly opposing U.S. foreign policy, where he is awaiting a hearing in immigration court. Most recently, however, he was moved to a



Reed Harris

Texas facility. His lawyer is trying to make sure he has that hearing. You can find more information at "www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/georgetown-deportable-ice-arrest/".

Event four: Like the plight of Badar Khan Suri, although most may end up deported for more simple reasons, President Trump tried cancelling international student visas under many pretexts. He is currently being opposed in court and has backed down for now, but what can be the motive for this? Could it be that students are protesting the handling of Palestinians? Could it be the administration doesn't want international students? Maybe certain international students? You can find more information at "www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/trump-backs-down-in-legal-fight-over-canceling-international-students-status-records-for-now/ar-AA1DC0s-D?ocid=BingNewsSerp".

We seem to be expanding the immigration argument

week by week. I believe what was intended by the voters that put President Trump into office was to deport any immigrants that were known criminals. Not necessarily all immigrants. What is being done recently is stopping other countries from vacationing here. Many vacations destinations are finding very little interest from other countries to come here. It will be a miracle if our farmers find enough employees to carry on their businesses due to a loss in migrants. What else are we doing that will affect our everyday work force and prices?

I feel that the events mentioned above, with many others to follow, gives me the feeling of fascism. Now it's your turn to determine what it feels like to you. Are we on the right path? Are we on any path? Is this just chaos with no reasoning behind it? Whether we protest, write our congressmen, print our own op-eds, or sit on our hands, the future is ours, you see.

Illinois patients need prescription drug relief from 340B legislation

IN communities across Illinois, patient health care – particularly for those who can least afford disruptions and uncertainty – faces enormous challenges.

Debates from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, to our local communities over how to provide care to low-income families and children covered by Medicaid and other critical insurance programs put in jeopardy the support system millions count on to stay healthy.

While these struggles have recently taken on new importance, community health centers from north of Chicago to deep southern Illinois have fought

firsthand for several years to save the 340B prescription drug discount program. Our fight continues this spring, and the stakes could not be higher.

Since the early 1990s, the federal 340B program has created a win-win for our centers and the roughly 300,000 uninsured Illinoisans who they serve. The program creates steeply discounted rates for drug purchases from pharmaceutical manufacturers. Health centers pass the savings on in two important ways: Uninsured patients get medications they need at affordable prices, and the centers put the payments they receive from insurers back into

services and supports that are underfunded – or not funded at all.

This discount program makes it possible for our centers to do things like provide free colonoscopies and mammograms, bring mobile clinics closer to the communities where patients need care, and to pick up patients for medical appointments with free transportation.

But in recent years, pharmaceutical companies have found a dangerous loophole that they use to restrict 340B participation to one contract pharmacy, forcing patients to travel

long distances to receive their needed medication. And when patients cannot receive the care they need, the centers serving them do not have the resources they need to make

free transportation, mammogram and cancer screenings, and mobile clinics possible.

IPHCA is asking state legislators to pass the Illinois Patient Access to 340B Pharmacy Protection Act legislation this spring. It's modeled after laws passed in 13 other states and growing, which have withstood challenges in federal courts.

Our aim is simple but



Ollie Idowu

powerful, and effective. In those other states that passed contract pharmacy protection laws, drug companies can no longer prohibit, restrict or interfere with local pharmacies that want to participate in 340B programs to support local patients and their community health centers. We can, and must, preserve a powerful lifeline that could not be more needed right now.

The proposed Illinois Patient Access to 340B Pharmacy Protection Act is Senate Bill 2385, sponsored by Sen. Dave Koehler, and House Bill 3350, sponsored by Rep. Anna Moeller. The proposal has no cost for taxpayers, a key

point as financial considerations dominate health care policy discussions.

In the coming weeks, state lawmakers will debate how we shape prescription drug access and affordability and provide care to our most vulnerable communities – at a time when the future is unclear. We urge our leaders to stand with community health centers and their patients by shoring up the future of 340B protections in Illinois. We are counting on the help when so many aren't sure what storm they will face next.

Ollie Idowu is president and CEO of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association in Springfield.

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LOCAL NEWS

Dust storms in Illinois: Identifying farm solutions

URBANA — Dust storms have become an increasing concern in Illinois, prompting investigations into their causes and potential solutions. These weather events have resulted in fatalities, including a 2023 traffic accident that took the lives of eight people on a central Illinois interstate highway. To effectively prevent future dust storms, it is essential to understand the contributing factors and identify steps to address them.

While changes in spring weather patterns might seem like a direct cause of increased dust storms, a closer examination reveals a more complex picture. While wind speeds and soil moisture show some variability, no clear statewide weather trends explain the recent dust storms. This suggests that while weather can be a factor in localized situations, it is not the primary cause of widespread dust storms.

What about farm practices that contribute to blowing soil particles? While tillage is not a new concept and has been used by farmers for decades, technological advances in farm machinery have expanded farm equipment's speed and productivity, leading to more efficient

cultivation and earlier planted farmland. Fence rows that may have once slowed damaging winds have been removed to clear the way for larger farm operations.

Dig deeper into managing today's farm practices: While there are multiple factors involved, one thing is clear. No one can control the weather, but farmers can adjust their management practices to reduce the risks. A logical first step is to reduce the number of tillage passes, especially in fields adjacent to busy highways, to begin moving toward conservation tillage.

Farmers can save on time, fuel, and the wear and tear on their equipment by minimizing field traffic and passes. Additionally, increased soil productivity can be achieved through reduced erosion, enhanced water infiltration, and decreased water evaporation during dry periods, according to the Managing Crop Residues in Corn and Soybeans research report from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Wisconsin Extension.

According to conservation research from Al-Kaisi and Hanna at Iowa State University Extension and

Outreach, reduced tillage systems can help minimize the risk of soil compaction and lessen environmental impacts on soil and water quality.

Many farmers have shown success with strip-till, where only part of the ground is tilled, where the crop seed is planted, and the rest remains intact. A team of Illinois crop researchers, Rolle, Schaefer, Nafziger, and Preza Fontes' recently published 2024 findings found that soybean fields planted in strip-tilled fields produced higher yields than those planted in conventionally tilled fields. Farming with higher crop residue of 30% residue or more, offers other significant advantages.

Transitioning to no-till offers additional benefits, including research from Michigan State University and Ohio State University showing long-term no-till practices result in increased soil organic matter and moisture retention, leading to higher crop yields. The benefits of transitioning to a no-till system take time to be realized and are often seen through improved soil health. It's worth considering transitioning a portion of acreage at a time. Fields located along busy highways lacking

traditional windbreaks may offer a good starting point.

Cover crops: "Adding cover crops to long-term conservation tillage or no-till systems further builds on these improvements," says Rachel Curry, commercial agriculture educator with University of Illinois Extension. "Cover crops help fields dry out earlier for spring field work and combat soil erosion while increasing soil organic matter."

Winter hardy species such as triticale, cereal rye, or winter wheat can be planted after the fall harvest, establishing living roots in the soil that persist through the winter into the following spring. In addition to helping hold soil in place, cover crops scavenge excess nutrients leftover from previous cash crops, reducing nutrient loss to our streams and rivers.

Understanding which cover crop species or mix to use to reach the goals of the field can be overwhelming. The Midwest Cover Crop Council has created a selector tool to assist farmers in selecting the cover crops for their system. Cover crop experts developed the selector tool to help make selections at a county level. This tool can also help



(PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES)

A large dust storm building over a farm field.

identify the cover crop species or mix that will help attain the goals for a field, including reducing erosion and nutrient loss.

Financial incentives are available to offset the cost of cover crops, including crop insurance premium discounts through the Illinois Department of Agriculture and federal programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources.

Cover crop cost-share programs are available through non-government organizations like Precision Conservation Management and Archer Daniels Midland re: generations. The Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership has created a cover crop incentive directory to provide information regarding agency and private cost-share opportuni-

ties and a cover crop dealer directory. ISAP recently released the Financial Incentives Database FIND Tool, which allows farmers to compare programs and select the best option for their operation.

Pinpointing the exact causes of dust storms may be difficult due to the many factors involved. Farmers can consider reducing or eliminating tillage and adding cover crops to positively impact those factors, especially in highly erodible areas near busy highways. Identifying steps to build into practice helps everyone be part of the solution.

For more information, read more in Illinois Extension's Dust Storms in Illinois: Examining Roles of Weather and Farming Practices or contact a local Extension office at go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice.

Fritts honors local women at Women to Watch event

SPRINGFIELD — On April 22, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) welcomed Dallas Knack and Dr. Jennifer Hintzsche to the Women to Watch Event in Springfield. The event consisted of a breakfast, listening session, networking lunch, and informational seminar from other women in leadership roles.

"I was thrilled to welcome Dallas Knack and Dr. Jennifer Hintzsche to the Women to Watch Event," said Rep. Fritts. "Both Dallas and Jennifer are incredibly accomplished women who are dedicated to making our community a better place."

Dallas Knack is a dedicated community leader with various local organizations, including the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program, the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) Program, Sterling Main

Street's Economic Vitality, the Sauk Valley Under 40 group, and is the executive director for the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce. A dedicated alumna of Alpha Gamma Delta, Dallas serves as a volunteer advisor to two collegiate chapters and facilitates the Empower Leadership Program for young women across the United States and Canada.

Dr. Jennifer Hintzsche was the first individual to receive a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics (Biology and Computer Science) from Northern Illinois University in 2014. During her postdoctoral tenure at the University of Colorado, she made significant strides in cancer genomics that secured million-dollar grants, papers, and clinical trials. Dr. Jennifer's research portfolio includes over 25 peer-reviewed scientific arti-

cles and 800+ citations in prestigious academic journals. She also pioneered the first and only FDA-cleared, sterile, at-home insemination kit, The PherDal Kit, which has led to hundreds of women who were previously declared 'infertile' to have babies.

Rep. Fritts concluded, "This event was an incredible opportunity for Dallas, Jennifer, and dozens of other women from across Illinois to meet and network with other emerging women leaders. I was honored to welcome both of these accomplished women, who call the 74th district home, to Springfield."

Dallas and Jennifer were two of nearly 50 women from across the state who attended this event. The contributions of these women were also honored by House Republican Leader Tony McCombie.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On April 25 at approximately 4:01 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 38 and East Gurler Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Tommy Moore, 39, of Rockford, for possession of cannabis outside an approved container in a motor vehicle-passenger. Moore was released on scene with a notice to appear bond.

On April 25 at 8:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of West Milledgeville Road and South Freeport Road. As a result, Deputies arrested Robert C Wehland, 51, of Milton, Wisconsin for driving while license suspended, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Wehland was additionally issued a citation for no splash guards. Wehland was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 26 at approximately 7:30 p.m. deputies attempted to stop a red motorcycle in the 4,000 block of North River Road after observing a moving

violation. The motorcycle refused to pull over after the deputies' emergency lights and sirens were activated. The motorcycle continued to flee at a high rate of speed and the deputies terminated the pursuit a short time later. The motorcycle was last seen in the Oregon city limits. A short time later, deputies conducted a follow up at 801 Adams St. in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Frank Criscione, 32, of Oregon under arrest for aggravated fleeing to elude (class-four felony), fleeing to elude, driving under the influence of alcohol, and speeding over 35 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Criscione was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On April 26 at approximately 3 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of North Kennedy Hill Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Trina Goodwin, 46, of Dakota for an outstanding

warrant out of Ogle and two outstanding warrants out of Stephenson County. Goodwin was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On April 27 at approximately 1:45 p.m. deputies responded to a vehicle in a ditch in the 1,000 block of North Chamberlain Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Katie Kinsella, 38, of Sycamore, for driving under the influence of alcohol, improper lane usage, and illegal transportation of alcohol. Kinsella was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was processed and released on a notice to appear for her citations and given a future court date. All suspects are presumed innocent.

On April 27 at approximately 3:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Snyder Road. After further investigation James Rodriguez, 54, of Dixon, was placed under arrest of driving while license

revoked, an outstanding Ogle County warrant, and an outstanding Lee County warrant. Rodriguez was also cited for illegal transportation of alcohol and an equipment violation. Rodriguez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was detained on the Ogle County warrant. A passenger in the vehicle, Vonna Benhoff, 56, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Lee County warrant. Benhoff was released with a return court date.

On April 27 at approximately 6:58 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 10,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Derek St. Clair, 41, of Belvidere, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. St. Clair was additionally issued citations for speeding 26-34 miles per hour over the posted speed limit, no front registration, and a defective windshield. St. Clair was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice



to appear and given a future court date.

On April 28 at approximately 7:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, George Dutro Jr., 51, of Ottawa, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Dutro was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Dutro was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 28 at approximately 7:23 p.m. deputies conducted an investigation regarding a battery that occurred on April 25 in the 100 block of East Main Street in Stillman Valley. After an investigation, Brian Clark Jr., 34, of Stillman Valley, was arrested for battery. Clark was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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LOCAL NEWS

Rock Valley College's LaBuy wins Faculty of the Year Award

ROCKFORD—Rock Valley College is proud to announce Jerry LaBuy, faculty and academic chair of Mass Communication, as the 36th recipient of the Rock Valley College Faculty of the Year Award.

"You learn what works, and you learn what doesn't, and what doesn't makes you better. The mistakes make you better," LaBuy said when accepting the honor.

The Faculty of the Year award is presented to a tenured faculty member each year. In the fall, students are invited to nominate members of the faculty. The Faculty of the Year committee chair compiles nominations and presents them to the committee for discussion. The Faculty of the Year is chosen by their peers based on teaching experience, excellence, and service to the college and their community.

Dr. Julie Hernandez, a member of the Faculty of the Year committee for 2024-2025, detailed the selection process, which included nominations, faculty input, and student feedback. Five faculty members were finalists for consideration, and the winner was chosen through a review of Personal Development Reports (PDRs). The 2025 Faculty of the Year, Jerry LaBuy, was recognized for his exceptional dedication, including providing special accommodations and consistently going the extra mile for students.

Here are some of the comments from the many student nominations received in support of LaBuy:

"He is one of the nicest professors I've had as an instructor; he builds incredible opportunities for students and is always

supportive."

"He really cares about his students! He helped me with some special accommodations I needed in both of his classes that I am taking this semester. I believe that he truly wants all of his students to succeed in their careers, and is taking every step possible to show them how to achieve that!"

"He is warm, approachable, and consistently goes the extra mile. His sharp wit keeps things lively, and his dedication runs deep. He's invested in his students' lives long after they graduate, proving his impact is as lasting as it is meaningful."

LaBuy began his Golden Eagles journey as a student in 1994. After graduating in 1996, he transferred to Columbia College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. LaBuy's journey would take

him to Los Angeles before returning to the Midwest to earn his Master of Fine Arts from DePaul University. While a student at RVC, Jerry was involved in Starlight Theatre, and it was there that he met his wife, Brooke. Together, they have two children—the oldest is currently a student at RVC.

He joined the Golden Eagle family in fall of 2007 as an adjunct faculty member and became a full-time member of the faculty in 2013.

In addition to his great work as a faculty member, LaBuy is also an integral part of the Mosaic World Film Festival and has served as the director since 2010. The popular Rockford film festival draws entries from around the world. The festival, heading into its 18th year, is held annually in Rockford each fall.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Rock Valley College is proud to announce Jerry LaBuy, faculty and academic chair of Mass Communication, as the 36th recipient of the Rock Valley College Faculty of the Year Award.

He closed his acceptance speech by stating, "I don't think any faculty member gets to where they are without being a kind of a culmination of their mentors and their colleagues. So, I just want to say thank you to all my colleagues -- faculty and staff."

LaBuy has impacted countless lives during his time at RVC and will continue to do so for years to come. Congratulations to him on this well-earned honor.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 Forreton Grove Church, 7246 Freeport Road; Forreton, 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.

The Ogle County Historical Society will have their monthly meeting on the third Monday of May this month rather than the fourth Monday as usual due to the Memorial Day holiday. Come join us Monday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. We'll meet at the carriage house annex building located behind (east of) the Nash House Museum at 111 N. Sixth St. in Oregon. All are welcome.

May 22: Mobile Pantry at Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, Mt. Morris starting at 10 a.m. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Mobile pantries will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month through June. Please note: Loaves & Fish Food Pantry will be open Tuesday, May 27 from 2-4:30 p.m. (closed May 26 for Memorial Day). Loaves & Fish Food Pantry is located on the lower level of the Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren, 409 W. Brayton Road, and is open on the first and third Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m. and second and fourth Mondays from 2-4:30 p.m. Anyone

experiencing food insecurity is eligible to receive food. You do not need to have a referral, no proof of income or residency required. If you have any questions, call 815-613-8776 and leave a message and we will return your call.

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.

May 26: The community is invited to come enjoy a delicious Pancake Breakfast on Memorial Day, May 26, at the United Church of Byron, located at 701 W. Second St. in Byron. This event will be held from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, which is handicapped accessible. Pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage, along with juice, coffee and milk will be served. Suggested donations are adults: \$10; children ages 4-12: \$5 and children three & under are free. Tickets are available at the church office during the week and will also be available at the door. If you are unable to dine in that day, carry outs will also be available. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815-234-8777.

May 28: The Chana United Methodist Church is holding its annual blood drive on Wednesday, May 28 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. (note this year's time change) at the church in Chana located at 606 S. Main St. The Rock River Valley Blood Center staff

will be accepting both whole blood and double red donors of all blood types. Appointments are preferred, which generally saves the donor time, but walk ins are welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Carole at 815-595-4559 or email suttonsinthepines@yahoo.com. Eligible donors need to be 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 points, and be in good general health. The RRVBC is the sole supplier of blood and related for many of the surrounding local hospitals. The center needs to keep an adequate on-shelf supply, so a need for donations is always present to meet patient needs. One in three people will need blood, and you never know when you or someone you love might be the one. Please consider this community service and gracious gift of life to someone in need. Your giving and generosity will be greatly appreciated. Donor names will be entered in drawings for one of three gift cards graciously donated by the Oregon Soap Shoppe, AM Florals in Oregon, and The Silver Fox in Ashton. And each donor will receive a give a

pint get a pint coupon from the Rochelle Culvers. We hope to see you on May 28 at the drive. Be sure to eat and drink before donating.

June 4-July 9: Serenity Hospice and Home will host a free six-week class entitled, "Understanding Your Grief." This class, filled with compassion and hope and based on the book "Understanding Your Grief" by Dr. Alan Wolfelt is built around 10 touchstones, basic principles that can help engage with grief and create momentum toward healing. Each participant will receive a book. This class will be held on Wednesdays, June 4 through July 9 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Serenity Hospice & Home, located in Oregon at 1658 S. Illinois Route 2. Please call Cathy at 815-732-4111 to register.

June 22: The Northern Illinois Bass Masters Kids Fishing Derby is June 22 at 9 a.m. at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club at 3501 S. Sweeney Road in Chana. The event is open to the public. There will be free food, drinks and bait. Everyone will win a prize, from bicycles to fishing poles. All you have to do is bring your pole and go fishing!

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LOCAL NEWS

Schrader steps into glass slippers for Highland's Somerset 50

FREEPORT — This summer, Highland Community College's beloved Somerset Theatre will celebrate a golden milestone with a beloved fairy tale. For its 50th anniversary season, Somerset is bringing Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* to life on stage — with a fresh, empowering twist and a familiar face in the title role.

Lena, IL resident Erin Schrader, a Highland theatre veteran and standout performer, will don the famous glass slippers as Cinderella in a production that Director Dr. Randy Haldeman promises will blend the story's enduring charm with an important message.

"Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* is a timeless tale of dreams, kindness, and self-discovery," said Haldeman. "Highland's production emphasizes that dreams don't come true through magic alone but require personal courage and action. Cinderella stands up for herself and others, using her voice to create a fairer kingdom."

For Schrader, the role is more than a dream come true—it's deeply personal. "This will be my seventh production at Highland, and my fourth Somerset," said Schrader. "I was thrilled when I found out I was cast as Cinderella. I think any performer gets butterflies when they are performing a title role! Cinderella is an icon."



No stranger the Highland stage, Erin Schrader will soon be stepping into an iconic role for Somerset's 50th Anniversary.

As a youth librarian's assistant at Freeport Public Library, Schrader is a familiar face on and off the stage. A seasoned performer with credits ranging from *Dorothy* in *The Wizard of Oz* to *Esmeralda* in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Schrader brings experience, heart, and a strong sense of identity to the role.

"As a biracial woman, I'm honored to be carrying on the legacy of a Cinderella that has been inclusive for generations," she said. "Growing up I saw actresses like Brandy and Keke Palmer take on this character, and I hope that other young girls and women of color seeing me in this role in Freeport are encouraged to continue to occupy spaces that they may not always believe are for them."

Cinderella will take

center stage at Highland's Ferguson Fine Arts Center on June 20–21 and 26–28 at 7 p.m., with matinee performances on June 22 and 29 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for students and children. Online ticket sales are already live at Highland.edu, with in-person and phone sales beginning 1 p.m. on Monday, May 19.

Beyond its nostalgic charm and magical score, Highland's production aims to inspire audiences of all ages with a Cinderella who is far from a passive dreamer.

"Love is not merely an escape but a catalyst for mutual growth," Haldeman explained. "Cinderella challenges the Prince to become a wiser, more just ruler. Her transformation is rooted in belief, resilience, and the pursuit of what is

right."

Schrader echoes that sentiment, noting how relevant Cinderella's story is today.

"This show is a great reminder that how we treat others is one of the most crucial aspects of being human," she said. "We do not always get it right, but we have the choice and



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

opportunity every single day to fight for people not deemed worthy or good enough by society."

She also credits the Highland theatre community for playing a transformative role in her own life. "My parents met at Highland in the 1980s," she shared. "I have met some of my closest friends during

productions at Highland! It is genuinely a place to make life-long connections."

As Freeport prepares to welcome this beloved tale with a bold new spirit, one thing is certain — this *Cinderella* will leave its slipper-sized mark not only on the stage, but on the hearts of everyone who watches it unfold.

Fehr Graham announces leadership changes

ROCKFORD — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce that Mick Gronewold, PE, is stepping into a leadership role as the Midwest Platform CEO with Trilon Group. Kyle Saunders, Fehr Graham's chief strategy officer, will succeed Gronewold as Fehr Graham president. The promotions are effective Jan. 1.

In his new role, Gronewold will lead Trilon's Midwest Platform firms of Fehr Graham, Gonzalez Companies and The Man-nik & Smith Group, Inc. Together, the three firms have 48 offices across the Midwest with more than 1,000 employees. Together, the three firms are among the 10 largest infrastructure consulting firms in the Midwest.

Trilon will look to Gronewold, who is succeeding the retiring Dean Niese, PE, to apply his strategic vision and leadership to continue the success of the Midwest Platform and Fehr Graham.

Fehr Graham merged with Trilon Group in May 2023, aligning with a partner that shares its Core Values and culture. Trilon supports Fehr Graham by investing in talent, technology, and targeted mergers and acquisitions to accelerate growth and advance employees' careers.

Mick Renshaw, founder and CEO of Trilon Group, praised Gronewold's dedication to excellence and his deep understanding of running an engineering business, noting that these qualities make him the ideal leader to guide the Midwest Platform firms. His vision aligns perfectly with Trilon's mission of building communi-



Mick Gronewold

ty-focused infrastructure solutions.

"Mick's leadership has set a standard of excellence that resonates throughout our operations," Renshaw said. "His commitment to sustainability and innovation continues to inspire our teams and drive our projects forward."

Saunders, who joined Fehr Graham in April, brings a decade of experience in municipal leadership and water infrastructure. He has a proven track record of developing highly effective teams and building collaboration across functional organizations. Saunders has already spearheaded several of the firm's more recent growth initiatives and developed continuous improvement strategies based on his analysis of the firm's operation and key performance indicators.

"Kyle's remarkable ability to connect with clients and staff, lead through influence and navigate complex problems while maintaining a positive and forward-thinking approach to business and infrastructure position him perfectly to lead Fehr Graham into its next chapter," Gronewold said.

Gronewold joined Fehr Graham in 1993 and has steered the firm's growth and performance while executing high-profile design and permitting projects for municipal and private clients. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from the Mon-



Kyle Saunders

tana College of Mineral Science and Technology. He is part of numerous professional associations, including the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers and the American Public Works Association. Gronewold and his wife, Kate, live in Forrester, and have three adult children.

Saunders began his career at the City of Rockford, where he started as a senior engineering technician and ascended to director of public works. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration and Management from Rockford University. He also earned a master's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Colorado Boulder. He is a member of the Illinois Section American Water Works Association and chairs its Water Utility Council. He lives in Rockford with his wife, Kelly.

Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fehr Graham is an Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm, Midwest Top Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm. For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

A.A. Hotline 800-452-7990
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon 732-3157
Rochelle 562-3801

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

HOPE of Ogle County 562-8890 or 732-7796
Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs

Low Income Housing

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

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

Family Counseling Services 962-5585
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Oregon 732-3157
Rochelle 562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services 732-2499

Senior Citizens Services

Hub City Senior Center 562-5050
Mt Morris Senior & Community Center 734-6335
Polo Senior Center 946-3818
Rock River Center 732-3252
Oregon, IL 800-541-5479

Sexual Assault/Abuse

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling
24-hour hotline 636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon 732-0000

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders 973-3177

Veterans' Services

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

Wellness Services

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

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON POLICE REPORT

April 3
At 5:44 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Wyatt D.L. Ackerson, 30, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with no valid proof of valid insurance. This violation happened in the 200 block of West Blackhawk.

April 5
At 7:40 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Adelina P. Mendoza, = 20, Byron a citation for speeding, 51 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 900 block of West Blackhawk.

April 8
At 9:37 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Megan C. Garrett, 24, Oregon a citation for speeding, 40 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 1,000 block of West Blackhawk.

April 10
At 3:43 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Sheila T. Kennedy, 63, Rockford a citation for

operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of North Barker Road.

April 14
At 11:15 a.m. Byron Police Department issued a 17-year-old female a citation for passing a school bus while loading/unloading. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Colfax.

At 4 p.m. Byron Police Department arrested a 15-year-old male for disorderly conduct, he was taken into limited custody and released to his parents.

April 15
At 10:22 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Lyndsey S. Stocker, 41, Byron a citation for passing a school bus while loading/unloading. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Colfax.

April 17
At 9:27 a.m., Byron Police Department issued Nathaniel J. Musgrave,

42, Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with no valid driver's license. Musgrave was arrested for possession of controlled substance, taken to Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 10,000 block of Illinois Route 2.

April 18
At 9:46 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Matthew C. Koenig, 39, Dixon a citation for operating a vehicle with no valid driver's license. This violation occurred in the 7,000 block of Illinois Route 2.

April 23
At 7:37 a.m. Byron Police Department issued a 16-year-old male a citation for use of electron communication device on a roadway. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

April 24
At 4:41 p.m. Byron

Police Department issued Scott J. Brown, 37, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

April 25
At 1:13 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Carolyn R. Wyllie, 81, Byron a citation for disobeying a stop sign. This violation occurred in the 7,000 block of North River Road.

April 28
At 2:54 p.m. Byron Police Department issued James E. Dixon, 43, Rockford a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 1,200 block of West Blackhawk.

At 5:02 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Michael A. Boyd, 39, Rockford citations for driving while driver's license is suspended, operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance, and speeding.

Boyd was transported to Ogle County Jail, where he was processed and released.

April 29
At 11:38 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Tani M. Bolthouse, 41, Rock Falls, citations for operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. These violations occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

At 1911, Byron Police Department issued a 16-year-old female, Byron a citation for speeding, 47 in a 30 MPH zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of W. 7th St.

April 30
At 2:36 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 17-year-old male, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with expired registration. This violation occurred in the 400 block of North Walnut.

May 3

At 7:23 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Jhosmar Garcia-Hernandez, 23, Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance, operating a vehicle with no valid driver's license, and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Garcia was taken into custody and released on a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

At 5:56 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 800 block of Hampton Drive involving a 2018 Chevrolet, driven by Adam F. Gura, 42, Byron and a 2022 GMC driven by Amber M. Dockins, 41, Byron. There were no injuries, and no citations issued.

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

Ogle and Lee County Fairs receive grant from Compeer Financial

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis.—For the eighth year, Compeer Financial is helping county fairs across the Upper Midwest improve facilities and attendee experiences through its Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative's giving program. In Illinois, 21 fair organizations will each receive up to \$4,000 to support their fairground projects.

In total, Compeer Financial is awarding \$242,000 to 61 county fairs across Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin for a wide range of repairs and upgrades through this year's County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program.

"County fairs are a summer highlight for families involved in agriculture and living in rural communities," said Karen Schieler,

manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial. "These grants help fair organizers enhance the experience for exhibitors and visitors by funding essential updates to buildings and grounds. Fair organizers work tirelessly to ensure a positive, memorable event each year, and we're proud to support their efforts."

County fairs are rural

staples in bringing together people of all ages to learn about and experience agriculture up close. Last year's fairs saw an average attendance of 42,298. Compeer Financial designated the County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program to uplift the rural communities it serves. The grant program is a critical tool that enables organizers to continue offering the

best possible experience to fair-goers by funding upgrades and repairs of fairground livestock buildings, 4-H buildings and livestock judging arenas.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Fund has awarded 483 County Fair Facility Upgrade Grants for a total impact of more than \$1.6 million that has improved the experiences of fair organizers, partic-

ipants and attendees. The grant will open for 2026 applications in March 2026.

The 21 organizations in Illinois earning a County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant include: Lee County Fair Association: Replacing doors and openers in the commercial exhibit building. Ogle County Fair Association: Replacing the walkway and drive chip seal.

Work on Illinois 64 in Ogle County begins May 19

DIXON—The Illinois Department of Transportation announced May 12 that weather permitting, construction on Illinois Route 64 in Ogle County

will begin Monday, May 19. The nearly eight-mile work zone is from Chana Road to Illinois Route 251.

Work will mill and

resurface the road. There will be daily lane closures controlled by flaggers during the \$3.1 million project, which is anticipated to be completed in

September.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow and

stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices, and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois

capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at @IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map on GettingAroundIllinois.com.

Ogle County Sheriff's Office announces DDE results

OREGON—The Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced it issued three citations and five warnings for cell phone violations during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign. These citations were a part of 270 citations that Sheriff's deputies issued during the month.

These citations included: 22 citations for DUI and illegal transportation of alcohol, four citations for illegal consumption of alcohol as a minor, two citations for cannabis violations, 24 citations for suspended, revoked or no valid driver's licenses, 111 citations for speed-related offenses, 32 citations for no insurance, 44 citations for registration violations,

and 30 citations for other offenses.

"We strongly enforce traffic laws for one reason—to save lives," said Sheriff Brian VanVickle. "This increased enforcement was implemented to help motorists avoid the often-deadly consequences of distracted driving with a simple reminder: Put the Phone Away or Pay."

The Sheriff's Office joined forces with the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement and highway safety partners for this enforcement effort.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign is funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

County Regional Planning Commission meeting canceled

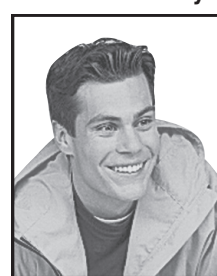
OREGON—Regional Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, May 22 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Regional Planning Com-

mission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 at 6 p.m. at the Old Ogle County Court House, First Floor Conference Room #100, 105 S. Fifth St., Oregon.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

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

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



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

Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of Memorial Day

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


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

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

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

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

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: _____	

Ogle County Life May 26, 2025

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Meridian Community Unit School District #223 is pleased to announce the receipt of a non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Meridian CUSD receives IDOT grant to support Safe Routes to School programming

STILLMAN VALLEY — Meridian Community Unit School District #223 is pleased to announce the receipt of a non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This grant allowed the district to purchase a full

classroom set of bicycles and helmets for Highland Elementary School, enhancing the physical education program and promoting safety and student wellness. Physical education teacher Mr. Vos recently launched a bicycle safety curriculum that culminated in a hands-on bike rodeo.

The results were remarkable: 95% of first and second-grade students rode confidently on two wheels, and 75% of kindergarten students accomplished the same. “This is more than just teaching kids how to ride a bike, it’s about building confidence, self-esteem,

and giving them the tools to travel safely,” said Mr. Vos. “We’re grateful for the IDOT grant and proud of how our students embraced the challenge.” The Safe Routes to School program supports the district’s goals to promote safe and healthy travel habits in young students.

While the village’s application for an infrastructure grant to fund a sidewalk along Pine Street was not selected in this cycle, Meridian CUSD #223 and the Village of Stillman Valley remain committed to pursuing future funding opportunities to improve pedestrian safety along this

critical route. Director of Operations Heather Alderks, emphasized, “This grant enhances our PE curriculum and builds lifelong habits around wellness and safety. It’s an incredible opportunity to develop independence and responsibility in our students.

DON ROMES: Rochelle resident honored for over six decades of coaching

From page 1

After working in Nekooma in central Illinois for a short time, he came to Rochelle Township High School in 1968 as a business teacher and coach.

Over his 26 years at RTHS, Romes served as head boys basketball coach for 16 years, head football coach for two years and 10 years as the football team’s defensive coach, head tennis coach for 14 years and a few years as the sophomore baseball head coach. After this time at RTHS, Romes went on to teach and coach at Freeport Aquin and Sterling Newman for a total of 11 years.

Romes, along with Head Coach Joel Colbert, coached the RTHS football teams that were top three in the state from 1975-1978. “Joel was a great football coach, a real good friend, and I have the utmost respect for him,” Romes said. “Rest in peace Joel.”

Romes’ basketball teams found success as

well, with the 1981-1982 team finishing conference play undefeated.

“When I started coaching, everything was all about winning,” Romes said. “As years went by, I got smarter. I’ve been a Christian all my life and in the 1970s I became far more serious about following Christ and Bible study, which I continue to this day. That changed my view on life and gave me more wisdom. My philosophy changed to doing our very best, regardless of the score. You can’t always control the score. A real winning team is a team that does its very best. You have to develop that attitude. I’ve been blessed to enjoy my career and to have mostly winning teams over the years.”

In the classroom, Romes taught consumer education, accounting and business math. When he was young and realized his dream was to be a coach, he knew he’d have to become a teacher.

“Once I got into the

classroom, I loved it right away,” Romes said. “I was in a classroom for 46 years and enjoyed it immensely every day.”

After retiring from teaching, Romes’ grandson, Brendan, was a seventh grader at Steward Elementary School. Romes agreed to coach his team, and figured it would be for just two years while he was there. He stayed at Steward for 16 years after that. In his career, Romes has coached his son, grandsons and great granddaughter.

“It was a privilege and a blessing to be able to coach them,” Romes said. “It can be tricky, because people could assume that you’d play favorites with them. If anything, you probably go the other way and you’re harder on them.”

Romes’ passion for sports has persevered throughout his entire life. In high school in Iowa he played football, basketball, baseball and tennis. To this day, he watches 2-3 sporting events per night.

After 46 years of teach-

ing and 65+ years of coaching, Romes estimates he’s worked with 8,000-10,000 students and athletes. He’s not opposed to coaching again if the right situation presents itself. He believes the feeling would be strange to not do it next year.

Back in the 1960s, discipline was the main factor in education and coaching. Students and athletes weren’t as open to speaking and expressing themselves like they are now, Romes said. He’s enjoyed that shift and has prided himself on a balanced, “firm but fair” style.

Around his 10th year of coaching, Romes started to tell players that their priorities in life should be as follows: Their spiritual life, their family life, their education, and lastly, the sport they’re playing. He thanked his late wife, Nancy, for her support over his years of coaching and for attending every game, home or away. The biggest joy of his life was his time with his children.

“Most important of all, Nancy was the example I needed, and her encouragement led me to accept Jesus as my savior.”

“When I look back, I’m most proud of the fact that I got to do what I wanted to do and enjoy myself,” Romes said. “I always told kids, ‘Find

something you like to do and make it your career.’ I enjoy that I’ve gotten positive feedback as a teacher and coach. I have gotten negative feedback as well as positive, and I am smart enough to know that could be valid also. I of course have made some mistakes along the way.”

OREGON VFW & AMERICAN LEGION

Memorial Day SERVICE

26 May 2025

9:30 AM

Place Wreaths at Old Court House

10:00 AM

Service at River Side

- a. Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts raise flag & place flowers
- b. Speaker Retired CSM Robert Coulter
- c. Rifle Salute and Taps

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Join us at Post for Family Day

- a. Bounce House for kids
- b. Multiple food Vendors
- c. Axe Throwing – Face Painting – Much More
- d. Indoor – Local Vendors – Bake Sale – Silent Auction – 50/50 Raffle – Much More

Stillman Community BANK SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Stillman Bank, Stillman Valley

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Stillman Bank, Byron

Stillman Bank is pleased to offer a **Free Community Shred Day!** A shred truck will be onsite to allow you to safely dispose of your personal documents & information to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft & fraud.

Properly dispose of all documents with personal information, such as:

- Name and Address Information
- Social Security and Insurance Information
- Birth Dates
- Banking and Credit Card Information

Suggested Items (to name a few...)

- Credit Card Slips
- Monthly Bank Statements
- ATM Receipts
- Invoices, Work Orders
- Non-Solicited Credit Card Apps


Acceptable Shredding Items:

- Items with staples and/or paperclips
- Carbonless Forms
- Manila File Folders
- Envelopes (with & without window or large clasp)
- Non-Plastic Pocket Folders

(Up to 6 boxes per person. Boxes should weigh less than 35 lbs.)

Unacceptable Shredding Items:

Heavy Cardboard, Metal, or Plastic; Spiral Binding (metal or plastic); Large Metal Binder Clips; 3-Ring Binders; Electronics; CD-ROMs/CDRs/DVDs; Diskettes/Floppy Disks; Computer Backups or Hard Drives



www.stillmanbank.com

Member FDIC



Open House for Earl & Dot Gocken

70th Wedding Anniversary



Dating Years



Newlyweds
5/25/1955

Sunday, May 25 @ Kishwaukee Church
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Earl & Dorothy Gocken Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary

Dear Family & Friends!

You're invited to an open house to celebrate Earl & Dorothy Gocken's 70th Wedding Anniversary! Please stop by from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at Kishwaukee Church, 8195 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL. If you cannot attend feel free to mail the happy couple greetings and well wishes to:

PO Box 145,
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

LOCAL NEWS

ROCHELLE DAR: Local chapter celebrates 125th anniversary

From page 1

“We read the names of all 284 Revolutionary War Patriots associated with the members of Rochelle Chapter. It was well received. It was a great day.”

During the program, the chapter’s history was presented in 25-year blocks by each speaker. The first told how the chapter served in its earliest days. The chapter’s longtime gavel was made in 1902 from branches gathered at Mount Vernon.

“Early in our chapter’s history, we had a group of women go to George Washington’s Mount Vernon in Virginia,” Katzman said. “They saw a group cutting limbs off an oak tree and decided to get a piece of the wood and make a gavel out of it for the chapter. I still use that same gavel. It’s been used for over 100 years. The tree was planted by George Washington.”

From 1925-1950, the organization showed concern with the low percentage of women voting after the hard-fought effort for the right to vote, concern about the spread of communism in the 1930s, and provided support to schools. It presented its first DAR Good Citizen award in 1936, which continues to this day.

From 1950-1975, the chapter held programs on gun rights, Title IX, the Equal Rights Amendment, the Bill of Rights and the Monroe Doctrine. Members visited the families of soldiers fighting in Vietnam, and supported a variety of schools, conservation programs, and scholarships.

From 1975-2000, the chapter dedicated memorial markers at the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers Daniel Day, believed to be the first person buried at Daysville Cemetery near Oregon, and Rufus Perkins, buried at Buffalo Grove Cemetery near Polo. The chapter continues to seek direct descendants of Day and Perkins, as well as Rufus Phelps, who was buried at Lindenwood; so they may be proven as DAR Patriots.

The chapter also marked the grave of Real Daughter Lydia Ransom Kridler in that era. While all DAR members are daughters, the term Real Daughter is a special designation used to describe DAR members who are also the biological daughter of a Revolutionary War Patriot. Lydia Ransom’s father, George Palmer Ransom, served in his father Samuel Ransom’s unit as an orderly sergeant beginning at 14 years of age. A Real Daughter plaque remains at Lydia’s grave, at Fairmont Cemetery in Polo.

From 2000 to now, the chapter took on activities such as “Celebrate Rochelle” after the devastating 2015 EF-4 tornado near Rochelle, continued its efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and found new energy for additional service projects.

Today, the Rochelle DAR still supports literacy and scholarship programs, recently renewing a \$1,500 scholarship for female veterans as Sauk Valley Community College. The members honor active-duty military and other portions of the veteran community by commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Lee County Veterans Treatment Court, supporting the veterans at the LaSalle Veterans Home, and Quilts of Valor.

The chapter began its involvement with Wreaths Across America with a humble donation for 31 wreaths in 2018. The program places wreaths at the graves of veterans locally in December and the work continues to grow, with the chapter sponsoring ceremonies at six cemeteries in four towns for 2025, with wreath sponsorships exceeding 4,000 to date. Chapter members also serve with various organizations for historical preservation, are involved in conservation efforts, and advocate for a strong national defense.

“There was a time many years ago when it was in question whether or not the chapter would continue,” Katzman said. “I’m really proud that they pulled together to continue to serve. Service is what it’s all about in DAR. Service to your community, education, historical preservation and patriotism. We lay 700 wreaths on graves of veterans in the area every December. I’m glad work like that never stopped.”

Illinois State Registrar Laurie Carlin Perry wrote a book on the chapter to commemorate the 125th anniversary, including a complete list of members from 1900 to present, associated Patriots and their qualifying service, a list of DAR Good Citizen award recipients from 1936 to present, and the chapter’s history. Copies of the book will be donated to local libraries and genealogical/historical groups. America will celebrate its 250th birthday next year, and the DAR has plans to hold multiple events in its honor.

“Our research into the chapter’s history showed that we’re not so different from the past DAR members,” Katzman said. “They supported good citizens and past and current military members. It’s good to know that the organization hasn’t changed much and holds true to its original purpose. Our mission hasn’t changed. We’re ready to celebrate another milestone.”

Visit <https://ildar.org/chapters/rochelle/index.html> for more information about the chapter, membership, activities, and contact information.

Oregon Park District clarifies new line on property tax bill

OREGON — The Oregon Park District’s 2024 property tax bill now includes a third line labeled “Oregon Park – Bonds.” This change does not increase taxes — it simply separates existing property taxes into distinct categories.

Previously, the tax bill had two lines: one for the cumulative tax and another for the retirement tax, which must be listed separately by law. The addition of the new bond line does not affect the total amount of taxes extended by the Park District. In fact, the park district’s total tax rate for 2024 has decreased to .0043806. This represents a 2.2% decrease from the prior tax year.

Although the Park District’s tax rate for 2024 is lower than 2023, some property owners may still see an increase in their tax bills due to higher property assessments determined by the county and state equalization adjustments — not because of this new tax line.

The county clerk added the bond line to correct a previous mistake related to a tax agreement with Constellation Energy. In prior years, the office of the county clerk, county treasurer and the county software incorrectly applied tax credits from Constellation to the Park District’s debt levy, contrary to Illinois law. As a result, the district’s bond payments were incorrectly reduced. To prevent future errors, the county required the debt levy to be placed on its own separate line.

Although the Park District did not favor this approach, it remains committed to financial transparency and will continue to work with county officials to ensure that taxpayers receive accurate bills that comply with legal requirements.

The Oregon Park District will keep advocating for clear tax processes and encourages residents to reach out with any questions.

OJSHS 8th grade lock-in set for May 24: A night of celebration and fun!

OREGON — Attention all graduating eighth graders at Oregon Junior Senior High School! You’re invited to a special parent-sponsored eighth grade lock-in on Saturday, May 24 from 6-8:30 p.m. This free event is just for you — our amazing 8th grade class — as we celebrate your accomplishments and the exciting journey ahead!

This lock-in event is packed with fun activities including swimming, volleyball, dodge ball, bingo, trivia, gaga ball, and exciting raffle prizes! You’ll learn tickets throughout the night and choose which prizes you want to try to win.

To attend, you must register by May 19 at: <https://forms.gle/7VFQUY3ZpMiQqyLk6>

No walk-ins will be accepted. Parent-signed liability waivers are also required for participation.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and students must arrive between 6 and 6:15 p.m. for check-in. This is a lock-in — no one will be allowed to enter late or leave early, and all students must be picked up promptly at 8:30 p.m. Please plan ahead, as we are not able to wait or call for rides.

Important reminders: No outside food or drinks allowed, including water bottles. Please leave your Owalas, Stanleys, and Yeti cups at home. Snacks and water will be provided. Only approved parent chaperones will be volunteering and supervising the evening.

“We’re so proud of everything this eighth grade class has achieved,” shared Lynn Kalnins, one of the event organizers. “This is a chance for them to have fun, celebrate each other, and make memories before heading to high school.”

Emily Anaya added, “We’ve got a great evening planned with lots of activities and surprises. The kids have worked hard this year — they deserve to be celebrated!”

A huge thank you to all the generous parents who have volunteered to chaperone and those donating items for raffle prizes. Your support helps make this night special!

Let’s come together to honor and celebrate our incredible eighth graders of OJSHS. We can’t wait to see you there! Questions or if you want to donate to the event, please text Emily Anaya or Lynn Kalnins at 608-305-4866.



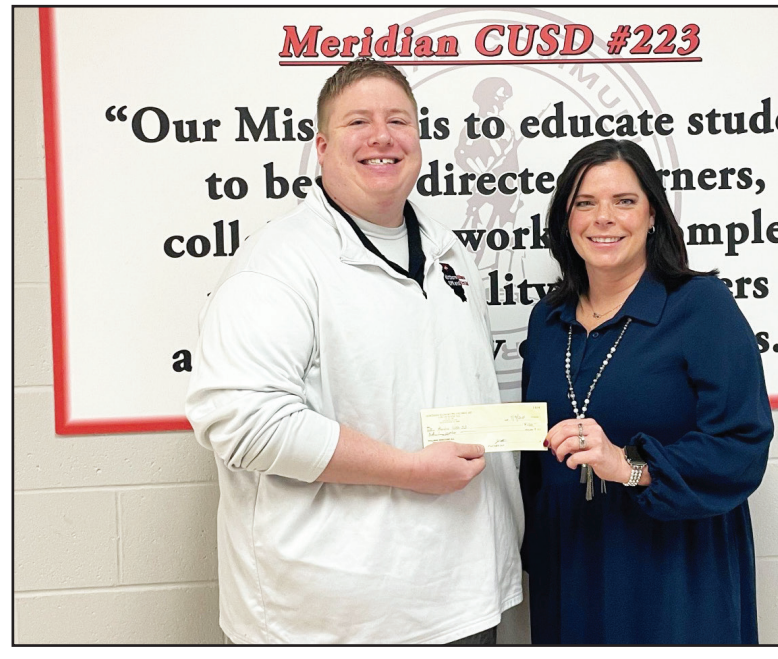
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Meridian CUSD #223

“Our Mission is to educate students to be directed learners, collaborative workers, complex problem solvers, and resilient individuals.”

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Zach Oltmanns presents a check to help reduce the negative lunch balance for students at Highland Elementary School.

Northern IL CPR & First Aid donates to assist Meridian CUSD lunch program

STILLMAN VALLEY — Northern Illinois CPR, a leading provider of CPR and first aid training in the region, has made a generous donation to assist students with negative lunch balances in local schools. This contribution aims to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals without the burden of unpaid lunch debts.

“We believe that no child should have to worry about affording a meal during the school day,” Zach Oltmanns, owner of Northern Illinois CPR, said. “By addressing lunch debt, we hope to support the well-being and academic success of students in our community.”

The donation will be allocated to Highland Elementary, where it will directly offset outstanding lunch balances for students in need. School administrators have expressed gratitude for the support, noting the positive impact it will have on students’ daily lives.

Northern Illinois CPR encourages other local businesses and individuals to join in supporting students facing similar challenges. For more information on how to contribute or partner in this effort, please contact Jacqueline Buchanan, principal at Highland Elementary School.

Northern Illinois CPR is dedicated to providing high-quality CPR and first aid training to individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the region. Committed to community well-being, the organization actively participates in initiatives that promote health, safety, and support for local residents.



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Oregon High School hosts 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on May 7

Oregon High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Wednesday, May 7. The following student-athletes have signed to continue their academics and their athletics at the collegiate level: Immanuel Arellano (Kishwaukee College - Bowling), Josh Crandall (Illinois State University - Football), Ella Dannhorn (Rock Valley College - Softball), Kade Girton (Highland Community College - Baseball/Basketball), Alease McLain (Lawrence University - Track & Field), Briggs Sellers (UW-Whitewater - Football), Madison Shaffer (Sauk Valley Community College - Softball) and Madelyn Wendt (Kishwaukee College - Basketball). (Courtesy photo)



NEW PRICE



221 E. 5th Street, Milledgeville **NOW \$129,900 Call JD**

Introducing an incredible income-generating opportunity—a side-by-side, two-story duplex featuring dual 3-bedroom, 2-bath units. One unit is fully remodeled and ready for occupancy, while the opposite unit is currently leased to a long-term tenant. Tenants pay all utilities, providing stable passive income. Additional highlights include a full basement for extra storage and a two-car detached garage that is also rented to a tenant. Whether you choose to occupy one unit and earn income from the other or maintain both as an investment property, this duplex offers exceptional potential. Don't miss this turn key opportunity to secure a valuable asset in a thriving market!

NEW LISTING



**107 E. Front Street, Mt. Morris \$90,000
Call Lori**

Welcome to this beautiful brick home with storybook charm, offering classic styles and modern comfort. Featuring two cozy bedrooms, one first floor, one second floor, one full bath, and approximately 1300 square feet of living space. This is an excellent opportunity for a DIY-er looking for a first home or an investment property. There is plenty of natural light in the spacious living room that features a brick fireplace. The back yard has ample room for activities or a good old BBQ. Come check it out and schedule a showing today!

NEW LISTING



**402 E. Hill Street, Mt. Morris \$88,000
Call Jennifer Rybicki**

Cozy 2-Bedroom Home in Quiet Mt. Morris Neighborhood This charming 2-bedroom, 1-bath home offers 768 sq ft of comfortable living space, perfect for first-time homebuyers or those looking to downsize. Located in a peaceful area of Mt. Morris, the home features a spacious deck ideal for outdoor relaxation and a bonus office room in the basement - great for working from home or extra storage. Don't miss this affordable and inviting opportunity!

NEW LISTING



**105 Oak Lane, Dixon \$27,500
Call Rebecca**

Lakefront Living Awaits! Discover a rare opportunity to own one of the few remaining buildable lakefront lots in the beautiful, gated community of Lost Nation. This .46-acre property offers the perfect setting to build your dream home and enjoy year-round lake life. Whether it's boating, fishing, kayaking, or simply relaxing by the water, this lot puts you at the heart of it all. Enjoy access to community amenities including tennis courts, scenic walking areas, and nearby golfing for the outdoor enthusiast. Located within the Ashton-Franklin Center School District, it's an ideal spot for families or anyone seeking a peaceful lakeside retreat. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of this sought-after lakeside community—opportunities like this are disappearing fast!

NEW LISTING



**3512 Court Street, Rockford \$189,000
Call Rebecca**

Tastefully Updated 3-Bedroom, 2-Bathroom Home – Move-In Ready! Welcome to this beautifully updated and meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, thoughtfully designed with 2x6 construction for added durability and energy efficiency. From the moment you step into the spacious and inviting entryway, you'll feel right at home. The open-concept layout features soaring vaulted ceilings in the living room, creating a bright and airy atmosphere that flows seamlessly into the dining area and gleaming kitchen. Enjoy cooking and entertaining in style with sleek white cabinetry, stunning quartz countertops, and a generous pantry for extra storage. The private primary suite offers a peaceful retreat with its walk-in closet and en suite bathroom. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath provide flexibility for family, guests, or home office needs. This home also boasts major recent upgrades including new siding, windows, roof, and gutters—offering you peace of mind for years to come. Step outside to a lovely covered patio and a fully fenced backyard, perfect for relaxing, entertaining, or letting pets play freely. This move-in ready home has it all—quality construction, modern updates, and timeless charm. Don't wait—schedule your showing today and make it yours!

NEW LISTING



7928 W. Edgewood Rd., Dixon \$275,000 Call Rebecca

Charming Farmhouse on 2.797 Acres – Polo School District! Escape to the country with this classic 4-bedroom, 1-bath farmhouse situated on nearly 3 acres of peaceful land with wide-open country views. Bursting with potential, this property is perfect for anyone looking to create their dream homestead. The home features a recently updated roof and spacious rooms filled and ready for your personal touch. Outside, the property boasts a huge 70x40 outbuilding, a 40x30 outbuilding, and a barn full of potential – offering endless possibilities for storage, hobbies, or livestock. Zoned AG, this property welcomes your animals, big or small. Whether you're looking to start a hobby farm or simply enjoy the rural lifestyle, this is the perfect setup. Located in the highly sought-after Polo School District, you'll love the balance of privacy and convenience. Don't miss this opportunity to own a slice of country life with room to grow!

NEW LISTING



**407 S. Pleasant Avenue, Polo \$145,000
Call Rebecca**

Welcome to this charming and updated 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home, perfectly located just steps from Polo Schools and the Polo Pool. This well-maintained residence offers comfort and convenience, featuring gleaming hardwood floors and updated windows that fill the home with natural light. The kitchen is both updated and functional, boasting custom soft-close cabinets and a cozy eat-in area—perfect for everyday meals or morning coffee. Enjoy the ease of main floor laundry and the bonus of additional living space in the family room, located just off the garage—ideal for relaxing or entertaining. Don't miss this opportunity to own a move-in ready home in a fantastic location. Call today to schedule your private showing and make this your new home!



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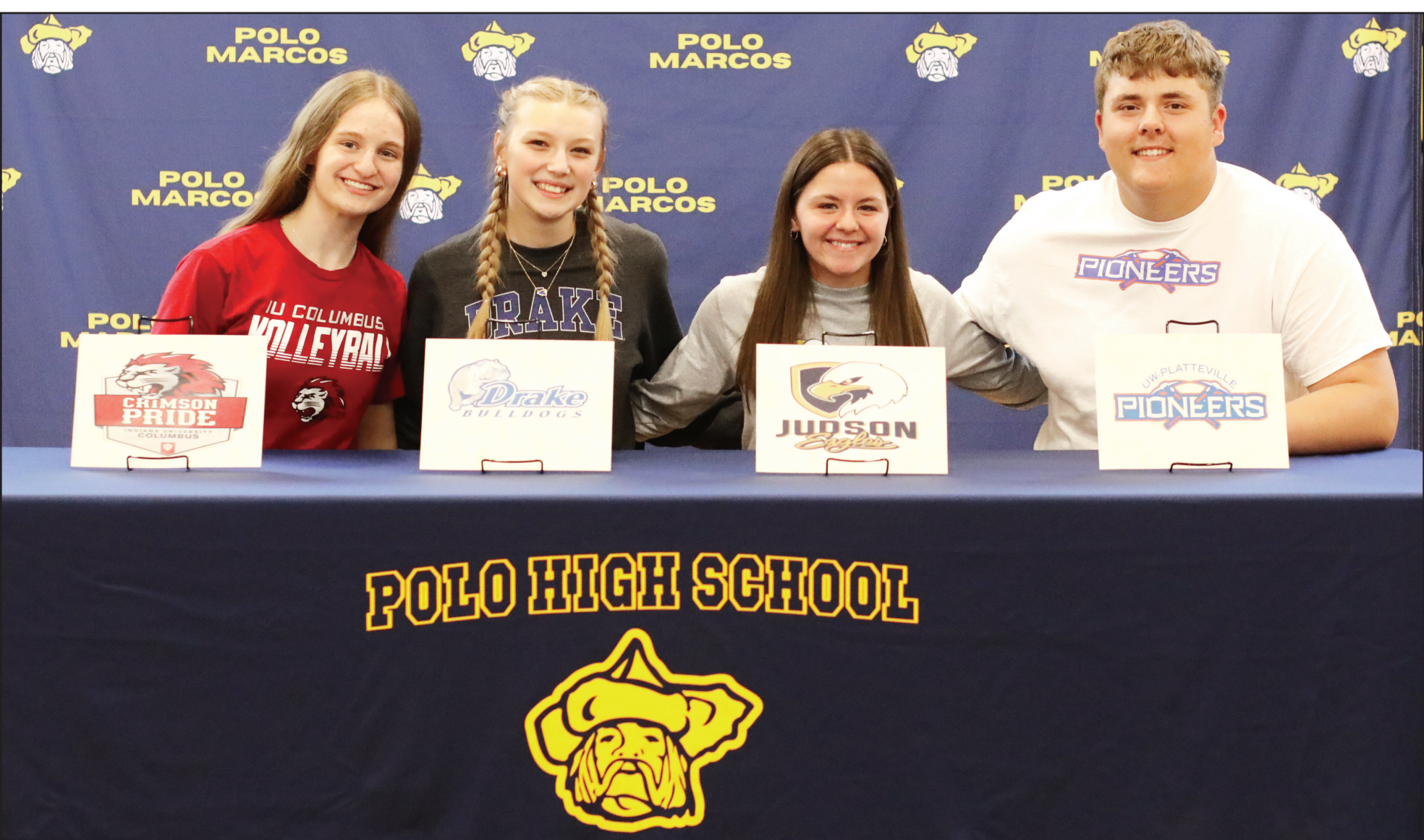


SPORTS



Byron High School hosts 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on May 7

Byron High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Wednesday, May 7. The following student-athletes have signed to continue their academics and their athletics at the collegiate level: Gina Baker (Rock Valley College - Golf), Nolan Brass (UW-Oshkosh, Football), Sophia Cross (Rock Valley College - Golf), Ben Denton (Football - Ellsworth Community College), Darlena Flores (Soccer - Rockford University), Sam Gentz (Track & Field - UW-Whitewater), Brayden Knoll (UW-Platteville - Football/Baseball), Korbin Williams (Aurora University - Football), Kallie Yianibas (Highland Community College - Volleyball), Bailey Vincer (UW-Stevens Point - Swimming), Brookelyn Poggensee (University of Dubuque - Cheerleading) and Addie Bausman (Diving - University of Northern Iowa). (Courtesy photo)



Polo High School hosts 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on May 8

Polo High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 8. The following student-athletes have signed to continue their academics and athletics at the collegiate level: Bridget Call (Volleyball, Indiana University at Columbus), Abigail Merrell (Cheerleading, Drake University), Cheyenna Wilkins (Softball, Judson University) and Logan Nelson (Football, UW-Platteville). (Courtesy photo)

Andy Colbert: Entering the spring postseasons

BY the time you read this, the post season for springs sports will have begun.

Byron and Stillman Valley girls track & field competed in the 2A sectional at Sterling on May 14, while Oregon and Forrester-Polo traveled to Lena-Winslow May 15 in 1A. The Oregon and Stillman Valley girls soccer team are at regionals May 16.

The upcoming week is kickoff for baseball, softball and boys track & field kick, with Byron and Forrester No. 1 seeds in baseball sub-sectionals.

Did you know the IHSA offers state competitions in several other sports and activities in the spring, such as boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis, boys volleyball, boys and girls water polo and bass fishing. Most of those sports are for larger schools, but bass fishing has taken hold locally with Byron, Oregon, Polo and Stillman Valley competing at the Apple Canyon Lake Regional.

Oregon is looking for its first-ever sectional win in girls T&F. They've come close many times in the past, but good Byron and Winnebago teams have stood in the way. Winning both the Landers-Loomis and Big Northern conference meet give promise for a championship.

With Lena-Winslow, Rockford Lutheran and Winnebago present, the task to win a sectional will not be easy. It all depends on how teams cancel each other out in terms of their strongest events.

Ultimately though, a track & field sectional is all about sending individuals and relays downstate. But, it would be nice to finally head home with a sectional championship plaque.

Forrester-Polo's best hope lies with sophomore

Bree Schneiderman, who is ranked in the top 10 in the 100, 200 and 400 meters for 1A. The problem for her is that senior Emma Randecker of West Carroll is also in the sectional. Randecker is state-ranked No. 1 in the 100 and 200 and No. 2 in the 400.

In soccer, defending 1A regional champs Oregon come in as a No. 5 seed at the Mendota regional. Stillman Valley is No. 3 and appears headed for the regional title game Tuesday at Byron against No. 2 Byron.

Genoa-Kingston and Mendota are the No. 1 seeds in that sectional, with traditional power Rock Island Alleman relegated to a No. 2.

The Byron baseball team continues its hot streak, with 20 straight wins and a likely conference title. With coach

Dale Hartman stepping down after this season, the storybook ending would be trip downstate.

In looking at the 2A pairings, Byron has the best chance of anyone entered in their sectional. Last year, it was a bitter disappointment losing to Port Byron Riverdale at the regional.

But, that's the nature of high-school baseball and its one-and-done tournament format. No matter how good a team is, the post seasons can be so precarious.

Byron stands at No. 10 in the MaxPreps ranking for all of 2A. In their sub-sectional, Sterling Newman is No. 20 and Rock Island Alleman No. 24. If the Tigers pull off its fourth sectional title under Hartman, a possible opponent could be a talented Chicago Hope squad, which is ranked 14th.



Andy Colbert

Trying to handicap 1A sectional is much tougher with it being more of a glorified conference tournament. If Forrester can hold off everyone else in the league, a super-sectional would await them at NIU's baseball stadium. The state finals will also be at a college venue.

Due to a schedule conflict with the Peoria Chiefs at Dozer Park, the Illinois High School Association announced that its 2025 Class 1A and Class 2A Baseball State Finals on Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, will be played at the home field of the University of Illinois, Illinois Field, located on the Champaign-Urbana campus. "Major League Baseball (MLB) scheduled games at Dozer Park on June 6-7 and the Chiefs didn't catch the conflict until it was too late," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "

Since the first IHSA state tournament in 1940, the IHSA Baseball State Finals have been played at nine different venues around the state. Illinois Field will become the 10th host stadium, while also marking the first time that state baseball will be played in Champaign-Urbana.

On another baseball note, an area baseball official voiced a concern to me about IHSA legislation on club sports vs high-school sports. He said a major difference in baseball is that the IHSA requires a pitch count, whereas many club teams have no limit on pitches.

He felt a great pitcher on a club team could end up with an over-used arm.

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

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Forrester softball team falls in pitcher's duel with Pearl City

The Forrester High School varsity softball team fell 4-0 in a pitcher's duel against Pearl City on Tuesday, May 6. Aubrey Sanders tossed a complete game and struck out five batters while adding one single at the plate. Ayla Kiper also singled for the Cardinals in the loss.

Polo softball team loses against Eastland

The Polo High School

varsity softball team lost 7-2 against Eastland on Tuesday, May 6. Leah Tobin went 1 for 3 with an RBI, while Brylee Laszkowski and Cam Jones, who pitched four and one-third innings and struck out eight batters, each scored runs for the Lady Marcos.

Polo baseball team scores one run against Eastland

The Polo High School varsity baseball team scored one run in an 11-1

loss against Eastland on Thursday, May 8. Aiden Messer went 2 for 3 and Gage Zeigler went 1 for 3 with an RBI for Polo.

Polo softball team tallies one run against Eastland

The Polo High School varsity softball team tallied one run in a 13-1 loss against Eastland on Thursday, May 8. Grace Miatke went 2 for 2 and Cam Jones went 1 for 2 with a run scored for the Lady Marcos.

Forrester softball team shut out by Pearl City

The Forrester High School varsity softball team was shut out by Pearl City in a 12-0 loss on Thursday, May 8. Aubrey Sanders and Ayla Kiper each recorded hits for the Cardinals.

Oregon girls soccer team falls against Princeton

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team conceded a 1-0 shut-

out loss against Princeton on Thursday, May 8. Mili Zavala recorded 12 saves for the Hawks (11-6-1, 5-3 BNC).

Oregon softball team handed shutout from North Boone

The Oregon High School varsity softball team was handed a 10-0 shutout loss from North Boone on Thursday, May 8. Ella Dannhorn went 1 for 3 with a double as the Hawks were held to one hit in the loss.

Polo baseball team suffers no-hit loss to Warren/Stockton

The Polo High School varsity baseball team was no-hit in a 15-0 loss against Warren/Stockton on Friday, May 9.

Oregon softball team shuts out Warren/Stockton

The Oregon High School varsity softball team shut out Warren/Stockton 10-0 on Saturday, May 10.

See SPORTS page 3

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 2

Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 3 with four RBIs, while Isabelle Berg pitched five shutout frames and struck out seven batters. Kaelin Shaffer went 1 for 2 and scored two runs.

Forreston softball team tallies one hit in loss to Dakota

The Forreston High School varsity softball team tallied one hit in a 15-0 loss against Dakota on Saturday, May 10. McKenna Rummel went 1 for 1 with a single.

Forreston softball team collects seven hits against

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 will be taking a break and start back up on Monday, June 2, at 10 am. Registration is required. Visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com or call (815) 732-2724 to register.

Book Clubs

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

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!

Mocktails For Fun!

Wednesday, 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 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!

Level Up at Your Library!!!! Reading Challenge!

Registrations for the reading challenges this summer will be May 27th through June 7th! Join the challenges for ALL AGES! Win fabulous prizes, join great raffles, and hang out with a wrap-up picnic on August 5th! All hosted by Mount Morris Library! Stop by to get a calendar of events to keep the whole family crafting and reading all summer long.

Ink with a Friend

Monday, June 9th at 5pm. We will be offering a card-making class from local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, June 9th 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.

Lena-Winslow

The Forreston High School varsity softball team collected seven hits in a 10-0 loss against Lena-Winslow on Monday, May 12. Alivia Ingram went 2 for 3 to lead the Cardinal offense.

Byron softball team beats Oregon in Ogle County action

The Byron High School varsity softball team beat Oregon 12-2 in Ogle County action on Monday, May 12. Caleigh Rybicki went 1 for 4 with two RBIs and Alannah Bauer went 1 for 4 with three RBIs to lead the Tiger offense. Kaelin

Shaffer went 1 for 4 with an RBI and Abbie Ludwig went 2 for 3 from the No. 9 hole for the Hawks.

Polo baseball team falls short against River Ridge/ Scales Mound

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell just short in a 5-4 loss against River Ridge/Scales Mound on Monday, May 12. Gus Mumford went 2 for 4 and Dawson Foster went 2 for 4 with three RBIs for the Marcos.

Forreston softball team falls to Rochelle in extra innings

The Forreston High School varsity softball team

fell to Rochelle 8-7 in extra innings on Tuesday, May 13. Ayla Kiper went 4 for 4 and scored two runs, while Emma Hundertmark recorded two RBIs. Maddie Chesnek and Alivia Ingram each totaled two hits in the game.

Polo softball team scores win over South Beloit

The Polo High School varsity softball team scored a 12-4 win against South Beloit on Tuesday, May 13. Cam Jones went 4 for 4 with three runs and two RBIs, while Bella Witkowski went 2 for 3 with three runs and four RBIs in the

win. Avalyn Henry went 2 for 2 with two runs and Leah Tobin added two RBIs for the Lady Marcos, who saw Cheyenna Wilkins throw all seven innings while striking out 13 batters.

Polo baseball team falls to South Beloit

The Polo High School varsity baseball team fell 12-5 against South Beloit on Tuesday, May 13. Gus Mumford went 3 for 4 with an RBI and one run scored, while Dawson Foster went 3 for 4 and Jackson Willis went 3 for 4. Korbin Cavanaugh went 2 for 3 and Jeff Donaldson added two RBIs in the game.

Oregon softball team blows out Rockford Lutheran

The Oregon High School varsity softball team blew out Rockford Lutheran 18-0 on Tuesday, May 13. Kaelin Shaffer went 4 for 4 and scored four runs, while Lola Schwarz went 3 for 3 with three runs and three RBIs. Madi Shaffer went 3 for 3 with three runs and four RBIs for the Hawks, who saw Giselle Zavala and Alexi Czochara combine for four innings pitched while striking out six batters. Zavala also went 2 for 2 with two RBIs at the plate.

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

Photo Printer at the library!

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

Community Seed Li-

brary

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.

Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before June 2nd!

Lego Night!

Thursday, June 26th at 6pm. Bring the family out for some awesome brick building! We will pull out #AlltheLegos for this night and kids can build whatever they can imagine. Then, they can put a name to their creation and keep it on our display for all to enjoy until the next Lego night!

Display Case Showings

There is a new display in our cases! Artwork from local artists through the years! On loan from Jo Ward, there is a wide range of different types of art from many different artists but all from our local town! Stop by to see this gorgeous collection! We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Mount Morris Library is FINE FREE!

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

Explore More Illinois

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

Hot Spots available at Mount Morris Library

The library has hotspots available to check out for

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

Book Donations Welcome

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

Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections

Donation boxes for eyeglass recycling are available at the library. When the boxes are full, they are picked up by local Lions members and dropped off at collection depots. These recycled eyeglasses are given to people in need, with the help of various medical missionaries, in Central and South America and around the world. When the eyeglasses arrive in these countries, doctors and technicians conduct eye exams and provide a free pair of prescription eyeglasses that are as close as possible to that person's sight needs. When donating HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.

Adult Programming

We would love to hear from you. Do you have any program ideas? Do evenings or weekends work better? Do you have a program you would like to share/lead? Contact Mary Cheatwood at the library through email at [mtmorris-il.org](mailto: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 everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

Additional Services Offered

We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document).

You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

Library Board Meetings

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

Weekly Storytime at the Library

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

Seed Library

Discover the joy of gardening with our NEW seed library! Borrow, grow and share from a diverse selection of seeds, and help cultivate sustainability and biodiversity in our community...one seed at a time! Only five seed packets per patron. March through October.

Summer Reading Challenge

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

ister starting Monday, May 19. Challenge opens Monday, 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 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-



Young library patrons celebrated May the 4th, at Julia Hull District Library, with games and crafts inspired by the Star Wars franchise.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Diamond Painting
Diamond Painting on

Friday, May 16th @ 11:00 am. No experience necessary. Paintings are available for purchase.

Community Game Night

Thursday, May 22nd is Community Game Night! Join us at 6:00 pm at The Center for games and fun. Games are provided but feel free to bring your own.

Friday Flix
Friday Flix on Friday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to join us to see Jack and the Beanstalk. Popcorn will

be provide but you are welcome to bring your own snacks.

Jam Session and Lunch
Wednesday, May 28th

Truck! Friday, June 20, 1 p.m. General registration opens Monday, June 2. Registration required. By household. Must be an active library cardholder in good standing. This free event is generously sponsored by Friends of the Library.

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

CORNERSTONE FAMILY CHURCH
205 N. Peru St., Byron 815-234-8737 cornerstonefamilychurch.org
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
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UNITED CHURCH OF BYRON
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701 W. Second Street; PO Box 927, Byron IL 61010, 815-234-8777
Email: uch@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.
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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: chanoumc@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 815-938-3203Pastor 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
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Food Bank: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9am-12pm
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www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia Peddickord

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

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Encounter Youth Ministry for kids in 7th-12th grade meets on Sunday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for scheduled dates and times.
For complete ministry info and events, visit us online at RiverStonecc.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch

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Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.

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

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

WINNEBAGO

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



CANCER

Awareness & Prevention

A look at inherited breast cancer

INDIVIDUALS can make various changes to their lifestyles to help reduce their chances of developing certain types of cancer, including breast cancer. One thing they cannot change is their genes, prompting curiosity about the role of family history in relation to breast cancer risk.

First-degree connection

Parents pass down many things to their children, including hair color, height, and various other traits. Parents also can pass on an increased risk for breast cancer. Cancer Research UK says some people have a higher risk of developing breast cancer than the general population simply because other members of their families have had cancer. The organization says having a mother, sister or daughter (also referred to as a first-degree relative) diagnosed with breast cancer approximately doubles a woman's risk for breast cancer. This risk grows even higher when more close relatives have breast cancer, or if a relative developed breast cancer before reaching the age of 50.

Inherited damaged genes

Johns Hopkins Medicine says about 10 percent of breast cancers are related to inheritance of damaged genes. Several genes are associated with elevated breast cancer risk, including BRCA1 and BRCA2. Additional genes associated with an increased risk for breast cancer



include PALB2, ATM, CHEK2, CDH1, STK11, PTEN, TP53, and NF1. People who have inherited a damaged gene may have a particularly high risk of developing breast cancer or other cancers, depending on the specific gene and their family history.

Getting tested

Johns Hopkins says individuals can be tested for genes that put them at risk for cancer. That is a decision that merits ample consideration, and one that should be carefully discussed with a doctor and family members. Genetic counseling can look for inherited mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, the two most notable for increasing breast cancer risk. A blood test is typically covered by insurance companies and analysis can take a couple of weeks. More can be learned about genetic counseling and testing at www.cancer.org.

Whether or not to get genetic testing is a personal decision. However, learning the outcome may help protect future generations. Someone with a genetic mutation

has about a 50 percent chance of passing that trait on to children.

Additional risk factors

Heredity is just one risk factor for breast cancer. The American Cancer Society says White women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than some other races and ethnicities. Studies have found that taller women have a higher risk of breast cancer than shorter women, although the reasons for that are not exactly clear. In addition, women with dense breast tissue have a higher risk of breast cancer than women with average breast density. Women who began menstruating early (especially before age 12) have a slightly higher risk of breast cancer. That risk can be attributed to a longer exposure to the hormones estrogen and progesterone. The same can be said for women who experienced menopause later (typically after age 55).

Various factors can increase the risk of developing breast cancer, including genetic markers and family history of the disease.



Risk factors for thyroid cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer reports that roughly 586,000 new cases of thyroid cancer were diagnosed across the globe in 2020. That made thyroid cancer the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, with more new diagnoses than melanoma of the skin, cancer of the ovaries and pancreatic cancer.

Measures to reduce cancer risk can never guarantee a person will not ultimately be diagnosed with the disease. With that in mind, individuals can study these risk factors for thyroid cancer, which the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center notes differ depending on the type of the disease.

Papillary thyroid cancer

The MSKCC reports that most cases of thyroid cancer are papillary thyroid cancer. Papillary thyroid cancer is characterized by a slow-growing tumor that typically begins in one lobe of the thyroid.

Risk factors include:

- Radiation exposure: Individuals exposed to radiation as children have a higher chance of developing papillary thyroid cancer.

- Inherited conditions: A family history of multiple colon growths is considered a risk factor for papillary thyroid cancer. Similarly, the MSKCC reports that roughly 5 percent of people with papillary thyroid cancer have family members with the disease, though researchers are still working to identify which gene is responsible for this link.

- Gender: Papillary cancer occurs roughly three times more often in women than in men. However, the tumor grows and spreads more rapidly in men than in women.

Follicular thyroid cancer

This is a slow-growing form of thyroid cancer that can often be cured with the correct treatment. Risk factors include:

- Low-iodine diet: Fol-

licular carcinoma is more likely to develop in places where iodine is not added to the salt used in food.

- Familial conditions: The MSKCC reports that follicular thyroid cancer is part of certain inherited disorders, including Werner's syndrome.

Medullary thyroid cancer

According to the MSKCC, medullary thyroid cancer appears in older adults. Risk factors include:

- Family history: Roughly one in four individuals diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer have inherited a mutation in the RET gene.

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America reports that the five-year survival rate for localized thyroid cancer is roughly 99.9 percent. Individuals who recognize their own risk factors for the disease will put themselves in strong position to overcome it should they ever be diagnosed. More information is available at mskcc.org.

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CANCER

Awareness & Prevention

Physical symptoms of breast cancer

THE World Cancer Research Fund International reports that breast cancer is the second most common cancer across the globe, and the number one cancer in women. Nearly three million new cases of breast cancer in women are diagnosed across the globe each year.

Breast cancer poses a notable threat to women's health, but research and resulting advancements in treatment have made the disease more treatable than ever. Women also can play a part in ensuring better outcomes in relation to breast cancer by educating themselves about the disease, including its warning signs. The MD Anderson Cancer Center notes that most changes to the breast are a byproduct of hormonal cycles or conditions that are not as formidable as breast cancer. So women should not jump to any conclusions when spotting such changes. However, the MDACC recommends women visit their physicians if they notice any of the following signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

- **Lump:** The MDACC notes that a lump in the breast or armpit is the most common symptom of breast cancer. Echoing assertions made by the MDACC, the American Cancer Society notes that most breast lumps are not cancerous. The ACS indicates a lump that is a painless, hard mass with irregular edges is more likely to be cancer, though cancerous lumps also can be soft, round, tender, or even painful. The lack of uniformity regarding cancerous lumps is one reason why it pays for women to be extra cautious and immediately report any abnormalities in the shape and feel of their breasts to their physicians.

- **Swelling:** The ACS notes that some women with breast cancer will experience swelling of all or part of a breast even if they do not feel a lump.

- **Dimpling:** The MDACC reports that women with breast cancer may notice dimpling or puckering on the breast. According to the ACS, the dimpling can sometimes make the breast look like an orange peel.

- **Nipple retraction:** The National Cancer Institute notes that nipple retraction occurs when a nipple turns inward into the breast or lies flat against the breast. Though nipple retraction



can be a sign of breast cancer, the NCI notes that's not necessarily the case for all women. Some women experience nipple retraction due to aging, breastfeeding, injury, infection, surgery, or certain conditions of the breast.

- **Changes to the skin around the breast:** The ACS notes some women with breast cancer experience redness on the skin around the breast or on the nipple. Additional changes may include dry, flaking or thickened skin around the breast and nipple.

- **Discharge from the nipple:** The Mayo Clinic notes that it's normal to experience discharge from the nipple while pregnant and during breastfeeding. However, fluid coming

out the nipple when a woman is not pregnant or breastfeeding could be a symptom of breast cancer.

- **Additional symptoms:** The MDACC notes scaliness on the nipple that sometimes extends to the areola is another warning sign of breast cancer. The ACS also reports that swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone can indicate that breast cancer has spread even before the original tumor in the breast has been felt.

Breast cancer is a formidable yet treatable disease. Women who recognize any signs and symptoms associated with breast cancer are urged to contact their physicians immediately.

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Oral contraceptive use and breast cancer

BREAST cancer may never be far from the minds of women, particularly those who have experience with the disease. The American Cancer Society says about 310,720 new cases of invasive breast cancer are diagnosed in women in the United States in a given year. The World Health Organization says globally 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022, and 670,000 died from the disease.

Naturally, women want to do all they can to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer. While it is not possible for women to eliminate their breast cancer risk, recognition of certain variables that can increase risk can help them make more informed decisions. Such variables include the link between breast cancer and hormonal oral contraceptives.

Oral contraceptives are used by women to prevent pregnancy. The organization Susan G. Komen says that use of oral contraceptives is

linked to a 20 to 30 percent increased risk for breast cancer. However, nearly all of the research on the link between oral contraceptives and cancer risk comes from observational studies, including both large prospective cohort studies and population-based case-control studies, indicates the National Cancer Center. Researchers cannot definitively say if oral contraceptives cause or prevent cancer.

A 2017 cohort study published in the New England Journal of Medicine analyzed the risk of invasive breast cancer in Dutch women who used hormonal contraceptives. The study found that the overall risk of breast cancer from contraceptive use was very low. Relative risk increased with duration of use. Oral contraceptives utilize different hormone combinations and strengths, so results may vary depending on the type of pill being taken.

Once women stop taking birth control pills, their risk for breast cancer begins to decrease, advises Susan G.

Komen. After about five years, the risk of breast cancer among women who have taken an oral contraceptive is similar to the risk among women who have never taken the pill at all.

Low-dose pills also may be linked to an increased breast cancer risk just like older, higher-dose forms of birth control. But Susan G. Komen says that the progestin-only "mini-pill," norethisterone, doesn't appear to be linked to breast cancer. So those who are considering birth control pills may want to speak to their doctors about norethisterone if breast cancer risk is a concern. Similarly, use of a hormonal IUD, a vaginal birth control ring or a birth control patch does not seem to be linked to breast cancer.

Although there is a relatively low risk of breast cancer attributed to use of hormonal birth control, women can conduct their own research so they are in the best position to make informed decisions they can be comfortable with going forward.

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CANCER

Awareness & Prevention

A guide to prostate and testicular cancers

Each November, men embrace a popular and fun yet serious phenomenon known as Movember®, an annual effort to raise awareness about health issues that affect men. The prostate and the testes are exclusive to the male reproductive system. Prostate cancer and testicular cancer are two issues that garner much attention thanks to Movember®, so now is an ideal time for men to learn about these conditions.

Testicular cancer

The testes are small, egg-shaped glands responsible for making and releasing male sex hormones for growth of muscle, body hair and bone. They also make and move semen and sperm for reproduction.

According to the Urology Care Foundation, testicular cancer occurs when cells in the testicles grow to form a tumor, which is rare. More than 90 percent of testicular cancers begin in germ cells that are responsible for producing sperm. The Mayo Clinic says it can happen at any age, but testicular cancer occurs the most between the ages of 15 and 45 and is first noticed as a bump or lump on a testicle.

Testicular cancer can quickly spread outside of the testicle, but it is highly treatable even if it spreads.

Prostate cancer

Unlike testicular cancer, which affects a relatively small amount of men each year, prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer, indicates the Mayo Clinic.



Oftentimes prostate cancers grow slowly and are confined to the prostate gland. Still, some types of prostate cancer are aggressive and can spread quickly.

Catching prostate cancer in its early stages when it is localized greatly improves the odds that treatment will prove successful. The American Urological Association says ethnicity plays a role in prostate cancer, with African American men having a higher risk of the disease than men from other demographics. Men over the age of 55 as well as those who have a grandfather, father or brother with prostate cancer face a higher risk as well.

Sometimes prostate cancer shows no symptoms. In other cases, dull pain in the lower pelvis, frequent urination, trouble passing urine, blood

in urine, and painful ejaculation may be associated with prostate cancer. These symptoms also can be related to a condition called benign hyperplasia, so it's best to speak to a doctor. Doctors will use prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests and other information to check for prostate cancer. Some men never need to have any treatment other than active surveillance or watchful waiting, particularly if they are at advanced ages when a slow-growing prostate cancer is detected.

As with any health abnormalities, individuals should know their bodies and what is normal for them. Anything that seems out of the ordinary, particularly lumps, bumps, pain, blood, or issues around the groin, should be brought to the attention of a physician.



Symptoms of pancreatic cancer

MOVEMBER® is an annual event that originated in 2003 as an attempt to raise awareness about men's health issues. Though the issue Movember® addresses is serious, the annual November effort also has a lighthearted side, as men are encouraged to grow moustaches as part of the approach to raising awareness about men's health. That component adds an element of fun and might even encourage more men to participate in an event that Movember® organizers claim has funded the development of 54 inventions, 70 therapies and 107 diagnostic tests for prostate cancer since 2006.

Movember® organizers have emphasized raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. However, the month of November presents a

great opportunity to raise awareness about additional issues affecting men's health, including pancreatic cancer.

The World Cancer Research Fund International reports that pancreatic cancer is the twelfth most common cancer in men across the globe. In addition, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network notes that men are at slightly greater risk for pancreatic cancer than women. Recognition of pancreatic cancer symptoms can be an important step for men who want to embrace the spirit of Movember® and do all they can to live longer, healthier lives.

The American Cancer Society notes that pancreatic cancers often do not cause any signs or symptoms in their early stages. By the time symptoms present, the cancer has likely metastasized, or spread beyond the pancreas to other parts of the body. However, it's

still beneficial to learn to recognize the symptoms of pancreatic cancer, as such knowledge may compel individuals to report them to a doctor, who can then seek a cause and even develop a potentially life-saving treatment plan. Though the presence of one or more of the following symptoms do not necessarily mean an individual has pancreatic cancer, they should be reported to a physician immediately.

- **Jaundice:** Jaundice is a yellowing of the eyes and skin that the ACS notes is often one of the first symptoms of pancreatic cancer. Dark urine, light-colored or greasy stools and itchy skin are additional signs of jaundice.

- **Back or belly pain:** The pancreas is a gland in the abdominal region, and pain in the back or belly could be indicative of pancreatic cancer. Back pain associated with pancreatic cancer could be the result of the cancer spreading to the nerves that surround the pancreas.

- **Weight loss/poor appetite:** The ACS reports that unexplained weight loss is very common in people with pancreatic cancer, who frequently have little or no appetite.

- **Nausea:** Pancreatic cancer can sometimes press on the far end of the stomach, making it hard for food to get through. The ACS indicates that this can contribute to nausea, vomiting and pain that worsens after eating.

Pancreatic cancer is one of many men's health issues that deserve attention by men who want to live healthier.

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CANCER

Awareness & Prevention

How to reduce risk of cancer recurrence

A cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatments can challenge even the most mentally and physically strong individual. Once cancer is in remission, it may be difficult for some individuals to feel happy because the threat of cancer recurrence is looming in the back of their mind. Fear of recurrence can negatively affect quality of life and contributes to disabling anxiety in roughly 7 percent of patients, according to Cancer Therapy Advisor.

Recurrent cancer happens when cancer cells present in the body grow because they were not fully destroyed or removed during treatment. Sometimes cancer cells are simply too small to show up in follow-up tests, says the National Cancer Institute. These cells can then grow into tumors. Recurrent cancer should not be mistaken for second primary cancer, which is a new cancer that affects a person who has a history of the disease.

Recurrent cancer is categorized as local, regional or distant. Local recurrence is when the cancer occurs in the same place as the original cancer or very close by. Regional means the tumor has grown in the lymph nodes or in tissues near the first cancer. Distant recurrence happens when the cancer spreads elsewhere in the body.

The rate of recurrence can vary widely depending on cancer type and other variables, including genetic factors, treatments and stage. Typically, cancers that are difficult to



treat have high rates of recurrence. For example, glioblastoma recurs in nearly all patients. Ovarian cancer, soft tissue sarcomas and bladder cancer also have high recurrence rates.

There is no way to prevent cancer from coming back, says the American Cancer Society. Even if a patient does everything right there is still a chance for recurrence. However, the healthy habits that can reduce the risk for cancer developing initially also may lessen the risk for recurrence.

- Eat a variety of vividly colored vegetables each day, as well as legumes that are full of fiber.
- Consume nutritious foods rather than ones that provide little nutrition.
- Eat fruits in a variety of colors.
- Limit consumptions of red meat and processed

meats.

- Avoid sugary foods and beverages.
- Engage in regular physical activity, aiming for 150 to 300 minutes per week of moderate-intensity exercise. Include strength training at least two days a week.
- Being overweight or obese is linked to cancer formation, so managing weight through healthy eating and exercise may help reduce risk of recurrence.
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption or skip alcohol altogether.
- Cease usage of tobacco.

Recurrence of cancer is a very real risk and is on the minds of people who already have overcome the disease. There are ways to reduce the risk of recurrence, but there is no way to guarantee cancer won't return.



5 fruits and vegetables associated with reducing cancer risk

THE prevalence of cancer is widely known. Affecting people of every ethnicity and across the socioeconomic spectrum, cancer poses a threat to people in all corners of the globe. And that threat could be more significant in the immediate future. Estimates from the International Agency for Research on Cancer indicate that the global population boom and the growth of the world's aging population could result in more than 16 million cancer deaths each year by 2040.

According to the MD Anderson Cancer Center, a healthy diet can help reduce cancer risk. A diet that focuses on plants and emphasizes healthy choices may not eliminate the threat of cancer, but it can be an integral component of a preventive health care regimen. With that in mind, the following are five fruits and vegetables associated with reducing cancer risk, courtesy of the MDACC.

1. Berries: Berries con-

tain antioxidants, which protect the body from cell damage that can contribute to various cancers, including skin cancer, lung cancer and breast cancer, among others. Blueberries, raspberries and strawberries make wonderful additions to anyone's diet.

2. Cruciferous vegetables: Cruciferous vegetables include broccoli, bok choy, cabbage, and brussels sprouts, among others. The MDACC notes that studies have indicated that special plant compounds in cruciferous vegetables may protect the body from stomach cancer and cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, and esophagus.

3. Garlic: The experts at Mount Sinai note that garlic is often linked with reduced risk for heart disease, notably the prevention of atherosclerosis, which affects the arteries through the deposition of plaques of fatty acids along the arterial walls. However, antioxidant-rich garlic also helps the body fight off

harmful free radicals that can contribute to cancer.

4. Spinach: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in the United States. Studies have found that spinach inhibits the growth of colon polyps that can develop into colorectal cancer.

5. Tomatoes: Lycopene is an antioxidant that gives tomatoes their bright red color. According to the National Cancer Institute, though human studies have produced inconsistent results, various in vitro and animal studies have indicated that lycopene may have chemopreventive effects for cancers of the prostate, skin, breast, lung, and liver.

Eating these five fruits and vegetables is not the only way to use diet in the fight against cancer. Individuals are urged to speak with their physicians to learn about the many ways to utilize food in cancer prevention.

STATE-OF-THE-ART CANCER CARE



Centered on You: Meet Our Cancer Care Team

When you get the news that you or a loved one has cancer, it may feel like the world has tipped upside-down. It's likely one of the most life-altering – and definitely one of the most frightening – bits of news you'll ever get.

For many people, this is the time when family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and more will step forward to help – your own little team, dedicated to helping you get better.

In the past, a cancer diagnosis meant you would be meeting a whole new healthcare team, traveling to Madison, Iowa City, or Chicago, and going over your healthcare history many times over for each new provider. You and your support people may have faced travel challenges and nights spent away from home as you sought treatment.

Today, you have a choice. You can put yourself and your loved ones first and receive state-of-the-art cancer treatment right here in northwest Illinois at the Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport.



To find out more about The Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center at FHN Memorial Hospital, visit www.fhn.org/cancercare or call 815-599-7000.



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- Lung
- Lymphoma
- Oral
- Pancreatic
- Prostate
- Rectal
- Skin
- Stomach
- Testicular
- Thyroid

*While not an exhaustive list, these are some of the cancers FHN has treated.

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.

Did you know
That you can scan documents and pictures at the Byron Public Library? At the Byron Library's scan station, you can scan your documents or pictures and save them to a flash drive, send them as an email attachment, to a fax number, or to our printer. There is no charge to email or save. The library charges \$.10 per page for black and white print outs and \$.25 per page for color. Fax-

ing costs \$1 for the first page and \$.25 for each additional page.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. **SHOWTIME:** 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** at Rock River Center. Cost: \$60.00 per person. Limited seating available. Appetizers will be served.

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

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

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

JUNE YOGA CLASSES
Yoga: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Chair Yoga: 11:15 – 12:00 noon. When: Friday, June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost: \$5 per session.

Activities with Mary
Tues., May 20. Birdhouse Painting: 1:00 –

1:45. Drumming: 1:45 – 2:30. Advanced Registration requested

FRENCH CLASS
Next Meeting – May 21. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Advance Registration Required.

RRC Holiday Hours
Rock River Center will close on Monday, May 26, 2025, in recognition of Memorial Day. No activities/programs, services, or transportation will take place while the Center is closed. We will reopen at

8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

SUPPORT GROUPS @ ROCK RIVER CENTER

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of the month. Time:

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

LOW VISION GROUP

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information on any of our Support Groups, call Rock River Center at 815-732-3252 or 1-800-541-5479.

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Community Puzzle

We finally finished our winter themed 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: Only 1 more session left before we break for summer. Join Miss Stacey as they finish learning about a variety of animals!

May Book of the 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. 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 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 checkers, for anyone to play. Stop in and bring your competitive streak.

Plastic Recycling

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

NEW RELEASES

Adult Books

The Next Day by Melinda French Gates

Ward D by Freida McFadden

The Girl From Greenwich Street by Lauren Willig

Chapter Book

Finding Normal by Stephanie Faris

Picture Book

Scamp by Anden Wilder

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON—On April 18 at approximately 7:49 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Ogle Avenue near Main Street in Mt. Morris. After a brief investigation, Kenneth A. Cline Jr., 29, of Mt. Morris, was arrested for driving with no valid license. Cline was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an inoperable rear registration light. Cline was released at the scene on a notice to appear.

On April 19 at 7:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of East Ritchie Road in rural Rochelle.

After an investigation, a 17-year-old male juvenile from Summit Argo, Illinois was arrested for no valid driver's license, unlawful possession of alcohol by person under the age of 21, and improper lane usage. The juvenile was given a future court date and released to a parent.

On April 19 at approximately 11:39 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of North Crestview Road in reference to a check welfare. After an investigation, Mark Ellsworth, 53, of Stillman Valley, was placed under arrest for an active Ogle

County warrant for failure to appear. Ellsworth was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and held in lieu of bond.

On April 20 at approximately 11:10 p.m. deputies responded to the Davis Junction area for reports of a driving complaint. The vehicle was later located at the BP gas station in Monroe Center. After an investigation, the driver, Nicholas Faerber, 42, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Faerber was additionally cited for improper cannabis

container and illegal transportation of alcohol. Faerber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On April 21 at approximately 2:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of West Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Michele Botheroyd, 33, of Mt. Morris, was arrested for driving on a suspended Illinois driver's license. Botheroyd was also cited for operating a vehicle with no insurance. Botheroyd was released on a notice to appear and given

a future court date.

On April 22 at approximately 11:40 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Joe Tate, 52, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving with a suspended Illinois driver's license. Tate was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Tate was released on a notice to appear bond with a return court date.

On April 23 at approximately 10:01 p.m. deputies responded to the 300 block of Hillcrest Avenue

in Hillcrest for a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, a 16-year-old male juvenile from Hillcrest was charged with aggravated domestic battery, aggravated battery, and transported to Kane County Juvenile Detention Center for detainment. A 14-year-old female juvenile from Hillcrest was also charged with domestic battery. Deputies were assisted on scene by the Rochelle Police Department and Rochelle Fire Department.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



Oregon Lions sort books

Oregon Lions for Literacy recently worked very hard sorting and putting special stickers on books for children in need. Did you know 30% of children based on reading age do not have one single book to call their own? Barnes and Noble has donated very generously! Last year Oregon Lions for Literacy dispersed several hundred books at the local trunk-or-treat and hundreds more were delivered to children in need throughout the year. It's so nice to see our youth also getting involved to help with such a worthy cause. Please look for book drives in the future. (Courtesy photos)

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Pictured left to right: Chief Financial Officer Ben Mast, Chief Executive Officer Brady Foster, Director of Sales Jason Hecht, Case IH Territory Sales Manager Brad Baer, and Chief Operating Officer Mike Carley.

Birkey's Farm Store named Top 10 Volume Dealer

POLO—Birkey's Farm Store is proud to announce they have been named a Top 10 Volume Dealer in North America by Case IH for the year of 2024!

This award is given by Case IH to the top ten dealers ranked by sales volume alone, regardless of dealership size or quantity of locations. Birkey's was one of only two dealerships from the Central region of North America to be named in the top 10 dealers.

"This award reflects the dedication of our team and the trust of our customers across Illinois and Indiana. Thank you for choosing Birkey's and for making achievements like this possible" says Brady Foster, CEO of Birkey's Farm Store.



SV Lions Club cleans up Illinois Route 72
Lions club members of Stillman Valley recently had a trash pickup day along Illinois Route 72. Every year members walk a mile west to pick up garbage that accumulated over the winter. (Courtesy photo)

Weekly Brain Busters

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

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

Apple	Cake	Meat	Roast lamb
Bacon	Cured ham	Pie	The good life
Banana	Fruit	Potato	Tomato
Bread	Luck	Reality	

A SLICE OF —

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Eve's man
- Agt.'s take
- Summit
- C&W artist McEntire
- Geological period
- Linguist Chomsky
- Magnificence
- Leslie Caron role
- Next in line
- Business goal
- Poetic contraction
- Feudal laborer
- Rx writers
- Actor McKellen
- Cardio-boxing routine
- Nest egg choices
- Vat
- Foolproof
- Picture puzzle
- Diner order
- "Awesome, dude!"
- Muscat's land
- Summer mo.
- Spud
- Scan again
- Help a hood
- French title
- Go sightseeing

DOWN

- Golden Fleece ship
- "Wild" actress Laura
- "That's not — idea"
- "Olympia" painter Edouard
- Views slyly
- French vineyard
- Infield covers
- Long-haired cats
- Hairdresser
- Creche trio
- Send forth
- Roman 602
- Pensioned (Abbr.)
- Soviet space station
- Dad on "Black-ish"
- 1942 Hitchcock thriller
- Gist
- Bikini half
- British ref. work
- Java neighbor
- Total nonsense
- Perched
- Calendar abbr.
- Wanderer
- Big smiles
- Bits of butter
- Reed instrument
- Fair-hiring org.
- Mystique
- "Phooey!"
- Mine material

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Weekly SUDOKU

			6		8	7	4	1
7	9		3					6
		1		5				9
	1	3	9	6				8
4		6		8	7			
9	8	7	4		3	6		
6					5		2	
	5	9		4	6			7
1			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. Stripe on sock is missing. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Towel is longer. 5. Hair is different. 6. Number on shirt is smaller.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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. 2025FC20
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)

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 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."

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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT WOOSUNG TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2025	
Revenue Summary	
Real Estate Taxes	\$24266.34
Replacement Tax	\$ 271.44
Interest Income	\$ 10.66
Miscellaneous	\$ 800.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 75858.38
Disbursements more than \$2500.	
Tom Hoak	\$ 4500.00
Matt Shore	\$ 2700.00
Sharon Harrison	\$ 2500.00
Disbursements less than \$2500.	\$ 66158.38
Total Disbursements	\$ 66158.38
ROAD DISTRICT SUMMARY	
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 52721.66
Replacement Tax	\$ 962.91
Interest	\$ 12.78
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 53697.35
Disbursements more than \$2500.	
Buffalo Township	\$ 26556.00
Gray Excavating	\$ 18871.50
R.E. Wolber & Sons	\$ 6410.00
Swanson	\$ 3600.00
Disbursements less than \$ 2500.00	\$ 1035.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 56472.50
Subscribed and sworn to this 5 th day of May 2025	
Matt Shore	Treasurer
I, Sharon Harrison, clerk of Woosung Township, Ogle County Illinois do hereby certify	
That the above is a true copy of the annual Treasurer's for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025	
Sharon Harrison	Clerk
No. 0516	
(May 19, 2025)	

103 AUCTIONS

Be Sure to Check Out our Current & Upcoming Auctions:

*Real Estate: 102 2nd Ave., Forreston, IL
219 Calvert, Chadwick, IL

***"The Mahlon Frie Toy Collection" Online-Only
May 24-June15 over 300 cataloged lots

***Live-In Person" July 12 Cedarville, IL
"The Rich & Betty Brubaker Collection"

www.rudyontheweb.com

Troy Rudy; Auctioneer IL#440000433, WI#2618-052, AR#IREC03015
815.297.4846

103 AUCTIONS

ONLINE PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION 22782A SHORT ROAD, LANARK, IL 61046

Thursday, May 22nd 8AM to
Sunday, May 25th 5PM
This is an Online Auction.

Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 5/21/2025.

Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.

Personal Property: Vintage iron pieces; yard/outdoor decor; decorative items; various folding tables; tools & power tools; multiple bicycles; Dynamark Snowblower; weed eaters (Stihl & more); Craftsman Tiller; gas pressure washer; restaurant items—tablecloths, kitchen appliances, mini-fridge, and more; vintage farm implements, carriage, sleigh, plows; Antique John Deere running gear; several folding awnings/tents; pallet racking; china; decorative glassware; many miscellaneous items, and more! Vehicle: Freightliner School Bus/Party Bus 167k miles

Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing @ 8am on 5/21/2025. If you wish for more information on an item or an appointment to view an item, please contact A & T Auction Services directly.

Pick-Up: will be held on Thursday, May 29th from 4:30-7pm at the sale site listed above.

Terms & Conditions: This is an absolute sale. There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to all items sold. Items can be purchased with cash, GOOD check, or credit card. There will be a 3.5% fee added to any credit card transaction.

Follow A & T Auction Services on Facebook for more information!

Travis Cunningham,
Auctioneer IL Lic. # 441.002600
A & T Auction Services, LLC
atauctionservices@gmail.com
815-297-4595

FLEA MARKET SAT & SUN

10A-4P

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

620 South Stone Hill Rd
Chana, IL

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

05052025

Going once... going twice...

SOLD!

The benefits of purchasing cattle from a live auction

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

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

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

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

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

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



Advertise in our
AUCTION SECTION

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

103 AUCTIONS

— Jack Kerns Estate / Construction Equipment — LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION SATURDAY • May 31, 2025

Starting @ 9:30 am (RAIN OR SHINE!)

Building Space Available for Inside Auction if Needed!

Online items will start at 11:30

319 SOUTH WOODLAWN ROAD, CRESTON IL 60113
at Mike Kerns Construction Shop!

2006 GMC 2500 DURAMAX DIESEL OUTLAW ED. 4 DOOR 151,000 MILES, 5TH WHEEL CAMPER, 2 SLIDEOUTS, SUPER CLEAN, NEW HOLLAND LS160 SKID LOADER W/2536HRS., G3 TALON 17 DLX FISHING BOAT WITH ALL THE EXTRAS, KUBOTA B2410 LOADER LAWN TRACTOR WITH TILLERS, E-Z GO GAS GOLF CART, CONSTRUCTION TRAILERS, SNOW PLOWS, CONSTRUCTIONS TOOL, RIDING LAWNMOWERS, SHOP AND WOODWORKING EQUIPMENT, VERY CLEAN BEDROOM SETS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS! THIS IS A GREAT AUCTION WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!

Auctioneers Note: Prepare to possibly be in 2 rings as there is a LARGE offering of equipment and tools Bring a Friend!
Terms: 5% BUYERS PREMIUM FOR ONLINE PURCHASES ONLY, Cash or good check, Master Card / Visa. Proper ID required for registration. No property removed until settled for. Not responsible for items or accidents. All items sold to the best & highest bidder.

Guest Consigner: MIKE KERNS

Pictures at: **Prestegaardauctions.com**

Online Auction at: **Espeauctions.com**

Joel Prestegaard - Lee, IL - 815-761-7426

Matt Hart - Scarboro, IL - 815-757-4722

Mike Espe - Elburn IL - 630-669-2667

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

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

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc.

Auctions – Real Estate

Appraisals

Online Auctions

Now Available

Pecatonica, IL

815-239-1436

Hacksauction.com



**OPENING
BID
LIVE**

Advertise in our

AUCTION SECTION

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

05192025

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

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'

305
GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

Huge Garage Sale
600 S. 2nd St., Oregon, IL
Thur. May 22 - 3PM to 6PM
Fri. May 23 & Sat. May 24 - 8AM to 4PM

Antiques, Vintage, Old Toys, Games & Models, Jewelery, World's Fair Memorabilia, Old Post Cards and MUCH MORE!

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration
6331 11th Street | Rockford

New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
Freezers
Washers/Dryers
Stoves
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers

815-262-3900

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

We Help You Help.

When you help care for a loved one, you take care of everything. But are you taking care of yourself?

AARP can help with information and useful tips on how you can maintain a healthy life balance, care for your own physical and mental well-being, and manage the challenges of caring for a loved one. Because the better care you take of yourself, the better care you can provide for your loved one.

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

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

AARP ad

203
HELP WANTED

CITY OF BYRON CITY ADMINISTRATOR

\$90,000 to \$125,000

- Plus Benefits
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Community Planning or a related field
- Prior employment experience in the local government sector preferred
- Strong accounting and budgeting skills preferred
- Must reside within 15 miles of the City of Byron within 6 months of appointment

The City of Byron, Illinois is seeking a full-time City Administrator to lead the City's day-to-day operations and guide the community into the future. Candidates must reside within 15 miles of the City of Byron within 6 months of appointment. The annual salary base pay range for this position is \$90,000 to \$125,000 depending on qualifications, plus benefits. Successful candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in the field of business administration, public administration, community planning or a related field. Preference will be given to candidates with prior employment experience in the local government sector. Preference will also be given to candidates possessing strong accounting and budgeting skills and to those holding a master's or related advanced degree. The full job posting and a complete job description are available at www.cityofbyron.com

Application deadline is June 12, 2025. Candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and 5 references via email to City Administrator Brian Brooks (retiring) at bbrooks@es-il.org. The City of Byron is an equal opportunity employer.

We are HIRING!

ROCHELLE News-Leader

Part-time local delivery driver

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

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

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

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

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

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle.

No phone calls please.

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

Multimedia Sales Consultant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROCHELLE News-Leader

VIEW CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE!

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

Want us to post your ad on our Facebook Page?

Call Chris Grimm at 815-561-2125 or email cgrimm@oglecountylife.com

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
Rock Valley Shopper

Excelleaf
Now Hiring PT Delivery Driver

STRONGER TOGETHER

2015 - RNL Sales B.V.

7 excellent reasons to advertise regularly

- 1. TO MEET DEMAND.** People's wants and needs change from day to day. Regular advertising increases the likelihood of consumers choosing your company when they need your specific product or service.
- 2. TO BUILD TRUST.** The more consumers are exposed to your advertising, the more familiar they become with your brand. Trust builds over time.
- 3. TO STAY COMPETITIVE.** To stay in the race, you must remain top-of-mind with your desired clientele. If your competitors advertise more often than you, who is the customer likely to turn to when they need a product or service? You know the answer.
- 4. TO GENERATE INTEREST.** When a product or service is advertised several times, it's bound to pique consumer interest. What do you have to lose?
- 5. TO ESTABLISH YOUR CREDIBILITY.** Frequent advertising strengthens your brand image and ensures consumers take your business seriously.
- 6. TO BE REMEMBERED.** Repetition is the key to ensuring your message reaches your target audience. It's much the same as learning a new skill. After all, memory has a way of fading.
- 7. TO SAVE MONEY.** Consistently buying advertising space in your local newspaper is a great way to benefit from lower rates.

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

Start earning now!

Targeted Local Advertising

Reach an engaged and affluent local audience when you promote your business here. This is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood guide to local shopping, dining, events and more, making it a highly effective place for your business to advertise directly to the consumer.

I Love Local!

To learn more about advertising, contact one of our helpful ad consultants today.
815-732-2156

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
Rock Valley Shopper

GET HIRED

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

Start earning now!

Out of Sight, Out of Mind...

STAY TOP OF MIND
With Local Consumers

It's a Smart Investment

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

Advertise With Us

OGLE COUNTY LIFE
Rock Valley Shopper

815.561.2125

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

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

Print newspaper ads inspire action.

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

IT'S TIME TO ADVERTISE

NEWS
News & Events

LOCAL NEWS



OES 4th graders hold IKidaRod Race

Oregon Elementary School fourth graders held the annual IKidaRod Race throughout Park West on April 25. Following an immersive study on the Iditarod Race in Alaska, teams of fourth graders worked together to solve various challenges on a course in the park to reinforce their learning. Congratulations to “The Cookers” from Mrs. Cover’s class for winning the championship. “Thank you to the many OHS students and fourth grade parents/families who helped put on the event,” a district Facebook post said. (Courtesy photos)

Homegrown healthy: A horticultural journey from garden to table

OREGON — 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.

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. This innovative program integrates weekly topics 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., Rochelle, 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 jsagiler@illinois.edu or call 815-544-3710. Register online at <https://go.illinois.edu/HomegrownHealthy2025>. Funding provided by CDC ACTION Grant.

Memorial Day

FEED A LOT FOR A LITTLE!

WATERMELON
4.99 ea

US Grade A CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS
Sold in 10 lb bags
6.90

Certified Angus Beef® brand NEW YORK STRIP STEAK
10 oz
9.99 ea

Prices Effective: Wednesday, May 21 thru Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Halo Pure Goodness MANDARINS
3 lb bag
3.99

Idaho RUSSET POTATOES
3 lb bag
1.88

Bakery Fresh BRAT BUNS
6 ct
2.19

Sullivan's Signature BRATS OR SAUSAGES Family Pack
4.49 lb

Oscar Mayer HOT DOGS
Select Varieties 16 oz
2/\$3

Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ SAUCE
Select Varieties 18 oz
4/\$5

Bush's Best BAKED BEANS
Select Varieties 22-28 oz
2/\$4

Kingsford CHARCOAL
Select Varieties 12-16 oz
9.99

Single Personal Graduation Cake

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

\$5

Graduation Sheet Cake

\$72.99

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

2025 Graduation Combo Packages

Luncheon | Decorated Cake Now Available

Graduation Bakery Packages 2025

Cake | Cookies | Cupcakes Now Available

CALL YOUR STORE TO ORDER. NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. Fillings, Photos, and Custom Work Available for Extra Charge. Graduation specials effective thru June 30, 2025.

Available at all 11 Sullivan's Foods including: 101 E HWY 64, MT. MORRIS 815.734.6868 | OPEN 6:30A TO 8P 7 DAYS A WEEK

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