

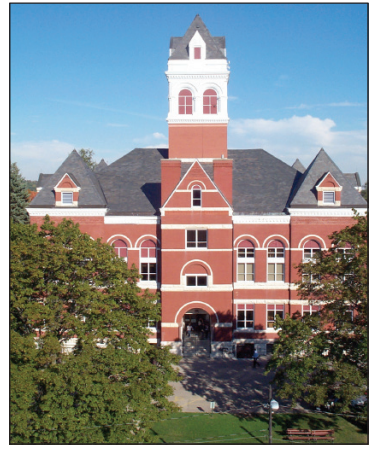


SVHS athletes sign letters

Stillman Valley High School athletes signed to continue their academics and sports collegiately. **Section B**

Ogle County LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER



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Chen earns PEO scholarship

Byron's Xiang Yi Chen was recognized for earning the PEO Star Scholarship. **Page 5**



Oregon Lions to hold breakfast

A pancake breakfast will be held to benefit the Ogle County K9 Unit. **Page 3**

WEATHER

MONDAY
HIGH LOW
68 44

TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
65 50

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
69 50

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
71 52

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
74 57

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
78 56

OBITUARIES

- Cindy Sweger
- Sonia Vogl
- William Joel Beesing
- Marjean A. Miller
- Michael Ray Norman
- Richard James Gribbins
- Dennis 'Mike' Michael Pratt

INSERTS

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

Resolution supporting state bill against steer tailing sees no vote

Bill relates to local rodeos that have drawn concerns from SHARK

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board tabled a resolution in potential support of State Senate Bill 0045, which seeks to ban steer tailing.

Steer tailing is a specific rodeo event where a rider on horseback chases down a running steer, bull, or calf and grabs onto the animal's tail; the rider then wraps the tail around his leg, slamming the animal to the ground.

The state bill has a local tie, relating to rodeos that have been taking place at 16989 E. Ritchie Road, a property in Ogle County south of Rochelle. The rodeos have drawn concerns from Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK), an animal activist group, which has asked the board in the past to revoke a special use permit for the venue to host events and has asked the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and Ogle County State's Attorney's Office to charge and prosecute those committing what they believe to be animal abuse at the rodeos.

"Two resolutions were discussed at our committee meeting last week," County Ethics and Governance Committee Chair Steve Huber said of tabling the resolution. "One was this resolution and the other was one submitted by SHARK and referred to the State's Attorney Mike Rock



At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board tabled a resolution in potential support of State Senate Bill 0045, which seeks to ban steer tailing.

for his input and it will return to us and continue to be discussed at our next meeting. We referred the other action to the zoning committee for review and investigation of the special use permit concerning this matter. It will come back to the county board and we will decide what to do. We wish to further discuss this and get input from the agriculture committee as well."

See COUNTY BOARD page 2

RCH celebrates Hospital Week

Hospital Week held from May 12-16

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital celebrated National Hospital Week from May 12-16.

The week saw a "There's no place like RCH" Wizard of Oz theme. On Munchkin Monday staff wore RCH gear and were treated to Florence Nightingale Birthday Bundtins. Tuesday's theme was "Which Witch are you?" and staff wore red/pink for the Good Witch or black/green for the Wicked Witch and were treated to Witches Brew Coffee Truck.

Wednesday's theme was "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and staff wore rainbow colors and were treated to a candy bar in RCH's Cafe 900. Thursday was RCH's Emerald City



Rochelle Community Hospital celebrated National Hospital Week from May 12-16.

Luncheon and employees wore green and received a complimentary lunch.

Friday's theme was "Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the weekend" and employees received complimentary ice cream sandwiches and wore RCH gear and tennis and/or red shoes. The week also included daily prize winners, a scavenger hunt, a selfie spot and three grand prize winners on Friday.

See HOSPITAL WEEK page 11



On May 6, Pegasus Special Riders in Oregon hosted a class of students from the Lee County Special Education Association's Transition Program for a workshop that focused on horse care and interaction.

Pegasus Special Riders hosts students from the Lee County Special Education Association

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On May 6, Pegasus Special Riders in Oregon hosted a class of students from the Lee County Special Education Association's Transition Program for a workshop that focused on horse care

and interaction.

Pegasus Special Riders was formed in 1997 as a nonprofit organization to provide therapeutic equine services to individuals with special challenges in Ogle County and surrounding counties.

See PEGASUS pg 10

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LOCAL NEWS

COUNTY BOARD: Representatives of animal rights group speak at meeting Tuesday

From page 1

Public comments were heard against steer tailing and what happens to animals at the Mexican-style rodeos from SHARK representatives and a county resident.

Representatives from SHARK have spoken at Ogle County Board meetings in the past. SHARK has been in contact with Ogle County Board members, State's Attorney Rock and Sheriff Brian VanVickle in the past, providing video evidence of what it believes to be animal abuse.

"Since 2022 and as recently as a few weeks ago, we have provided clear video evidence of crimes to law enforcement," Steve Hindi of SHARK said. "The state's attorney's, sheriff's and animal control offices are paid. All we ask is that they do their job."

The property at 16989 E. Ritchie Road where rodeos have been held in the past has also seen

previous police and EMS response for issues such as fights and reports of shots fired. A rodeo is planned at the venue on Sunday, May 25, SHARK representatives said.

"Please deny and revoke the permit," Jodie Wiederkehr of SHARK said. "Sunday's event should not happen."

Special use

The board approved a special use permit for the operation of a towing/vehicle impound and auto & truck repair facility on agricultural-zoned land at the Chana address of 1735 S. Meridian Road by a vote of 15-8.

The special use permit was voted against by Board Members Skip Kenney, Dan Miller, Aaron Mudge, Dan Janes, Jeff Billeter, Dean Fox, Bruce Larson and Huber.

"In my opinion, it's subtracting due to its close proximity to residential areas," Kenney said. "I don't see the value. I see the value in having a

garage. But I absolutely do not see the value in having an impound area unless there's something else going on that we're unfamiliar with. I can't support this."

Following the approval, the board heard public comments against the special use permit from residents of the area, including Marty and Denise Winterland.

"My number-one concern is what happens to our property values," Denise Winterland said.

Vehicles

The board heard a presentation by Enterprise Fleet Management Account Executive Scott Perkinson and unanimously approved a leasing agreement with Enterprise for county vehicles. The agreement will involve a total of 36 vehicles across different departments, excluding the Ogle County Sheriff's Office.

Perkinson said 39 percent of the county's vehicle fleet that is light duty



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

During the Ogle County Board meeting, public comments were heard against steer tailing and what happens to animals at the Mexican-style rodeos from SHARK representatives and a county resident.

or medium duty is over 10 years old and a plan has been made to provide new vehicles at lower maintenance and fuel expenses.

"We'd like to identify an effective lifecycle that maximizes the potential

resale value of the fleet by creating conservative savings of over \$430,000 over the next 10 years. We want to shorten the average lifecycle of vehicles from over nine years to five years. This will free

up \$131,000 in capital by selling the 15 oldest vehicles in the fleet in the first year which will significantly decrease maintenance costs to \$69 a month from what today is \$142 a month."

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On May 6 at approximately 6:28 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Montague Road and Rock City Road. After an investigation Erik E. Peterson, 47, of German Valley, was arrested for

driving with a revoked Illinois driver's license. Peterson was also cited for operating a vehicle with no insurance and an equipment violation. Peterson was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing. Peterson was released on a

notice to appear bond.

On May 6 at approximately 10:48 a.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident on U.S. Route 52, near the intersection with Robin Road. An initial investigation determined an eastbound

semi-tractor and livestock trailer failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway. The tractor/trailer combination entered the south ditch and overturned. The driver of the semi, Bryan Varney, 60, of Dows, Iowa, received apparent minor injuries and was transported to OSF Saint Katherine Hospital by Polo EMS. Varney was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and improper lane usage. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Polo Fire/EMS and Mt. Morris Fire.

On May 6 at approximately 11:20 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of 12221 E. Flagg Road at the entrance to the Rolling Green Estates in reference to a vehicle stuck in the ditch. After investigation, deputies placed Hamza

Saadaoui, 40, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Hamza was additionally issued citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of .08 or more. Hamza was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 7 at approximately 3:56 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of 8th Street and Pines Road in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Marcel Bauby, 26, of Dixon under arrest for driving while license suspended. Bauby was released on a notice to appear at the scene and

given a future court date.

On May 7 at 2:40 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of South Lost Nation Road in rural Dixon for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Clifford Petty, 33, of Dixon, was arrested for domestic battery and criminal damage to property. Petty was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he will be held pending an appearance in front of a judge.

On May 9 at approximately 9:58 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Pines Road and Devils Backbone Road. After further investigation Debrah Messenger, 45, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. A passenger in the vehicle, Jeremiah Martin, 36, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Winnebago County warrant. Both Messenger and Martin were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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KAYLA HESLOP
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SEAN HOSSEINI
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Cindy Sweger

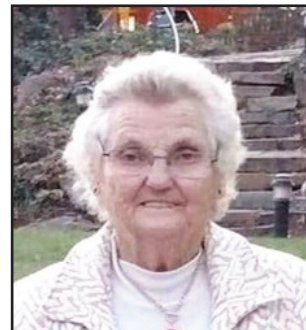
CHANA — Cindy Sweger, 91, of Chana, passed away Monday, May 20, 2025, at the OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. She was born December 12, 1933, in Stafford County, Virginia, the daughter of John and Lottie (Woodell) Ellington. She married Ralph “Bud” Sweger Sr. on November 3, 1951, in Falmouth, Virginia.

Cindy loved being a farmer’s wife and tending to the livestock. She was especially fond of her dogs and cats. She was a fan of country music and dancing. Later in life, she enjoyed going around the Rochelle area playing slots and meeting new people. Cindy was an extremely hard worker who fought

for everything she had. She overcame many hardships in her life and came out better on the other side of every challenge she faced.

Cindy is survived by four children, Ralph Sweger Jr. of North Carolina, Ray (Sandy Kaye) Sweger of Chana, Linda Pfister of Chana, and Cynthia Sweger of Rochelle; eight grandchildren, Debra, Rebekah, Patricia, Stephanie, Jason, Matthew, Elizabeth, and Christopher; numerous great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Cindy is preceded in death by her husband, Ralph “Bud” Sweger Sr.; a son, Gary Sweger; and six siblings, John Ellington, Hansford Ellington,



Frances Dillard, Clara Lee, Bernard Ellington, and Virginia Atkins.

Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. A graveside funeral service will be held at 10:00 A.M. Friday, May 30, 2025, at White Rock Cemetery in Kings with Pastor Rodney Caldwell officiating. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Sonia Vogl

OREGON — Sonia was born at home in Milwaukee, WI to Eldon and Margaret Wolff. She was the eldest of three children. Although she and her husband Robert attended the same high school, where he played football and she was a cheerleader, they never met until they both took a dance class at the local YMCA. They soon realized they had the same interests and were married in June 1957 in Milwaukee, WI.

She was an avid lover of the outdoors and together they built a life around their shared passions. They attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee together, then went on to earn their Masters degrees at the University of Wisconsin in Superior, where they had their daughter Linnea. A few years after they had their son Tad, they went on together to earn their Ph.Ds. from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.

Together they worked at Camp Reinberg in Palatine, IL and worked for the Chicago Public Schools developing outdoor education programs for inner city youth. While their children were young she spent her time teaching them through experiences at home and in different regions of the country. After receiving her doctorate she secured a position as an associate professor at Northern Illinois University’s Lorado Taft Field

Campus teaching field sciences, where her husband Robert was already employed. While working they led workshops and presented at the Clean Air Conferences around the world. During this time they bought a farm and restored the native prairie and the oak woodlands on the property. They also helped form the Friends of the Rock, which later became part of the Rock River Trail Initiative.

Sonia was a proficient grant writer and helped various organizations receive funding for their projects. After retirement they went on to volunteer their time by helping form the Illinois Renewable Energy Association, hosted the annual Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair, continued to host workshops, were on the board of the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County and were pleased to be a part of the acquisition of Sand Ridge Prairie, and wrote weekly articles on energy and the environment for the Rock River Times Newspaper. Sonia and Robert were not only a married couple, but they were best friends and a team in almost every aspect of what they did.

She enjoyed exploring the environment, learning about the creatures in it and shared her enthusiasm for it with everyone around her. She had a brilliant mind, a creative spirit and a giving



heart. She enjoyed simple things like being with her pets, gardening, cooking, visiting with friends and family, walking in the woods and prairie, swimming, canoeing, identifying plants and birds, and going up to the family cottage. She taught her children to be independent individuals and compassionate caretakers of the natural world. With all that she accomplished, her greatest love was spending time with her family.

Sonia will be remembered for her cheerful, enthusiastic, and loving presence. She is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Sandra (Julius) Marfy. She is survived by her husband Robert; daughter Linnea (Gerald Sepesy) Vogl; son Tad (Jean Marie Kauth) Vogl; grandson Hunter Vogl; brother Roland (Birgit) Wolff; loving nieces and nephews; her former students and her friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 26th from 12:30 to 3:30 at the Vogl farm. Please contact lin.vogl@gmail.com to RSVP and for more information.

Tri-County Opportunities Council celebrates 60 years of community impact

STERLING — Tri-County Opportunities Council is proud to announce its 60th Anniversary Celebration, marking six decades of dedicated service to the residents of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, and Whiteside counties. The celebration will take place on June 6, 2025, at Champs Banquet Venue, 9 E. 3rd St., Sterling, IL 61081, bringing together community members, partners, and supporters to honor the agency’s legacy and future.

Founded in 1965 as part of the national Community Action movement, Tri-County Opportunities Council has played a vital role in fighting poverty and empowering individuals and families to achieve

economic self-sufficiency. From early childhood education to housing assistance, energy programs, workforce development, and more, the agency has remained steadfast in its mission to help people and change lives.

“This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our staff, board, volunteers, and community partners,” said Jill Calkins, president/CEO of Tri-County Opportunities Council. “Together, we have made a real and lasting difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families across our nine-county region.”

The 60th Anniversary Celebration will feature special guest speakers, live entertainment, and a tribute to the organiza-

tion’s history and impact. All are welcome to attend this momentous occasion and help celebrate a legacy of compassion, resilience, and progress. RSVPs are appreciated and can be sent to tcoc@tcochelps.org.

Event details: Date: June 6. Time: 5-11 p.m. Location: Champs Banquet Venue, 9 E. 3rd St., Sterling, IL 61081

As Tri-County Opportunities Council looks to the future, the organization remains committed to addressing emerging community needs with innovation, integrity, and compassion.

For more information about the event or to learn how you can support the work of Tri-County Opportunities Council, please visit www.tcochelps.org or call 815-625-7830.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured are Kyle White with Gator and Ali VanVickle with Saint.

Oregon Lions to host pancake breakfast to benefit county K9 unit

OREGON — The Oregon Lions Club will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 7 from 7-11 a.m. at the Methodist Church at 200 S. 4th St., Oregon to support the Ogle County K-9 Unit.

Pictured are Kyle White with Gator and Ali VanVickle with Saint. The K-9 unit does great work, but the care and feeding of the well-trained working dogs is done through donations and not funded by coun-

ty. Breakfast includes; pancakes, maple syrup, sugar-free maple syrup, sausage, applesauce, juice, milk and coffee. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children five and under.

Byron Park District honors Scott Jeffrey for 30 years of dedicated service

BYRON — The Byron Park District marked a significant milestone at its April 15 meeting, recognizing Commissioner Scott Jeffrey for three decades of dedicated volunteer service. Jeffrey, who has served as a Park District commissioner for 30 years, recently announced that he will not seek another term in 2025.

“Scott has had a lasting impact on the Byron community throughout his three decades of service,” Byron Park District Executive Director Nick Warner said. “I’ve been honored to learn from his wisdom and leadership during my time with the district. He will be greatly missed.”

Jeffrey’s long-standing commitment has helped

shape the Park District’s growth and development, reflecting his passion for fostering vibrant public spaces and community connections.

As the District prepares for new leadership, it honors Jeffrey’s legacy of service and dedication, which will continue to inspire future commissioners and community leaders alike.



Ogle County Democrats donate over \$900 to local food pantries

Representatives from two local food bank pantries attended the monthly meeting of the Ogle County Democratic Committee on May 7. Katherine Wragg and Barbara Diehl shared with the members information about the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry and Loaves & Fish Food Pantry. A brief overview of the community that is served was provided. They shared news of their growing needs as the numbers of clients using their services has increased as federal funding has been drastically cut. Access to basic commodities is a grave concern. A collection was taken, and each pantry received a check for \$465 from the Ogle County Democratic Committee and its members. Pictured are Katherine Ragg, Polo Lifeline Pantry; Linda Pottinger, Ogle County Democratic Party chair; and Barbara Diehl, Loaves & Fish Food Pantry. (Courtesy photo)

Marlatt named to SNHU spring 2025 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List: Brian

Marlatt of Oregon.

The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting

term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SNHU announces Spring 2025 President’s List, Bailey recognized

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Casandra Bailey of Mt. Morris has been named to the Spring 2025 President’s List at that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s

List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week

term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

William Joel Beesing

OREGON — William Joel Beesing, 90, passed away on Friday, May 16, 2025, after a long illness. Bill was born on April 25, 1935, in Enid, Oklahoma to Edwin and Lois Beesing. He graduated from high school in Carrier, Oklahoma, was drafted into the Army and was sent to Germany where he completed his service. When he returned, Bill immediately started working in a laboratory testing soil, was sent to the Nevada Test Site “for six weeks” but met and married Judy, his wife of 64 years (on May 20, 2025), and started his family in Las Vegas, Nevada.

No challenge was ever too big for Bill. His tremendous work ethic, experience and pragmatic problem solving helped Bill develop from a laborer, into a Construction Manager, a Project Manager and ultimately into a Project Executive. Bill worked on large construction sites across the United States but was particularly proud of the construction of the Byron Nuclear Plant, the project that brought Bill and his family to Oregon, Illinois. Other notable construction projects Bill managed included: a Rock-

et launcher for Boeing and LA Convention Center and Ronald Reagan Library in California, a government office complex and waste water treatment plant in Tennessee, a VA Hospital in Ohio, and a high rise building in Chicago, among many other projects.

Despite his work ethic, Bill’s family always came first. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, who spent all his spare time with his family. Bill was an active member of his church and, after retiring, devoted his time and skills to the construction and operation of the Rock River Center, Oregon’s senior center.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother and father, as well as his siblings, Peggy Vorel and her husband Emil Vorel, and Jerry Beesing, and his son-in-law, Anthony Kostogiannes. Bill is survived by his wife Judy, and three children, Rhonda Beesing, Lloyd Beesing and his wife Randi Beesing, and Dale Beesing and his wife Diane Beesing. Bill also had seven grandchildren and one great grandchild (almost two): Vashoula Kostogiannes, Christos



Kostogiannes, Alexandros Kostogiannes, Chelsea Lawrence, Cori Jones, Will Beesing, Connor Beesing, Cooper Lawrence and Piper Jones (due 6/3/25). Bill leaves many faithful and wonderful friends who sent cards, made phone calls and visits during his illness, and said many prayers on his behalf.

Bill’s family would like to thank Serenity Hospice and particularly Rachel and Courtney for the care and kindness during Bill’s last months.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Serenity Hospice or Rock River Center.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at Farrell, Holland & Gale, Funeral Home, 110 S 7th St, Oregon, IL 61061, with Interment following at Riverside Cemetery.

Richard James Gribbins

OREGON — Richard James Gribbins, 80, passed away at home in Oregon, IL on December 12th.

Richard was born in Dixon, IL on September 10, 1944 the son of James and Madeline (Jane) Gribbins.

Richard graduated from Polo High School (Class of 62) and later earned a degree in Accounting from Rock Valley College. He spent most of his working life as an Executive in Manufacturing based in IL, MI, and TX.

He was an avid duck hunter, fisherman and most recently a buyer of precious metals, know locally as “The Silver Guy.” On any given day, you would likely find him perusing an estate sale or appraising a coin collection.

He was also an active

participant in the Mensa and Intertel organizations and enjoyed attending their social functions. The monthly “Geezer Lunch” he attended with his Polo classmates was also a highlight for him.

Richard is survived by his former spouses Debbie (Dykema) Gassman and Sharon McKnight, his brother, David (Joanne) Gribbins of Brookfield, WI, children, Neil Gribbins (Sarah) of Belleville, WI and Sarah Giannone (Brian) of Chicago, IL and son-in-law, Reverend Timothy Steckling (Tammi) of Nixa, MO.

Also, eight grandchildren: Hannah (Eskel), Isaiah, Rebekah, Sarah, Elijah, Leah (Steckling), Carmella and Viola (Giannone), along with two nieces, Allison and Kate



(Gribbins), and one great granddaughter, Heather (Eskel).

He was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Heather Steckling.

A graveside service will be held at Fairmount Cemetery in Polo, IL at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday May 31, 2025 followed by a fellowship luncheon at the Polo Pool Park Shelter provided by Esmeralda’s Mexican Restaurant, Polo.

There are no charges for any services at this clinic.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

The Elks Organization has been working with physically challenged children since 1928 and this is one of the 15 clinic locations throughout Illinois. The clinic is an ideal time to have a child reviewed for bone and joint development. If your child has feet

pointing inward or outward or complains of foot pain they can be seen at this clinic. There is no charge for any diagnostic services at this clinic. The Elks will provide financial assistance to the best of their ability for children needing further treatment or specialty equipment when the family lacks sufficient resources to do so. In the past, the Elks have purchased therapy services, corrective shoes, braces, wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices to help children overcome a variety of physical challenges.

Marjean A. Miller

LEAF RIVER — Marjean A. Miller, 89, passed away at Swedish American Hospital of Rockford, IL, on Friday, May 16, 2025. She was born on October 23, 1935, in Byron, IL, the daughter of Walter & Lena (Bocker) Stukenberg. Marjean lived her life simply, enjoying things like garage sales, her soap opera “stories” and reading. Her favorite thing in life, however, was her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Delbert Miller, daughter Deb, grandson Robby, sisters Lanora Fegan, Deloris Wahl, Gloria Winterton, and brothers Ron

and Laverne Stukenberg. Marjean is survived by her loving children Shari Grove of Davis Junction, IL; Bradley (Carla) Miller of Leaf River, IL; Daniel (Julie) Miller of Rochelle, IL; sisters Diane (Larry) Jones of Marshall Town, IA; Beverly Love of Byron, IL; many, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and special friends Suzanne Lewis; and Wendy Seibert.

Cremation rites have been scheduled and Marjean will be laid to rest alongside her husband at Lightsville Cemetery of Leaf River, IL. A graveside service is planned to honor her on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, beginning



at 11:00 AM with pastor Randy Snider presiding. Immediately following the graveside services, a Celebration of Life will be held at The Barn on the Hill located at 7 IL Rt 72, Leaf River, IL, 61047, with lunch being provided. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in her name to the Leaf River Historical Society and Museum.

Michael Ray Norman

FORRESTON — Michael Ray Norman was born November 27, 1948 in Rockford, IL. He passed at home with his loving wife Linda and their 2 dogs, Duke and Rizzo, May 14th, 2025. Michael (AKA Dusty Norman) loved to make beautiful handcrafted furniture, and at one time had a small craft store in Mount Morris, IL, but really was a jack of all trades always tinkering with something for his home he shared with Linda over the last 22 years. He grew up in Rockford, IL with his 8 brothers and 3 sisters. His favorite past time had always been fishing, fishing with his brothers, his sons, and his grandchildren.

He met the love of his life, Linda, in 1999 and have shared a lot over the last 22

years. Throughout the years Michael would call her at work every morning, just to say a short but sweet, “Good Morning Beautiful.” They’re love reflected in their blended family of 4 sons and 3 daughters. He was always willing to help others but always had a funny comment like “for a dollar”.

His surviving family is his wife, Linda Norman. His sons, Paul Norman, Jeff (Suzanne) Norman, Jerry (Kay) Norman, and stepson Matthew (Christena) Carpenter. And his daughters Brenda Norman, Angel Besnight, and stepdaughter Amanda (Michael) McMillan. He was blessed with 10 grandchildren, Alex, Cameryn, Coby, Cayden, Madysen, Jake (Kaitlyn), Josh, Deja,



Jay Cee, and Centell. And one great-granddaughter Carmen.

He is proceeded in death by his 6 brothers, Everett, Dennis, David, Brian, Richard, and John. His 3 sisters Irma, Irene, and Diane. His parents Elwood Everett and Dorothy Norman.

Services to be held at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home in Forreston, IL on Saturday, May, 17th at 2pm. A memorial has been established in his name.

Dennis ‘Mike’ Michael Pratt

LEAF RIVER — Dennis “Mike” Michael Pratt, age 70, of Leaf River, IL, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 9, 2025, at Serenity Hospice & Home in Oregon, IL, with family by his side. He was born November 8, 1954, in Gary, IN, to Growman and Phyllis (Thom) Pratt. Mike married Debra Poggioli on July 15, 2005, in Galena, IL.

Mike graduated from Lincoln High School in Cambridge City, IN, in 1973 and entered ITT Technical Institute in Indianapolis, IN. He received two degrees in the field of electronics technology and graduated in 1978. In 1979, Mike moved to Illinois to work as an Automation Specialist for Amoco. He officially retired when he received his cancer diagnosis in late 2022. At that time, he was working at the

Belvidere Assembly Plant in Belvidere, IL. In 1993, he became a Member of the Loyal Order of Moose in Mt. Morris, IL.

Mike spent many years boating and fishing at Lake Carroll. He also enjoyed playing his guitar, singing, and watching birds, but Mike loved spending time with his family the most, especially his nine grandkids.

Survivors include his wife, Debra; daughter, Elizabeth (Christopher) McDermott, Mt. Carroll, IL; daughter, Emily (Daniel) Gillingham, Freeport, IL; son, Jonathan (Mariena) Pratt, Leaf River, IL; grandchildren, Mary, Martha, and Maurine McDermott; Adam, Rachel, Caleb, and Rebekah Gillingham; Lily and Timothy Pratt; sister, Janie Barger, Columbus, IN; mother-in-law, Sue Poggioli, Rockford, IL; sister-in-law, Di-



ane (Steve) Swanson, Leaf River, IL; brother-in-law, Daniel (Chris) Poggioli, Pecatonica, IL; brother-in-law, Dennis Poggioli, Chicago, IL.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Donald Pratt; and father-in-law, Harry Poggioli.

The family would like to express special thanks to the wonderful Doctors and Nurses at the Mercy Health Cancer Center and Serenity Hospice & Home for their exceptional care.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The River’s Edge Experience, Oregon, IL.

A memorial fund has been established in Mike’s name or donations may be sent to Serenity Hospice & Home, 1658 South IL Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061.

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LOCAL NEWS

From Fujian to the future: Byron's Chen makes inspiring journey to PEO STAR Scholarship

BYRON — In a quiet corner of Illinois, a bright light shines in the form of Xiang Yi Chen, a high school senior whose remarkable journey from China, to Byron is as inspiring as it is heartfelt. This year, Xiang Yi (*pronounced shi-YEE*) celebrates not just her upcoming high school graduation and her selection as a recipient of the prestigious P.E.O. STAR Scholarship, but also a deeply personal milestone: becoming a U.S. citizen.

Born in China's Fujian province, Xiang Yi immigrated to the United States at the age of six. Her family moved to Boscobel, Wisconsin, seeking better educational and professional opportunities for their children. They were supported early on by her aunt, who first helped the family open and operate a restaurant in Byron and later settled in New York. Her family now runs the popular and successful local restaurant.

Though the move opened doors, it also presented challenges. As a young girl who spoke only Mandarin, Xiang Yi had to learn a new language from scratch. Thankfully, her kindergarten teacher saw her potential and encouraged classmates to make pronunciation videos to help her learn English. That simple act of kindness lit a spark that has never gone out.

Her path continued in Byron, where she met Mrs. Melissa Reeher — her fifth-grade teacher and former president of the NZ Chapter. Mrs. Reeher, like so many others, quickly recognized something special in Xiang Yi: a quiet determination, boundless curiosity, and a deep respect for learning.

Xiang Yi's nomination for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship was made by two educators who have watched her grow and thrive over the years: her current teacher Susan Freyer, and retired teacher Meredith Townsend. Mrs. Townsend fondly remembers Xiang Yi's very first year at Byron and the grace and perseverance she had in her new environment.

P.E.O. past and current presidents Susan O'Neil and Erin Mumma helped to expedite the nomination process once it was agreed that the NZ Chapter would nominate her.

Mrs. Freyer shared a favorite memory from when Xiang Yi was just a freshman — she had missed an answer on an assignment and politely



(COURTESY PHOTO)

In a quiet corner of Illinois, a bright light shines in the form of Xiang Yi Chen, a high school senior whose remarkable journey from China, to Byron is as inspiring as it is heartfelt.

asked if she was sure the answer key was correct.

"She was absolutely right," Freyer recalled with a smile. "The answer key was wrong — and she caught it. That moment stuck with me."

Now, as her teacher once again in Consumer Education class, Mrs. Freyer sees that same dedication and intelligence shining through every day. "Xiang Yi is always polite and gracious," she said. "As a senior, she continues to work hard to achieve every goal she sets. She's never stopped striving for excellence, so I just knew we had to nominate her for this scholarship."

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is a highly competitive national scholarship to honor a high school senior who exhibits excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success. Xiang Yi was interviewed and nominated by the Byron NZ Chapter to the state where she was then evaluated by P.E.O. state and national Board of Trustees and, finally, in April she was notified that she won this coveted scholarship.

Another one of Xiang Yi's proudest accomplishments happened this spring, when she officially became a U.S. citizen. She had applied on her birthday, Oct. 3, 2024, and completed her interview on Dec. 18 — even missing her high school final exams to attend. On April 15, 2025, she stood in a Chicago courtroom and took the Oath of Al-

legiance.

"The ceremony was really cool," Xiang Yi said. "They had a really good singer perform the Star-Spangled Banner, and an official judge gave the oath. It felt important. It felt real."

In a bittersweet trade-off, Xiang Yi had to miss this year's ACES State competition — one of her favorite academic events — to attend the citizenship ceremony. ACES (Academic Challenge in Engineering and Science) is an extracurricular activity that Xiang Yi excels at, and she recalls last year's state experience as one of her best high school memories.

This fall, Xiang Yi will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to begin her undergraduate studies. Her dream is to become a doctor specializing in internal medicine, a field that speaks to her lifelong desire to care for others.

"I want to be there for people during the most vulnerable moments of their lives," she says. "That's when compassion and science can truly make a difference."

As Xiang Yi Chen steps across the stage at graduation this spring, she does so as a proud scholar, a new citizen, and a young woman determined to serve, lead, and give back. Her story — one of resilience, gratitude, and quiet courage — is a powerful reminder of what can happen when dreams are nurtured with love, hard work, and the support of a community that believes in you.



OJSHS's May Senior of Distinction named
Congratulations to the Oregon Junior/Senior High School May Senior of Distinction, Gabrielle Gabucci. Pictured from left to right are OJSHS Art Teacher Olivia Kincaide, Gabucci, and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Jodi Peters. Gabucci received a gift card for her achievement. (Courtesy photo)



MJHS Student Council collects plastic for bench
The Meridian Junior High Student Council recently held a plastic collection challenge and collected enough plastic to earn a bench that they will be donating to the Stillman Valley dog park. (Courtesy photo)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Partnering with the Ogle County Health Department, the Ogle County 4-H took action locally by stocking the Mini Food Center located behind Conover Square in Oregon. Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors, left to right: Allissa Martin, Immanuel Arellano, and Raiden Zimmerman.

Ogle County 4-H food drive was a success

OREGON — On April 26, youth across the country marked National 4-H Day of Service by giving back to their communities, and the Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors were no exception. Partnering with the Ogle County Health Department, the Ambassadors took action locally by stocking the Mini Food Center located behind Conover Square in Oregon.

The community-driven initiative focused on addressing food insecurity

in the area. Thanks to generous donations and coordinated efforts, the group collected a wide variety of food items. Their contributions included over a dozen jars of peanut butter, more than 50 cans of vegetables, and even two whole turkeys.

"By working together with the Ogle County Health Department, we were able to help our community and ensure that the food center is better stocked for those who need it," said one of

the 4-H Ambassadors.

This project not only reflects the values of service and leadership that 4-H instills in its members but also highlights the strength of community partnerships. The Ogle County Mini Food Center operates 24/7, is completely anonymous to visit, and relies on local support to remain a dependable resource for families in need. The Mini Food Center's motto is "Take what you need, leave what you can."



Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club has lunch

On May 4 the Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club had lunch at La Patrona Mexican Restaurant in Freeport. Everyone enjoyed their meals and the chips with salsa appetizer. When the club is busy out in the community, they are usually doing either 4-H related activities or volunteer activities. This was a nice event to sit, talk and relax. Everyone came with an appetite and left satisfied. It was a good time to be together and catch up on what everyone has been up to. Pictured on the left are Gianni Racanelli and Lydia Sherburne. Pictured on the right are Kaden Lingbeck, David Wehler and David Bagwell. (Courtesy photo)

VIEWPOINT

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

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On June 7, 1968, just two days after the assassination of Democratic presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Fred Rogers, the popular host of the children's public television show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," dedicated an episode to explaining the tragedy to his young audience.

* On June 8, 1191,

King Richard I of England arrived in Acre, Israel, beginning the Third Crusade, an attempt co-led by France's King Philip II and Emperor Frederick Barbarossa to reconquer the Holy Land following Jerusalem's capture by the Ayyubid sultan Saladin in 1187.

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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 essential prescriptions would not only jeopardize access; but the tariffs could also have dire consequences for long-term public health across the nation.

The reality is patients don't choose their illnesses, nor do they choose which is the best treatment. Doctors prescribe the best treatment to meet a patient's specific medical needs, regardless of where the medicine is made. Unlike other goods, patients can't simply switch to a different treatment because the medicine they rely on is subject to tariffs.

The ramifications of tariffs on medicines are more than inconvenient. Disrupting the extraordinarily complex supply chain of medicines can lead to shortages and other unintended consequences that would be difficult to anticipate and prevent. They will have 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: Response to Harris column

DEAR editor, I like reading the editorial pages in the Ogle County LIFE. The differing opinions make for good consideration. People will have opinions, but I struggle when the printed opinions are taken as fact. Reed Harris' recent article on the "Feeling of Fascism" is fraught with errors. Of the four incidents listed, omissions also taint his narrative. Reed Harris' bias is evident.

Born on July 26, 1995 a citizen of El Salvador, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, as a young boy, helped deliver pupusas made by his mother. The story was gang activity threatened young Garcia, possibly the family business, and at some point he left South America and entered the United States illegally in 2012. (and to complicate matters the family moved to Guatemala). In 2019 he was arrested with 3 other self-admitted El Salvadoran illegal migrants. The other 3 were MS-13 Gang members and this led to his MS-13 designation. As far as being peaceful, Jennifer Vasquez, Garcia's wife, petitioned for an order of protection against him.

She claimed "he punched her, scratched her, and ripped off her shirt, and bruised her". In 2022 he was detained by Tennessee Highway Patrol while driving a van with seven passengers (all from El Salvador) from Texas to Maryland and had no driver's license. Under the Biden Administration ICE told THP to photograph and release them.

The claims by Harris of a mistake in deporting Garcia to El Salvador is false in that there are two issues at hand. One is an order of withholding. The withholding (per court document) was to anywhere else, but — "not to El Salvador." That could be called a mistake. Garcia, having six years to self deport, was deported as an enemy alien just like the Tren de Aragua Venezuelans now in CE-COT (because Venezuela would not take back its own citizens). That is not a mistake. Once Garcia was in El Salvador, his own country, he is subject to its jurisdiction not ours.

I looked online at some information on the two detained German girls also in Harris' article and

found Harris' information incomplete. There is always more to the story and the not asked questions qualify this as poor evidence of the author's claim of fascism.

A cursory look at the other two incidents was enough for me to dismiss the entire article as a specious buggy ride on a sunny day for haters. This presidential administration will not be perfect, but is not wrong

in the entirety as Harris portrays. An argument can be better made the fascists are wearing black robes and overreaching their authority. Article III created a judicial branch with a Supreme Court. All the other inferior courts are created by Article I Congress with specific limits. The limits are the boundaries of jurisdiction that are being overstepped until someone stops them. Well, the day has arrived and we are seeing the results. Judge Boasberg tried to exercise jurisdiction in the Tren de Aragua terrorist case. The violations Boasberg made to facilitate an agenda were enough to have impeachment charges brought by

Congress (House Resolution 229). Where is Harris' indignation against Boasberg?

Discovering the real court charges and how the justice system works has provided an understanding beyond assumptions of how justice works. Entry by non-citizens in a country is a privilege and is revocable. Due process for a citizen is different for non-citizens. The United States has been invaded by the millions across unenforced borders. Alejandro Mayorkas was impeached for his part in this.

The four incidents by Harris giving the "feeling of fascism" are insufficient evidence of his final claim. Justice is in process, each their appropriate due process. Consider this: whatever charge is being made for each of these cases, the penalty is a free trip home to your own country. Hardly fascism.

Another reminder that we are over 120 days of a new Congress and Executive branch and we are still a functioning Republic.

John Dickson,
Oregon

Letter: Protest, an American right

DEAR editor, Words matter. What we say conveys meaning, purpose, and values. Protest is a style of speaking which intends to state publicly matters of importance. The Bill of Rights enshrines the right to protest under the clause freedom of speech. We also have the right to peaceably assemble so that our protest might have a public forum. In our history as a nation such public protest has been important, motivating the citizenry to act. It

is part of what makes this a democracy. Three times over the last several weeks Ogle County citizens have gathered on the sidewalks of courthouse square in Oregon to protest current American policy. It is their right to do so. They have followed the request of public officials so that the assemblage would be peaceful, respectful and without incident. I know many of the people who have participated. While it is also an enshrined

right to protest the views of the protesters, I am still dismayed over the content of the "counter protest." The language has been demeaning, dismissive and offensive. The conversation that has emerged is less about ideas and principles as it is about personalities, personal loyalties and silencing dissent. How do we get beyond this impasse? Perhaps by understanding what freedom of speech means. Freedom of speech is akin to liberty, and

the concept of liberation. If we are liberated then our language can be used to pursue the fruit of liberty. The language of a bully only serves to hold us back, create animosity, and display the desire to have power over another person. I do not wish to live in an unjust and alienating society that such provocative language put forth by bullies will create. I shall protest.

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

Chesney: When is enough, enough?

WHEN it comes to Illinois Democrats' insatiable appetite for spending, I must wonder: When is enough, enough?

Each year in Springfield, we see the same troubling pattern: more spending, more government expansion, and more tax hikes. It's a cycle that continues to punish working families and job creators across Illinois, and it's clear that the concept of fiscal responsibility is completely forgotten by majority party Democrats.

For the current fiscal year, Democrats pushed through \$1 billion in tax hikes to fund their bloated budget. Now, with families already struggling to keep up with soaring grocery bills, high gas prices, and relentless property tax hikes, last week, they unveiled another staggering \$6 billion in new tax proposals to help fund the budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which funds operations beginning July 1, 2025.

This kind of budgeting is not just irresponsible,

it's unsustainable. It ignores the basic principle that every Illinois household lives by: you cannot spend more than you take in. Responsible families balance their checkbooks, prioritize their needs, and make difficult choices to stay afloat. Shouldn't state government do the same?

In Governor Pritzker's February budget address, he proposed the largest budget in Illinois history at \$55.4 billion. It's a plan that increases spending, expands entitlements, and includes unprecedented benefits for those in the country illegally. This is not a blueprint for growth — it's a recipe for economic decline.

Illinois already has the highest overall tax burden in the nation. And just last week, the American Legislative Exchange Council released its "Rich States, Poor States" 2025 report, which ranks Illinois near the bottom in a study of how friendly state policies are for economic growth.

The report judges each state based on 15 different economic outlook factors, including property tax rate, sales tax rate, top marginal income tax rate, top marginal corporate tax rate, how progressive the personal income tax rate is, as well as whether there is an inheritance tax. The report also considers the state minimum wage, average worker's compensation costs, whether it is a right-to-work state, the size of the debt, and the number of public employees compared to the state population. Only Vermont and New York scored worse than Illinois on these combined metrics.

Rather than asking what more we can tax, we should be asking what we can do to rein in government excess. Instead of building bigger bureaucracies, we should be focusing on growing opportunity, supporting small businesses, and helping families stay and thrive in Illinois.



Andrew Chesney

Letter: Thanks to Mt. Morris post office

DEAR editor, Thank you to the Mt. Morris Post Office staff for collecting food for the

"Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. We appreciate all your efforts. And thank you to the community for your generous food dona-

tions! Your donations help us provide good, nutritious food for our neighbors in need. We could not continue in this mission without

your support.

Loaves and Fish
Food Pantry Director
Barb Diehl

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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Letter: Constitution of the United States of America

DEAR editor,
My word processor has Constitution without amendments: 17 pages. An intelligent person might read and understand it within an hour. Certainly a President of our country should be expected to have read it, understand it and know it. Constitution: "Before the [elected President] enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'" William Livingstone, a

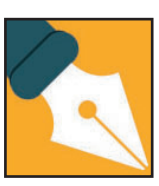
New York lawyer, before Am. Revolution wrote: "{'any good'} government must be divided into separate Branches, for a check on each other ... Such is the restless and aspiring Nature of the human Mind, that a Man entrusted with power, seldom contents himself with his future Proportion, and must be restrained." (*Independent Reflector*) Trump has demonstrated abundantly that he has no regard for the Constitution's specification of separation of powers among the three branches of government (Legislative, Judicial, Executive). He seems to want to restrict and suppress power of Legislative and Judicial and expand power of Executive (his),

overriding power of the other two branches. "We've never seen a president so comprehensively attempt to arrogate and consolidate so much of the other branches' power, let alone to do so in the first two months of his presidency," said Stephen Vladeck, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, has ceded some of its core duties to Mr. Trump, handing off elements of the legislative branch's spending authority to the White House and standing aside as congressionally chartered agencies are shuttered. The president has threatened to "lead the charge"

against the re-election of the rare Republican who dares challenge his agenda, and the party has bent to his will at every turn. Mr. Trump has dismantled independent measures of checks and balances, fired inspectors general and installed loyalists at the Justice Department willing to carry out his campaign of retribution." (New York Times, March 20, 2025) President Donald Trump walked into Department of Justice and labeled his courtroom opponents "scum," judges "corrupt" and prosecutors who investigated him "deranged." (many sources). "[Judges] Boasberg and McConnell are among

at least 11 federal judges whose families have faced threats of violence or harassment after they ruled against the new Trump administration. The broadsides are part of an intimidation campaign directed at federal judges who have stood in the way of Trump's moves to dramatically expand presidential authority and slash the federal bureaucracy. As Trump and his allies call for judges to be impeached or attack them as 'radical left' political foes, the families of judges are being singled out for harassment." (Reuters, May 2, 2025) Asked in an interview whether U.S. citizens and noncitizens both deserve due process as laid out in the Fifth Amendment

of the Constitution ("No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ..."), Trump was noncommittal. "I don't know. I'm not, I'm not a lawyer. I don't know" (many sources) Daily, AP News lists under header "Fact Check" misstatements (lies) by Trump and others of his administration. For Trump lying is his stock in trade. Trump at inauguration: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will ... to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Henry Tideman, Oregon



Proposals that will affect shipping, and your pocketbook

TRADE, it's not everything on the surface you think it should be. When I think of trade I recall bartering with a friend over baseball cards and roller skates, but it's plenty more complicated than that today. Tariffs are the word on everyone's mind today, but there's more to getting goods from one place to another. Transportation and shipping are critical parts and fees associated with that can make a huge difference. Courtesy of the American Farm Bureau let's look at new proposals that will affect shipping, and your pocketbook. With more than 20% of U.S. agricultural production destined for foreign markets, exports are critical to the financial success of American farmers and ranchers. In 2024, U.S. farmers exported over 144 million metric tons of agricultural products, valued at more than \$105 billion, through ocean ports. These ocean shipments represented nearly 60% of total agricultural export value and 65% by volume, underscoring the vital role of maritime transport in delivering U.S. agriculture to global customers. However, recent proposals to impose substantial fees on Chinese-built and -operated vessels entering U.S. ports could have far-reaching consequences for agricultural trade. The Trump administration has proposed a series of fees targeting ocean carriers with ties to China. These

fees are part of broader efforts to counter China's growing dominance in global shipbuilding and logistics, while attempting to stimulate U.S. shipbuilding capacity. The proposal includes: Fees up to \$1 million per entrance on Chinese-operated vessels. Fees up to \$1.5 million on Chinese-built vessels, scaled based on the percentage of an operator's fleet built in China. Additional fees on operators with future orders placed with Chinese shipyards. A gradual requirement to shift a growing percentage of U.S. exports onto U.S.-flagged and U.S.-built vessels. The U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office argues these measures are necessary to counteract China's unreasonable targeting of the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors for dominance. The concern is that China's monopolization reduces competition, displaces foreign firms and increases dependencies on Chinese supply chains. While addressing China's maritime dominance is a valid national security concern, these proposals may unintentionally – and disproportionately – penalize U.S. farmers and ranchers who rely on affordable and efficient shipping. Over 21% of all vessels calling at U.S. ports in 2024 were Chinese-built, meaning a substantial share of vessels transporting U.S. goods — including agricultural products — could be subject to these fees. Bulk agricultural exports, particularly grains

and oilseeds, are especially vulnerable. In 2024, the U.S. exported over 106 million metric tons of bulk agricultural products. Assuming an average vessel capacity of 60,000 metric tons, approximately 1,770 vessel movements per year support these exports. Many dry bulk vessels arriving at U.S. ports from China often come partially loaded or even empty. Once in the U.S., these bulk carriers are essential to agriculture, frequently loaded with grains, oilseeds, and other commodities for export. Container ships, by contrast, typically arrive in the U.S. full and return to China empty or lightly loaded. This is why container shipping rates are much higher from Asia to the U.S. than in the reverse direction — importers bear most of those costs on the inbound leg. For bulk carriers, the opposite is true: they may arrive empty but leave full with U.S. agricultural products. That means U.S. exporters, particularly farmers, are more exposed to any added vessel fees. Depending on whether the \$1 million fee on Chinese-operated vessels, the \$1.5 million fee on Chinese-built vessels, or both cumulative fees are applied, bulk agricultural exporters could face an additional \$372 million to \$930 million in annual transportation costs. On a per-unit basis, these compounded fees translate to an increase of 9.5 to 27.75 cents per bushel

of soybeans — representing a substantial margin loss in global markets where competitiveness is often determined by mere pennies per bushel. Containerized agricultural exports, which account for around 30% of U.S. waterborne exports by volume, would not feel the same level of direct impact. The World Shipping Council estimates the proposed fees could add \$600 to \$800 per container, but because container ships often arrive in the U.S. full and return to Asia empty, these costs are expected to fall more heavily on imports. However, many U.S. farmers and ranchers rely on imported inputs — such as fertilizer, feed ingredients, machinery and specialty crop supplies — that can be transported in containers. Higher container shipping costs could therefore raise input prices, squeezing producers' margins. One component of the proposal includes a phased requirement mandating that a growing percentage of U.S. exports be transported on U.S.-flagged and U.S.-built vessels. The schedule starts with 1% of exports immediately, rising to 15% after seven years, with a portion explicitly required to move on U.S.-built ships. While the goal is to bolster U.S. shipbuilding and maritime capabilities, these mandates present a serious logistical challenge. Meeting them depends entirely on the capacity of U.S. shipyards to ramp up

production. In addition to immediate cost increases, the U.S. shipbuilding sector faces deep-rooted structural challenges that limit its ability to ramp up commercial vessel production in the near term. Unlike the sprawling, high-volume shipyards of Asia, U.S. shipyards are fewer in number, smaller in scale and primarily focused on specialized, military or Jones Act-compliant ships. On average, U.S. shipyards require anywhere from 18 months to over four years to complete a vessel, far outpaced by Asian shipyards, where ships are routinely built in 12 to 24 months. Many U.S. facilities still rely on outdated production methods, lacking the modular, highly automated processes common in South Korean, Chinese or Japanese yards. Compounding the issue are rigid union contracts that have, over time, constrained modernization efforts. Meanwhile, countries like China, South Korea and Vietnam not only benefit from government subsidies, tax breaks and low-interest financing for shipbuilding, but also from their proximity to steel producers, engine manufacturers and component suppliers, further reducing construction timelines and costs. Their large, specialized workforce provides an additional edge, making their shipyards the go-to for global shipping companies looking for faster turnaround and lower prices. This is particularly concerning given the vast imbalance in global fleet

ownership. China controls a global fleet of more than 5,500 commercial vessels used for trade, while the U.S. controls around 100. Adding to this, approximately 70% of Chinese-owned vessels are registered under the Chinese flag, whereas only about 43% of the U.S. fleet sails under the U.S. flag. The bottlenecks don't stop at shipyards. U.S. port performance is another glaring weak link in the logistics chain. According to the World Bank's 2023 Container Port Performance Index, foreign ports consistently outperform U.S. ports. Ports in countries like China, Oman, Colombia and Vietnam routinely surpass U.S. ports in efficiency. Addressing China's dominance in global shipbuilding and logistics is an important policy goal, particularly given supply chain vulnerabilities and national security concerns. However, imposing fees on Chinese-built and -operated vessels could impose significant near-term costs on U.S. agriculture, and U.S.-built shipping requirements could strangle trade down the road. Even before implementation, the uncertainty surrounding these proposals is already creating logistical complications for both importers and exporters who depend on reliable ocean shipping. Delays in carrier scheduling, shifts in vessel availability and rising freight premiums add risk across supply chains. Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.



Ron Kern

Illinois: A powerhouse for innovation and America's digital future

ILLINOIS has long been a hub for innovation. Our strategic location in the heart of the Midwest amidst a robust network of top-tier universities, and a rich legacy of collaboration among private, public, and academic sectors are just a few reasons innovation continues to thrive here. Since 2014, the STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has played a vital role in this innovation ecosystem — building, sustaining, and advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education across local, regional, and national levels. At the heart of our mission is preparing the next generation of STEM educators and profession-

als and promoting STEM literacy through research, education, and service. We believe Illinois is a powerful engine for American leadership in innovation. But that leadership can no longer be taken for granted. A recent report from the Lexington Institute warns that America's technological edge is facing serious threats from global competitors — chief among them, China. The Chinese government has made its ambitions clear: to lead the digital economy. To that end, China has already invested more than \$2.8 trillion in strategic technologies like artificial intelligence, while also engaging in aggressive efforts to steal American intellectual property and trade secrets. Perhaps most alarm-

ing is China's projected advantage in workforce development. Over the next decade, it is expected to outproduce the U.S. by 27.5 million STEM graduates. Meanwhile, unfilled STEM positions in the U.S. continue to rise, creating critical gaps in our high-tech workforce. This moment demands serious reflection. Are we prepared to cede leadership in digital innovation to an authoritarian regime — one that promotes AI tools rooted in censorship and revisionist history? The answer must be no. We envision a digital future built on democratic values, grounded in facts, and supported by an open and accessible

internet — where freedom of expression is a cornerstone, not a casualty. Securing America's tech leadership starts here in Illinois. Our state has already made significant strides. We're leading in emerging technologies like quantum computing, electric vehicle manufacturing, and agricultural innovation. Illinois has been recognized as a national tech hub, attracting millions in federal grants and spurring continued investment from the private sector. But we can't let up. What's needed now is bold and sustained commitment from policymakers at every level — local, state, and federal — to

strengthen and expand America's innovation ecosystem. We must accelerate investments in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and quantum science. At the same time, we must resist the urge to overregulate. While it's important to address risks, excessive regulation can stifle the very innovation we're trying to foster — particularly for startups and entrepreneurs, many of whom call Illinois home. A thoughtful, measured approach to policy will ensure innovation continues to thrive here. Equally vital is a renewed national focus on STEM education. Technology is reshaping every sector of our economy, and we must prepare students — begin-

ning in early childhood and continuing through higher education — to be fluent in the language of the digital age. Every student deserves access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities so they can help build and lead our future. In recent years, STEM has evolved into STEAM — adding Art to acknowledge the creativity and design thinking essential to innovation. I like to think the "A" also stands for *All of Us*. Because this future belongs to all of us. Building it will take all of us. And protecting it demands strong leadership and smart policy that empowers all of us. Harvey Henson is director of STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University.



Harvey Henson

LOCAL NEWS

Grease Coming to Byron Civic Theatre May 30-June 1

BYRON—Byron Civic Theatre (BCT) in Byron is bringing Rydell High to life this month with the hit musical *Grease*. This high-energy production will run Friday, May 30 through Sunday, June 2 at the Byron Middle School Theatre.

"We're thrilled to bring such an iconic show to the BCT stage," said Tammy Long, Byron Civic Theatre program manager, Byron Park District. "From the beloved songs to the nostalgic 1950s vibe, this production of *Grease* will be an exciting experience for both our performers and the audience."

Performance schedule: Friday, May 30 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 31 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, June 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online now at www.byronparks.org or can be purchased at the door prior to each performance.

The production is directed by Ellen Mahan, produced by Tammy Long, assistant directed by Monique Engberg, and choreographed by Andrew Mahan. The cast includes youth and young adult performers from Byron, Stillman Valley, Oregon, Rockford and other local communities.



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Byron High School Students of the Month for April named

Byron High School Students of the Month for April were recently named. Pictured from left to right are Byron High School Principal Andrew Donaldson, Addalyn Miller (ninth grade), Ashley Wichman (10th grade), Mason Burnes (11th grade), Brisa Lopez (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)



Byron High School Students of the Month for May named

Byron High School Students of the Month for May were recently named. Pictured from left to right are Byron High School Principal Andrew Donaldson, Hanna Roberts (ninth grade), Masyn Brown (10th grade), Brayden Knoll (12th grade), and Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Renae Stevens. Not pictured is Cason Newton (11th grade). Each of the students received a gift card for their achievement. (Courtesy photo)

Hand Tool Sale

Tuesday, May 27th

Items you have never seen that you can't live without!

Paper goods, cleaning supplies, power tools, hardware, and much more.

Inventory changes every week

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Monday - Friday — 10am to 5pm
Saturday — 10am to 2 pm

We Sell on Facebook Marketplace



Rat Worx Warehouse

4279 West IL Route 64 | Mt Morris, IL | 815-973-9443
(Front of East Building)

Laid back, social environment, family-owned

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON POLICE REPORT

March 31
At 10 p.m., Oregon Police issued Deborah F. Gray, 63, Oregon, a city citation for violating the city code for parking a restricted vehicle on the roadway. This violation occurred in the 400 block of South 3rd Street.

April 1
At 5:43 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at McDonald's restaurant, 2211 S. 4th St., involving a 2019 Chevrolet driven by Jennifer A. Larson, 51, Oregon, and a 2021 Honda driven by James R. Wheaton, 21, Rockton. No citations were issued.

April 3
At 5:21 a.m., Oregon Police issued Javier Sierra-Gomez, 41, Rockford, a citation for speeding, 45 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 6:42 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Jose A. Barraza Pena, 49, Rockford, for driving while license revoked. Barraza-Pena was also issued a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. Barraza Pena was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 11:39 a.m., Oregon Police issued Richard A. Seyster, 68, Mt. Morris, a citation for speeding, 45 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 10:47 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jordan M. Michalik, 25, Oregon, a citation for disobeying a traffic control signal. This violation occurred at the intersection of North 4th and West Washington Streets.

April 4
At 2:32 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a disturbance call in the 100 block of North 7th Street resulting in the arrest of Angela R. Groseclose, 57, Oregon, for battery. Groseclose was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

April 5
At 12:35 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Tanya S. Freeman, 39, Oregon, on an outstanding Lee County warrant. William A. Freeman, 41, Oregon, was also arrested on an outstanding Lee County warrant. Both Tanya and William were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were left in the custody of the corrections officers.

April 8
At 8:13 a.m., Oregon Police issued Phuong

T. Trinh, 51, Rockford, a citation for operating a motor vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Gale Street.

At 11:22 a.m., Oregon Police issued a city code violation citation Carrie B. Long, 47, Oregon, for violating the trash rubbish and junk ordinance. This violation occurred in the 500 block of Hill Street.

At 11:27 a.m., Oregon Police issued a city code violation citation to Michael J. Alaniz, 48, Oregon, for violating the trash rubbish and junk ordinance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of Webster Street.

At 2:28 p.m., Oregon Police issued Jonathan J. Laboy, 32, Byron, a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 4:38 p.m., Oregon Police issued Willie Singleton, 69, of Decatur a citation for speeding, 56 in a 40 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 400 block of East Washington Street.

At 5:15 p.m., Oregon Police issued Cole M. Cassioppi, 24, South Beloit, a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

April 9
At 1:41 a.m., Oregon Police arrested Mark A. Ballotti, 42, Polo, for possession of adult use cannabis in a motor vehicle outside of an approved container and for resisting a peace officer. Ballotti was also issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device. Ballotti was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released with a notice to appear. These violations occurred near the intersection of Monroe Street and North 4th Street.

April 12
At 11:29 a.m., Oregon Police issued Alexandria L. Vavra, 37, Davis Junction, a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

At 3:17 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Abdullah S. Alharbi, 19, Rockford, for driving with no valid driver's license. Alharbi was transported to the

Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released. This violation occurred in the 100 block of North 4th Street.

April 14
At 2:23 p.m., Oregon Police was advised of a stolen vehicle traveling toward Oregon, resulting in a traffic stop on the vehicle and arresting Kayla M. Martin, 33, of Springfield, for possession of a stolen vehicle. Martin was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear.

April 16
At 8:58 a.m., Oregon Police issued Jacob M. Rush, 43, Byron, citations for no valid driver's license and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 600 block of North 4th Street.

April 17
At 12:04 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of South 3rd Street and Clay Street involving a 2016 Jeep driven by Chad W. Hayenga, 47, Oregon, and a 2005 Chrysler driven by Thomas P. Donahue, 67, Oregon. No citations were issued.

At 3:21 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of South 2nd Street and West Washington Street involving a 2011 Buick driven by Catherine L. Bemus, 59, Oregon, and a 2013 Subaru driven by Raymond A. Weil, 39, of Rock Falls. No citations were issued.

At 5:39 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash in the 300 block of Madison Street involving a 2015 Chevrolet driven by Debra G. Walker, 58, Oregon, who struck a parked 2018 Ford belonging to Michael A. Fay, 69, Mt. Morris. No citations were issued.

April 19
At 10:20 a.m., Oregon Police issued Cassandra J. Graziano, 50, Oregon, citations for operating a vehicle with an expired registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and no valid driver's license. These violations occurred in the 500 block of Gale Street.

April 20
At 10:27 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at South 4th and Washington Streets involving a 2015 Honda driven by Jeffrey D. Gaffney, 21, Rockford, and a 2023 Ford driven by Roy H. Gibson, 78, of Cordova. Gaffney was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

April 21
At 3:36 p.m., Oregon

Police issued Angela M. Powers, 46, Rochelle, a citation for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for non-insurance. This violation occurred in the 300 block of West Washington Street.

At 5:13 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of Daysville Road and Washington Street involving a 2017 Ford driven by Brandi L. Ferrari, 24, Stillman Valley, and a 2014 Ford driven by Robert T. Wilson, 27, Oregon. No citations were issued.

April 23
At 3:40 p.m., Oregon Police arrested Jeremiah J. Pumfrey, 35, Oregon, for domestic battery, and resisting/obstructing arrest resulting in injury to a police officer. These violations occurred in the 900 block of South 4th Street. Pumfrey was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

At 7:15 p.m., Oregon

Police arrested Jeremiah J. Martin, 36, Oregon, on two outstanding Ogle County warrants. Martin was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was left in the custody of the corrections officers.

April 26
At 10:29 a.m., Oregon Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at the intersection of West Washington Street and Oregon Trail Road involving a 2015 Dodge driven by Scott D. Pearman, 62, Oregon, and a 2015 Ford driven by Angela M. Good, 54, Mt. Morris. Good and passenger, Brent A. Good, 61, Mt. Morris, were transported by Oregon EMS to OSF St. Katharine's in Dixon. Pearman was issued a citation for failure to yield at a stop intersection.

At 10:14 p.m., Oregon Police issued Nicole M. Mason, 43, Oregon, a city citation for dog at large. This violation occurred in the 700 block of Monroe Street.

April 29

At 8:31 a.m., Oregon Police issued Seth D. Glenn, 26, Oregon, citations for operating a vehicle with an expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. These violations occurred in the 400 block of West Washington Street.

May 1
At 12:24 p.m., Oregon Police responded to a residential fire call in the 800 block of S. 8th Street resulting in the arrest of Matthew L. Thoreson, 23, Oregon, for aggravated arson. Thoreson was transported to the Oregon Police Department and then subsequently to the Ogle County Jail where he was housed in the custody of the corrections officers.

Forty six verbal warnings and 35 parking citations were issued during the weeks of March 31/2025 through May 4.

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

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

<u>Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery</u>	
A.A. Hotline	800-452-7990
<u>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</u>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
<u>Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline</u>	
HOPE of Ogle County	562-8890 or 732-7796
Confidential counseling services, court advocacy, Latina advocacy and shelter programs	
<u>Low Income Housing</u>	
Ogle County Housing Authority	
1001 Pines Rd, Suite A, Oregon	732-1301
<u>Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County</u>	
P.O. Box 628	
Oregon, IL 61061	815-222-8869
<u>Mental Health</u>	
Family Counseling Services	962-5585
<u>Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.</u>	
Oregon	732-3157
Rochelle	562-3801
The Serenity Shed Grief Services	732-2499
<u>Senior Citizens Services</u>	
Hub City Senior Center	562-5050
Mt Morris Senior & Community Center	734-6335
Polo Senior Center	946-3818
Rock River Center	732-3252
Oregon, IL	800-541-5479
<u>Sexual Assault/Abuse</u>	
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling	
24-hour hotline	636-9811
412 W Washington, Oregon	732-0000
<u>Therapeutic</u>	
Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
<u>Veterans' Services</u>	
Ogle County Veteran's Assistance	815-255-9181
Veteran's Crisis Line	988 then press 1
Rock River Center	732-3252
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499
Medical Transportation	677-6515
<u>Wellness Services</u>	
Ogle County Health Dept	
907 Pines Rd, Oregon	562-6976
510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle	562-6976
Serenity Hospice and Home	732-2499



SVHS NHS travels to Feed My Starving Children
Stillman Valley High School National Honor Society recently traveled to the Feed My Starving Children organization in Aurora where they helped to pack 34,992 meals for children in need. The meals they packed were recently shipped to Cross Catholic Outreach in El Salvador and Life for Relief and Development in Jordan. (Courtesy photo)

LOCAL NEWS

PEGASUS: ‘It was the most joyful I’ve ever seen some of them’

From page 1

The purpose of its programs are to improve lives in ways that can only be accomplished with the help of a horse.

The Lee County class that visited PSR is composed of nine students, ages 18-22, with various disabilities, including Autism, Down’s Syndrome, and traumatic brain injury, among others. The students are still in school, working on their independent living and vocational skills.

Two of the class’s students, Emily Conderman and Anthony Burke, shared their experiences from their day at Pegasus Special Riders.

“It was fun,” Conderman said. “Because I like horses. I’ve ridden horses before. But it was fun leading them around. I learned how to put a halter on a horse. I want to do it again. The class had fun there.”

“I got to work with the horses and lead them around,” Burke said. “It

was awesome. I’ve done it before. It helped me and made me happy. We thought it was cool. I miss Pride, the horse. I met him while I was there. He was my best pal. He’s 25 and I’m 21.”

Kevin Hendley is that class’s instructor, and said the day came about when the class’s paraprofessional saw PSR and thought the class should go there.

“We’re always looking for fun things to do,” Hendley said. “We read a book about a horse recently in class. We set it up. I think it was helpful to our students. I knew we’d have students that were interested in it. The way that the rest of the students took to it surprised me. It was the most joyful I’ve ever seen some of them. I’ve known Anthony for nine years and it was the happiest I’ve ever seen him. Emily said it was the best day ever. When they did the haltering of the horses you could see the confidence building in them.”



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Lee County class that visited PSR is composed of nine students, ages 18-22, with various disabilities, including Autism, Down’s Syndrome, and traumatic brain injury, among others. The students are still in school, working on their independent living and vocational skills.

Hendley thanked the staff at PSR for its time with the students and tailoring the program to them.

“It was very impressive,” Hendley said. “It was a wonderful experience. We’ll absolutely go back. I felt proud seeing them work with the horses. Students spend four years in this program. We work together all day every day. When we went to Pegasus, I got to see how mature and responsible they were in public and how they handled things professionally.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 26: White Rock Cemetery Memorial Day Association invites everyone to its annual service Monday, May 26, 9:30 a.m., at the Elim Reformed Church, 140 S. Church Road, Kings. Our speaker will be Bruce Reumann, MSgt., U.S. Air Force (Ret.), 1st Lt., Civil Air Patrol, and will share his work as Commander of the Dekalb County Squadron. Some Cadets will also share their work. The Scott Family will provide music. After the service, we walk across to the cemetery and Dennis Alderks will read Veteran’s Roll Call. Refreshments follow in the church basement.

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 suttonsin-

thepines@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.

May 30-31: A huge sale will be at the Oregon Coliseum inside and outside on Friday, May 30 from 8 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 31 from 8 a.m. to noon to benefit the historical 1883 Chana School Museum. Items may be new or very old depending on what is donated. There will be small items, clothing, and large items like sofas. This will be the largest rummage this summer. Everything is a bargain and priced to go. If you have items to donate, drop off days at the Oregon Coliseum are Tuesday, May 27 (3-6 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 28 (9-noon). Some things we cannot take such as blinds, mattress & springs, and car seats. If you have questions please call Ray at 815-979-2903. If you would like to volunteer please call Connie at 815-732-2447. This is a great time for students to get community service hours.

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!

July 12: The 24th Annual Hibber Memorial Car Show will be held on July 12 at the United Church of Byron, (corner of Colfax Street and 2nd Street.). Along with the car show, the Church will be hosting their annual Trash & Treasure Sale with concessions. Registration is fee is \$10 prior to July 3, after July 3, it’s \$15. Registration is 8-11 a.m., voting noon-1 p.m., Awards 2 p.m. Car Show participants are invited to join the ByronFest Parade at 3 p.m. All makes of cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome. Top 50 Awards are by participant voting. 20+ Best of Awards are judged. Door Prizes will be given throughout the day. Vendor booths are available for a \$15 fee. More information check webpage www.hibrebercarshow.com or www.facebook.com/Hibrebercarshow.

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OGLE COUNTY LIFE

ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

LOCAL NEWS



The week saw a "There's no place like RCH" Wizard of Oz theme. On Munchkin Monday staff wore RCH gear and were treated to Florence Nightingale Birthday Bundtinis. Tuesday's theme was "Which Witch are you?" and staff wore red/pink for the Good Witch or black/green for the Wicked Witch and were treated to Witches Brew Coffee Truck.

HOSPITAL WEEK: 'I think our slogan this week rings true. There is no place like here'


From page 1

RCH Manager of Inpatient Services Crystal Vondergathen and Radiology Manager Joy Miller co chair RCH's Employer of Choice team that organized Hospital Week. Vondergathen said the week stands to show employees RCH cares. "Just offering those extra things can help boost our staff's morale and camaraderie and it pulls everyone together," Vondergathen said. "Maybe different departments that don't usually see each other come out for those special things and get to interact and build relationships. Our staff has been super excited. They love having all of the extras. We get to plan fun activities for our staff and it just gives them a break from the reality of taking care of patients and their daily jobs. It allows them to get some time to go out and do something fun, even if it's only for a few minutes. I think our slogan this week rings true. There is no place like here."

Miller called Hospital Week "the biggest of the year" at RCH. The hospital puts together something each month to show staff that they're appreciated. Hospital Week is a result of two months of planning and brainstorming. Hospital Week shows RCH staff, patients and the community what the organization is all about, Miller said. "Our vendors come in here and they're surprised by everything we do, and they visit a lot of hospitals," Miller said. "I'm proud of that. I think the environment makes us much more comfortable. We feel like a community hospital with a personality and a personal touch. It makes me proud of RCH."

Miller said it's important to celebrate a community hospital like RCH during Hospital Week when others like it are becoming less common. Staff is what makes a community hospital thrive, she said. "I know the value our employees have to our board, administration, managers and co-workers," Miller said. "Our administration wants to make sure our employees know that RCH cares about them. Patient and staff satisfaction are where our priorities lie and I see it all the time. I think we do a good job. And I'm proud of it."

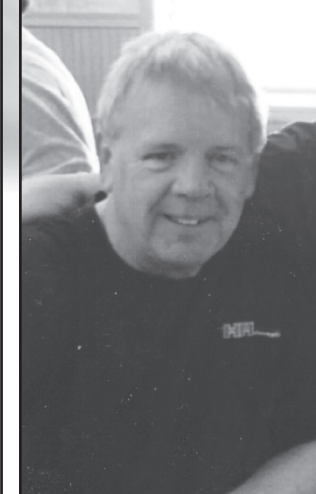
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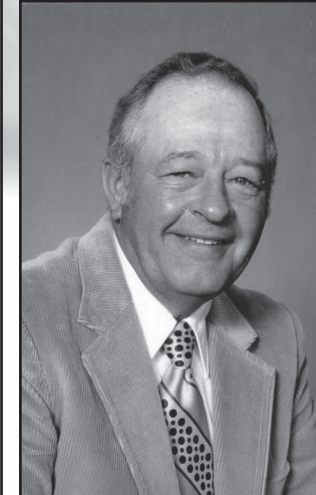
Mom - Jeff - Starla



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Lea - Jeff - Starla

John V. Ehmen Sr.
Father
 1/11/1925-1/9/2013

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Michael (Mike) D. McDanel
Son
 9/17/1970-4/7/2015

Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity. Mike, you're forever in our hearts.

*Love you forever,
 Mom & Dad, Dad & Grandpa*

Helen M. Ehmen
Mother
 9/16/1925-1/14/2015

We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.

Your Loving Family

Helen L. Waterson
Mom
 3/5/1920-12/30/2012

Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time. Mom, you're forever in our hearts.

*Love you forever,
 Barbara, Mary, David, Charlotte, Pamela & Families*

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE



Memorial Day: where does the tradition of decorating graves come from?

MONDAY, May 27, 2019 is Memorial Day, a time for honoring the men and

women who gave their lives while serving in the United States military.

Many Americans across the country ob-

serve this solemn occasion by visiting cemeteries and decorating veterans' graves with flags and flowers. In fact,

Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day.

Decoration Day began several years after the Civil War ended; a con-

flict that claimed more American lives than any other war in history and led to the establishment of the country's first national

cemeteries.

Though it's unclear where exactly the tradition of adorning soldiers' graves with flowers originated, the city that gets the credit is Waterloo, New York. (The town was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966.)

Starting in May 1866, Waterloo began hosting an annual community celebration honoring fallen soldiers. During the event, businesses closed and citizens decorated soldiers' graves with flowers.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan called for a national day of remembrance at the end of May to honor soldiers who lost their lives in the war. On May 30, 1868, the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield — later our 20th president — made a speech to a crowd of over 5,000 people at Arlington National Cemetery where 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were buried.

After the First World War, Decoration Day was renamed Memorial Day and became a time to honor the American lives lost in all military conflicts, not just the Civil War. In 1968, Congress passed a law declaring Memorial Day a federal holiday to be celebrated each year on the last Monday of May.

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Stillman Valley High School holds 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Tuesday, May 17

Stillman Valley High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Tuesday, May 17. Eight student-athletes signed letters to continue their academics and athletics at the collegiate level. The signees included Kayla Tofari (Kishwaukee College - Softball), Aurora Lagerhausen (Carroll University - Softball), Brooklyn Lee (Rockford University - Softball), Kendall Knoll (Rockford University - Softball), Alyssa Purvis (Loras College - Volleyball), Amelia Dunseth (Rock Valley College - Golf), Brooke Jordal (Carthage College - Basketball) and Taylor Davidson (Ashland University - Basketball). (Courtesy photo)

RE/MAX
of Rock Valley



2239 Pine Bluff Dixon
NOW \$489,000 Call Rebecca

BUYER'S LOSS = YOUR GAIN! Stunning 5-Bedroom, 4.5-Bathroom Home on Expansive Corner Lot This impressive home in White Oaks Subdivision set on a sprawling 0.6-acre corner lot, offers space, luxury, and functionality. With 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and a host of thoughtful features, this property

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



326 Old Mill Road Franklin Grove NOW \$159,000 Call JD

Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home located on the edge of town, set on a spacious half-acre lot offering peaceful rural views. The property boasts

an oversized attached garage along with a dedicated workshop-ideal for expanding your space or pursuing your hobbies. For those with a creative vision, the in-ground pool, although currently non-functional, presents a fantastic fixer-upper opportunity to transform it into a private oasis. Updates include a new HVAC system installed in 2014, an upgraded electrical panel, and a reliable roof from 2012, ensuring essential systems are maintained. With boundless potential to add your personal finishing touches, this home is a rare opportunity to create your dream retreat in a tranquil setting. Don't miss out on making this promising property your own!



318 E Main Street Stillman Valley NOW \$185,000 Call Lori

Charming 4-Bedroom Home in Stillman Valley - Modern Comfort & Classic Appeal Welcome to this beautifully maintained two-story home in the heart of Stillman Valley, featuring 4 spacious bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. Ideal for families or multi-generational living, the

main level includes a convenient bedroom and full bath, while the upper level offers 3 additional bedrooms and a second full bath. Step into the modern kitchen with updated finishes, perfect for cooking and entertaining. The dining room is bright and inviting, with a large bay window that fills the space with natural light. Relax in the cozy living area featuring a contemporary electric fireplace. Both bathrooms are thoughtfully designed, each with laundry hookups-one in the upper-level bath and another discreetly tucked into the main floor bath closet. A brand new forced air furnace ensures year-round comfort. Outside, enjoy your private backyard oasis, fully enclosed with a privacy fence and complete with a 28' (more or less) round above-ground pool. The pool includes a sand filtration system and a heater-great for summer fun. The large lot also features a garden shed for additional storage. A heated, detached two-car garage sits at the rear of the property with convenient access via a paved alley. Located in a highly rated school district. Don't miss your chance! Property sold AS IS.

NEW LISTINGS



801 & 803 Adams Street Oregon \$279,900 Call Erin

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2995 N Silver Ridge Drive Oregon \$295,000 Call Lori

Welcome to your dream retreat, where luxury meets leisure. This beautifully appointed 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home offers exceptional comfort, timeless style, and direct frontage overlooking the 18th hole on one of the area's most scenic golf courses. In 2025, the heart of the home, the kitchen, was updated with new granite countertops and features newer appliances. The open floor plan flows seamlessly into the spacious living and dining areas, all with gorgeous views all around the house. The primary suite is a cozy getaway with updates to the master bath completed in 2025 as well. Enjoy the beauty of this property from the enclosed porch, spacious deck, or covered patio. No matter where you decide to relax, you'll have plenty of room to do so.



7084 N River Road Byron \$80,000 Call Jessica

Island Getaway with Income Potential - Studio Cabin & 5 Lots on Spoor's Island Here's your chance to own a private island escape just 300 feet off the mainland. This rare offering includes a fully equipped studio cabin with one bathroom on scenic Spoor's Island. The cabin features a full kitchen and bath, air conditioning, electric heat, and a wood-burning stove-making it comfortable year-round. The cabin is quality new construction, built in 2018. Access to the island is exclusively by boat, kayak, or paddleboard, which means you'll enjoy true privacy and a peaceful, off-grid lifestyle. A designated parking and launch area on the mainland makes it easy to get back and forth from the island in minutes. Not only is this a perfect personal retreat, but it also has proven income potential. The cabin has been successfully rented on Airbnb and Hipcamp, bringing in up to \$140 per night with consistent bookings. Whether you want to keep it for yourself or open it up to guests, the possibilities are wide open. The seller also owns an additional adjoining lot and may be open to negotiating it into the sale for buyers looking to expand their footprint even further. Surrounded by natural beauty, local sandbars, and endless recreational opportunities, this is more than just a property-it's a rare opportunity to own a true island sanctuary. Don't miss your chance to make Spoor's Island your own.



1107 W 21st Street Rock Falls \$39,900 Call JD

Whether you're seeking immediate equity or a valuable addition to your rental portfolio, this ranch home offers a wealth of potential. It boasts a spacious backyard, a detached garage, and the possibility of a third bedroom. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to make this home yours before it's too late. These rare chances don't come around frequently!



292 N Meridian Road Chana \$1,598,400 Call Carla

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7298 Vista Drive Stillman Valley \$329,900 Call Becky

Nestled in a desirable country subdivision just minutes from town, this beautifully maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in the Stillman Valley School District offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and modern updates. Step inside to an inviting open floor plan featuring gleaming hardwood floors and a wall of windows that flood the living space with natural light. The large family room showcases a stunning brick wood-burning fireplace-perfect for cozy evenings. The updated main bathroom boasts a tiled walk-in shower, solid surface Corian sinks, and new cabinetry for a sleek, modern touch. The chef's kitchen impresses with rich cherry cabinets, granite countertops, a spacious dinette area, and three separate pantries. Appliances include a SS refrigerator, electric stove, dishwasher, and garbage disposal-are all included. Enjoy white panel doors and trim throughout, and a newly installed roof in 2024. The expansive laundry room features abundant storage, and the washer and dryer stay! Downstairs, the partially exposed basement offers a newly carpeted and painted family room with a second wood-burning stove (recently cleaned), new windows, and plenty of storage. Systems include a 2024 water heater, water softener, two sump pumps (one with battery backup), electric heat pump with central air, and an APRIL Aire system (just 2 years old). Step outside to enjoy the composite deck and private, 1+ acre yard-ideal for entertaining, relaxing, or gardening. The finished 2.5-car garage offers additional storage and workspace. Don't miss this rare opportunity to own a spacious, updated home in a peaceful setting with top-rated schools!



116 Crabapple Court Dixon \$550,000 Call Rebecca

Stunning Lakefront Retreat on Lost Lake - Over 200 Feet of Waterfront! This is the lakefront lifestyle you've been dreaming of! Nestled on two beautifully landscaped lots with more than 200 feet of pristine shoreline, this exceptional home offers over 4,000 square feet of finished living space designed for comfort, relaxation, and unforgettable entertaining. Step inside to a grand living room with soaring ceilings and panoramic windows that frame breathtaking views of the lake. The open-concept main floor seamlessly connects the spacious kitchen, dining area, and living room, creating an ideal space for gatherings. You'll love the oversized deck and patio that overlook your private backyard oasis and dock-perfect for summer days by the water. With 6+ bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, there's room for everyone. The main level features a large laundry room and walk-in pantry for added convenience. The walkout lower level boasts additional living space, four bedrooms, two full bathrooms (one with direct exterior access), and a bonus room currently used as a seventh bedroom. Whether you're hosting weekend getaways or enjoying quiet lakeside mornings, this home offers the ultimate blend of luxury and lake life. Don't miss your chance to own this rare double-lot gem in time for summer fun on Lost Lake!



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SPORTS

Three Oregon Junior High athletes advance to state meet

OREGON — On Friday, May 16, 2025, Oregon Junior High School hosted the IESA Junior High Track and Field Sectional Meet, welcoming athletes from 15 schools for a competitive day of events. Despite challenging weather conditions with high wind gusts, several Oregon athletes rose to the occasion, setting personal records and qualifying for the IESA State Meet to be held May 23–24.

Oregon will proudly send three athletes to State this year—sixth-grader Kollins Anaya, eighth-grader Anya Anaya, and seventh-grader Brady Wills—each delivering standout performances that earned them a place among the best in Illinois.

Kollins Anaya (6th Grade)

Kollins punched her ticket to State by winning the 6th/7th Grade Girls 1600m (1 mile) with a time of 5:53. Undeclared in the event this season, she holds a personal best of 5:44, set at the Reagan Invite, and is also the conference champion. This is Kollins' first year running track, but she's no stranger to competition—she's a two-time state qualifier in cross country. In addition to the mile, she competes in the 800m (2:39) and contributes to multiple 4x400m relay teams.

"Kollins has a fire and determination that's rare among athlete's I've coached," said Coach Gabe Poser. "Her competitive edge and willingness to outwork anyone makes her a real standout—and she's just getting started."

Anya Anaya (8th Grade)

Older sister Anya fol-

lowed up with a win in the 8th Grade Girls 800m at sectionals, clocking a personal best of 2:35. She is the 2025 conference champion in the 800m and previously earned back-to-back conference titles in the 1600m during her 6th and 7th grade seasons. This year, Anya chose to focus her efforts on the 800m and has also played a key role on multiple 4x400m relay teams.

A three-time state qualifier in cross country, Anya brings both experience and heart to the team. She looks forward to joining the Oregon High School cross country team this fall.

"Anya's leadership and consistency over the years have set the tone for our girls' distance crew," said Coach Poser. "She's the kind of athlete who raises the bar, not just with her performance, but with her attitude."

Brady Wills (7th Grade)

Oregon's third state qualifier—and the only male athlete to advance—was seventh-grader Brady Wills. He earned his spot in the 400m with a blazing personal record of 58.66, placing fifth overall and meeting the state qualifying standard. In just over a week, Brady dropped his time from 1:02.26 to 58.66, showing remarkable progress. A conference champion in the 400m, Brady also competes in the 100m, 200m, and 4x400m relay.

"This was Brady's first year running track, and it's been incredible to watch his transformation," said Poser. "We started him with the distance group, but after a few practices with the sprinters, it was clear he had some speed.



On Friday, May 16, Oregon Junior High School hosted the IESA Junior High Track and Field Sectional Meet, welcoming athletes from 15 schools for a competitive day of events. Oregon will proudly send three athletes to State this year—sixth-grader Kollins Anaya, eighth-grader Anya Anaya, and seventh-grader Brady Wills—each delivering standout performances that earned them a place among the best in Illinois.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The 400m became his race, and he made it his mission to qualify for State—and he did just that.

Program Growth and Future Talent

The Oregon Junior High Track and Field program continues to grow year after year, with increasing participation and rising talent at every grade level. This season, three fifth-graders—Marie Ramirez-Dzwierzynski, Nicanor Anaya, and Graham Kaskavage—were invited to compete in

non-conference meets, a first step toward higher-level competition. Impressively, two of them qualified for sectionals.

Graham Kaskavage competed in the 1600m, 800m, and 4x400m relay, showing remarkable versatility and endurance. Nicanor Anaya qualified for sectionals in the 1600m, demonstrating strong potential in distance running at a young age.

Their achievements reflect the program's commitment to developing future talent early and

providing opportunities for younger athletes to grow and succeed.

"We're incredibly proud of the direction this program is heading," Poser added. "Every year, we're seeing more young athletes commit to training and competing at a high level. The talent we saw this year, even in our youngest runners, is a strong sign that the future is bright."

Coaches Gabe Poser, Brekk Callaway, Nate Clow, and Andy Gilbert commend all the Oregon athletes for their hard

work, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the season. As these three exceptional runners prepare to represent Oregon at the State Meet, the entire community is cheering them on.

"We're excited, proud, and grateful to see Kollins, Anya, and Brady take the next step," Poser said. "Their hard work has paid off, and now they get to compete among the best in the state. We wish them—and all the talented young athletes from our region—the very best at State."

Byron and Stillman perform at 2A girls track & field sectional

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

STERLING — In a competitive 2A girls track & field sectional, Byron and Stillman Valley performed admirably by scoring 37 points each and qualifying several individuals and relays downstate.

Host school Sterling won the meet with 93 points, with the Tigers and Cardinals tied for eighth with 37 points.

The Byron 1,600-meter relay of Neve Schilling, Ashley Potter, Macyn Burris and Skylar Palmgren took home a first place with a time of 4:06, which was seven seconds faster than state qualifying. Finishing right behind in second were Sandra Brodersen, Taylor Davidson, Alexandria Hoff and Makinzie Lamb with a 4:12 clocking.

For two of the smallest schools present, it was a closing statement to everyone else in the meet's final event. Both schools also qualified in another relay.

The same girls that ran the 1,600 relay for Stillman also hit the SQ mark (50.59) in the 400 relay with a time of 50.24, good for third place.

"That was a big PR for us in the 400 relay," SV coach Matt McMullen

said. "The girls bought in this season and things clicked for us at conference."

In the 800 relay, Byron took third with Malia Morton joining Schilling, Potter and Palmgren at 1:47.24, safely under the 1:48.87 SQ.

Morton qualified in the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.64, which was second to the 15.50 by Elli Sines of LaSalle-Peru. Team-

mate Schilling earned a state berth in the high jump at 5-foot-1.

Hoff, a sophomore, nearly won the 400 meters for Stillman with a 1:00.82, right behind the 1:00.76 by Delanie Card of Sandwich. Another Cardinal sophomore, Lamb, was third in the 300 hurdles and a half second better than the 48.74 to qualify. The final SV individual qualifier

was Brodersen with a 5-1 high jump.

"We have tight team dynamics," SV coach Krissy Porter said. "This is the most we've sent down in the 10 years I've been coaching. Having Matt come aboard has been huge."

Rochelle, which finished in 10th place, had one qualifier, shot put champ and school record holder Erin Murphy (38-10).

Oregon's Schneiderman participates as parent, coach at sectional

OREGON girls track & field coach Nick Schneiderman, normally reserved and stoic, admitted to being a nervous wreck before the 1A sectional.

Considering he was in the unique situation of hoping his Hawks could claim their first-ever sectional title and also being a father to a top flight athlete from another school, a change to his emotional state was certainly validated with so much at stake at Lena-Winslow last Thursday.

It was a happy ending all around, as his daughter Bree qualified for state in three events, breaking two Forrester school records in the process and Oregon finally won that coveted sectional championship. The Hawks scored 118.5 points to 116.5 for Winnebago.

"Things calmed down after Breelyn made it in

the 100," Schneiderman said. "We also got off to a good start in the field events and things started feeling better for me."

To beat perennial power Winnebago, Oregon needed the field events to set the stage for the running portion of the meet and that even happened the day before the meet started. With L-W not having pole vault, the event was held in Winnebago on Wednesday and Sonya Plescia made it a return trip to state after being a finalist two years ago as a sophomore. Her 9-foot-1 clearance was second to Natalie Forward of RC. Cheyanne Edlund added a fourth with 7-7.

Alease McLain edged out a pair of Winnebago discus throwers for first with a 113-4. In the shot put, Noelle Girton came up with a third, good for 6 points.

In the high jump Grace Tremble and Skylar Bishop each went 5-0 to

qualify and place second and third. Though they missed qualifying, Lorelai Dannhorn (third in the 800) and Gabriele Hoyle went 3-4 in the triple jump for more valuable points.

"Depth and being able to move girls around is critical in winning a meet like this," Schneiderman said.

On the track, a good example of saving points was freshman Madeline Rogers finishing fifth instead of sixth in the 800 and 1,600 meters, by the narrowest of margins in each.

"It's the little things like that saved the meet for us," Schneiderman said. "Then you have someone like Jillian winning two events. She had a great night."

As expected, hurdler Jillian Hammer swept both her specialties, including a personal best of

46.65 in the 300 hurdles. She is ranked in top 10 in both the 100 and 300 hurdles for 1A.

Schneiderman's allegiance to his own family versus his own team was severely tested in the 400 meters with a dramatic result. As expected, the best sprinter in 1A, Emma Randecker of West Carroll, won the event at 57.26. Second place came down to be Tremble of Oregon and Schneiderman of Forrester-Polo, with Tremble winning 1:00.13 to 1:00.14, in the closest finish of the meet.

That razor thin .001 margin was also the difference in winning the win outright or not, as the difference between second and third was two points.

"Grace hates to run the open 400, but still beat my daughter," chuckled Schneiderman.



Andy Colbert

clocked a SQ 51.30, good for third. The fourth-place 800 relay also went SQ at 1:49, with Hoyle, Ciesel, Hammer and Tremble sharing the baton.

In all, Oregon qualified seven individuals and three relays. Schneiderman (100, 200, 400) was Forrester-Polo sole qualifier and also third in the long jump.

F-P finished fifth in the team standings with 61 points.

Senior throwers Bella Bergstrom, Katelyn Rockwood and Alayna Young medaled for F-P, along with sixths from Lucy Bawinkel in the 400 and Laynie Mandrell the 100 hurdles. Bawinkel, Mandrell, Kyla Lamm and Drue Behrends combined for a fourth in the 3,200 relay with a 11:36.

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

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

Oregon softball team scores win over Genoa-Kingston

The Oregon High School varsity softball team scored an 11-3 win over Genoa-Kingston on Thursday, May 15. Olivia Ortega went 3 for 3 with two runs and three RBIs, while Madi Shaffer went 2 for 3 with three runs and two RBIs. Abree Barker added a hit and two RBIs for the Hawks, who saw Isabelle Berg strike out 17 batters in a complete game effort.

Polo softball team tallies one run against Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity softball team tallied one run in a 16-1 loss against West Carroll on Monday, May 19.

lied one run in a 9-1 loss against Milledgeville on Thursday, May 15. Cheyenna Wilkins went 2 for 2 and Bella Witkowski went 2 for 2 with one RBI in the loss. Cam Jones pitched three and one-third innings with three strikeouts and went 1 for 2 with a run scored.

Polo baseball team records one run against Milledgeville

The Polo High School varsity baseball team recorded one run in a 16-1 loss against Milledgeville on Thursday, May 15. Jackson Willis notched one RBI for the Marcos, who totaled three hits in the loss.

Stillman Valley softball team edges Oregon in Ogle County play

The Stillman Valley varsity softball team edged Oregon 5-4 on Friday, May 16. Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 3 with two runs and two RBIs for the Hawks, while Mackenzi Shere went 2 for 3 with one run and two RBIs while pitching five-plus innings and striking out six for the Cardinals. Addison Adler went 3 for 3 and Aurora Lagerhausen went 2 for 3 on the Stillman Valley side.

Oregon girls soccer team falls against Princeton

The Oregon High School varsity girls soccer team fell 3-1 against Princeton on Friday, May 16.

School varsity girls soccer team fell 3-1 against Princeton on Friday, May 16. Sarah Eckardt scored the lone goal for the Hawks.

Oregon softball team blows out Pecatonica

The Oregon High School varsity softball team blew out Pecatonica 16-1 on Saturday, May 17. Ella Dannhorn went 3 for 3 with three runs and three RBIs, while Kaelin Shaffer went 2 for 3 with two runs and two RBIs. Hayleigh Heuerman went 2 for 2 with two runs and both Madi Shaffer and Lola Schwarz recorded two RBIs in the win.

Oregon softball team loses against Morrison

The Oregon High School varsity softball team lost 5-0 against Morrison on Saturday, May 17.

The Oregon High School varsity softball team lost 5-0 against Morrison on Saturday, May 17. Ella Dannhorn went 2 for 3 to lead the Hawks, who finished with two hits in the loss.

Forreston softball team shut out by Ottawa Marquette

The Forreston High School varsity softball team was shut out 18-0 against Ottawa Marquette on Saturday, May 17. Chloe Weegens singled for the Cardinals, who finished with one hit.

Polo softball team records four runs against West Carroll

The Polo High School varsity softball team recorded four runs in a 12-4 loss against West Carroll on Monday, May 19.

varsity softball team recorded four runs in a 12-4 loss against West Carroll on Monday, May 19. Cheyenna Wilkins went 2 for 4 to lead the Lady Marcos, who totaled eight hits in the game.

Polo baseball team notches four runs against West Carroll

The Polo High School varsity baseball team notched four runs in a 9-4 loss to West Carroll on Monday, May 19. Dawson Foster went 4 for 4 with one RBI, while Aiden Messer recorded two RBIs, and Jeff Donaldson went 1 for 3 with an RBI in the loss. Gus Mumford scored two runs.

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Oregon Public Library will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, June 2

Level Up at Your Library summer reading program begins! Registration for the 2025 youth summer reading program at the Oregon Public Library began on May 19th and is ongoing! This program, June 2 - July 25, is available to Oregon library district residents 3 years old through 11th grade. Activities, books, prizes, story time, special presenters, movies and more are all a part of the program. Registration is required, so contact the library for more details. And there's more... an Adult Summer Reading program is also available for those 18 years and older! Youth Programs- June 2- June 13, Registration required for all programs. Monday, June 2, Story Time 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.) Thursday, June 5, Activity Time, 1:30 pm (grades 1st & up) Making dragon eggs! Monday, June 9, Story Time, 10 am (18 months-6 yrs.) Monday, June 9, Animal Quest, 1 pm (ages 7 & up). The Adventure starts here... come see, touch and learn from the founders of Animal Quest, a Chicagoland area 5-acre farm which is home to over 130 animals. This is an interactive presentation at the library with a variety of live animals. Wednesday, June 11, Dungeons & Dragons-One Shot, 6 pm, (13 yrs. & up)

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

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.

FRENCH CLASS

Next Meeting - May 28, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Advance Registration Required.

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

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

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

JUNE YOGA CLASS-ES

Yoga: 10:00 - 11:00 am. Chair Yoga: 11:15 - 12:00 noon. When: Friday, June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost: \$5 per session.

Veteran's Assistance

Your Veteran's Service Officer will now be serving you at: 1001 Pines Road, Oregon, Illinois. Fridays from 9:00 am - 3:00 p.m. By Appointment Only. To schedule your appointment, please call 815-633-8266 or 217-836-6575. The Veteran's Service Officer serves Veterans of all ages and assists them with applications and other benefits available to them.

Benefit Access Program

The Benefit Access Program allows you to get a discount on your license plate sticker. The cost of your sticker could be as low as \$10.00. To qualify, you must meet income guidelines as follows: You must be 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the current year; or You must be 16 years of age or older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year. Your annual income* must be less than: \$33,562 for a 1-person household, \$44,533 for a 2-person household, \$55,500 for a 3-person household. You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application.

your sticker could be as low as \$10.00. To qualify, you must meet income guidelines as follows: You must be 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the current year; or You must be 16 years of age or older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year. Your annual income* must be less than: \$33,562 for a 1-person household, \$44,533 for a 2-person household, \$55,500 for a 3-person household. You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application.

Property Tax Assessment Freeze

This exemption "freezes" your assessed value at a certain level and base year, depending on what year you originally applied. Your future real estate tax bills are calculated at this "frozen" assessed value, thereby slowing the increase of your property taxes. You must re-apply for this exemption every year. Although your assessed value is frozen under this exemption, tax bills can continue to increase if spending by any of the local units of government (like schools, cities, parks, etc.) goes up. Also, please be aware that you may, later in the year, receive a "change of assessment notice" if the township assessor has re-evaluated your property. This will in no way affect your status under this senior assessment freeze exemption.

Real Estate Taxes

Real estate taxes are calculated on your "frozen" assessed value. To qualify, you must meet guidelines as follows: You must be 65 or older, own and use the property as your principal residence. Your total income, and the income of any other individuals using the property as their principal residence, must be less than \$65,000.

Homestead 65

This annual exemption is available for a single-family property that is occupied as the principal residence of a person, who is 65 years of age or older during the assessment year. The person must be the owner, or a lessee with an ownership interest in the property who is liable for the payment of the property taxes. The amount of the exemption is a \$5,000 reduction in the EAV of the property.

Wright conducts undergraduate research at UW-Whitewater

WHITEWATER, Wis.

— More than 150 students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater conducted undergraduate research during the 2024-25 academic year. Several students presented their research at events around the nation.

The following students conducted research at UW-Whitewater during the 2024-25 academic year: Polo: Laura Wright, whose major at UW-Whitewater is Environmental Science.

Science.

The Undergraduate Research Program (URP) offers a variety of programs aimed to connect students with faculty mentors and provide them with enriching research opportunities. This can be in the form of working alongside a mentor as a student researcher, or creating independent, student-led projects with a mentor's help.

ous programs, grants, and opportunities that the URP offers, and many take part in undergraduate research every year. URP supports inquiry-driven research scholarship and creative activity, and provides grants, research fellowships, and travel support to undergraduate students and faculty mentors.

To find information about the Undergraduate Research Program, visit <https://www.uww.edu/urp>.

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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.

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-register 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: 815-645-8611.

Genealogy Basics: Religious and Legal Records

Aspiring genealogists look at more than just family trees! Religious and legal records can help paint a fuller picture of who your ancestors were beyond names and dates. In this class, we'll discuss types of religious and legal records available on

Ancestry and beyond, how to interpret documents such as land grants and deeds and what to do with your discoveries. Monday, June 16, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Ice Cream Social

Celebrate the first day of summer...with our most delicious summer reading event ever: an ice cream social featuring Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream served right out of the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream 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.

Heatwave Live Concert

The heat is on! Matt and Cynthia, from Nostalgia Entertainment, return to heat things up with a musical show that captures the essence of summer. Hear your favorite songs from the 1920s thru the 1980s by The Beach Boys, Chicago, The Beatles and more. Monday, June 23, 6:30 p.m. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

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!

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. Faxing 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!

UW-Milwaukee holds commencement ceremony

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The following individuals from your area are among the 2,919 pro-

spective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises

Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Byron: Grace Abrahams, School of Nursing, Bache-

lor of Science. Katelin Mumma, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business, Master of Science. Madelyn Vavra,

School of Rehabilitation Science & Technology, Master of Science.

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Youth Ministry Coordinator: Richard Simpson
Sunday Schedule & Worship opportunities:
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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
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Pastor: Gary Cortese
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
Find us on Facebook/Beacon Hill Assembly of God

CHANA

CHANA UNITED METHODIST

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

DIXON

LOST LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

FORRESTON

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER

ADELINE ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LEAF RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

LINDENWOOD

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

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

LINDENWOOD UNION CHURCH

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

KINGS

ELIM REFORMED CHURCH

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

MOUNT MORRIS

DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF MT. MORRIS

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

MT. MORRIS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

OREGON

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

East Oregon Chapel Church of God
The Sharing is Caring Church

MOUNT MORRIS

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

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH

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

LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST

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

LITTLE PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

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

OREGON CHURCH OF GOD

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

OREGON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OREGON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

RIVERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

609 S. 10th Street, Oregon, IL 61061
Pastor Craig Arnold ~ 815-236-1213
Sunday Service @ 10:45 AM ~ contemporary style worship with coffee and doughnuts in our cafe! Online worship is also available via Facebook.
We believe in sharing Communion every Sunday as an act of worship.
RiverKids Service @ 10:45 AM for nursery-6th grade ~ provides a safe and fun environment where kids can learn about who God is and who they are because of Him.
Encounter Youth Ministry for kids in 7th-12th grade meets on Sunday afternoons. Please see our Facebook page for scheduled dates and times.
For complete ministry info and events, visit us online at RiverStoneCC.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/RiverStoneChristianChurch

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

POLO

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ POLO CAMPUS

Meeting Sundays @ 10AM Service
205 N. Jefferson Avenue, Polo ~ 815.837.5255
poloatcrossroads.com
We offer contemporary worship and relevant Bible teaching through engaging messages and powerful video. Join us after services for coffee, snacks & fellowship. Kidzlink Children's Ministry (nursery-5th grade) ~ during 10AM service
Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st .

Visit our website: www.crossroadsccn.com

FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

RED BRICK CHURCH OF STILLMAN VALLEY

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

KISHWAUKEE COMMUNITY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

VALLEY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

WINNEBAGO

MIDDLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



LOCAL NEWS

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

CLOSED
 Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.

LEGO Club
 Monday, June 2nd, 5:00PM: Bricks and bases will be waiting for you at LEGO Club on June 2nd. Bring your neighbor and your imagination!

Color Our World Kickoff
 Thursday, June 5th at 10:30AM: Families are invited to join us for an amazing performance by The Fever River Puppeteers as they pres-

ent Pirates Ahoy! The Cloudship Adventure on Thursday, June 5th. See what is in store as we Color Our World this summer at Bertolet Memorial Library!

Color Our World Summer Reading Program
 Thursdays June 5th-July 10th, 10:30AM: Each week, Miss Stacey will lead us in colorful topics such as Art, Animals, Cooking, and more. Kids aged 3 years through 5th grade are encouraged to wear old clothes for messy fun!

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
 We will take a break for the summer and return in September after Labor Day. Keep reading!

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 resi-

dent 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. The circulation desk has your sample, some recipes, and the history of paprika to take home. Find out what zoo

animal sometimes gets fed paprika!

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
 Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall
 This Is Not a Game by Kelly Mullen

Chapter Book
 Woof! The Truth About Dogs by Annette Whipple
Picture Book
 -ug as in Bug by Chelsey Lucio

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON—On April 30 at approximately 11:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at the 104-mile marker northbound. After investigation, deputies placed Jeremy Simerson, 37, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Simerson was additionally issued a citation for an expired registration. Simerson was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 1 at approximately 10:41 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,200 block of East Illinois Route 38 in Rochelle. After investigation, deputies placed Cheyanne Dorsett, 34, of DeKalb, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Dorsett was additionally issued citations for a suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Dorsett was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On May 1 at 7:34 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North River Road. After investigation, deputies placed Taizen Bell, 26, of Dixon under arrest for driving while license

suspended. Bell was additionally issued citations for expired registration, suspended registration, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Bell was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 2 at 6:51 p.m. deputies and Polo EMS/Fire were dispatched to the area of 13,000 West Canada Road in rural Polo for the report of an ATV accident. After an investigation, a 15-year-old male juvenile from Polo was found to be traveling west bound in the 13,000 block of West Canada Road on an ATV with a 13-year-old male juvenile passenger from Polo, before losing control on the gravel road. A 17-year-old male juvenile was following the ATV on a dirt bike. The 15-year-old male driver was transported to OSF Saint Katharine's Medical Center in Dixon by Polo EMS for his injuries. The 13-year-old male juvenile passenger was not injured. The 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a citation for no valid driver's license, and was released to a parent. The crash remains under investigation.

On May 2 at 3:54 p.m. deputies were dis-

patched to the 100 block of West Roosevelt Street, for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Nolan Wortman, 25, of Stillman Valley, was arrested on an active Winnebago County warrant. Wortman was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On May 3 at 4:23 p.m. deputies were dispatched to a property damage crash in the area of 2000 West Mud Creek Road. The reporting party stated the offending vehicle, a brown Chevrolet Silverado, had left the scene eastbound. The brown Chevrolet was stopped in the area of West Mud Creek Road and North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Shannan Johnson, 55, of Rochelle, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Johnson was also charged with possession of concealed firearm with expired conceal firearm license and possession of concealed firearm under the influence of alcohol. Johnson was additionally cited for leaving the scene, operating uninsured motor vehicle, and illegal transport of alcohol by driver. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail,

where she was processed and released with a future court date.

On May 4 at approximately 1:31 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North Mount Morris Road and West Townline Road. After an investigation, Cole C. Bishop, 34, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Bishop was also cited for an improper turn at an intersection and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC over .08. Bishop was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear.

On May 5 at approximately 4 p.m. deputies were called to the Rolling Meadows Trailer Park in Davis Junction in reference to a threat. After an investigation, deputies charged Joseph Simmons, 32, of Davis Junction, with disorderly conduct. Simmons was given a notice to appear for his charge and will go to court on May 23.

On May 5 at approximately 11:26 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation,

deputies cited Shaylee Rainwater, 28, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended, no insurance, and no registration. Rainwater was given a notice to appear on her citations and released from the scene.

On May 5 at approximately 2:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies cited Markqual Cole, 34, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended and suspended registration. Cole was given a notice to appear on his citations with a court date of May 23.

On May 5 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, Richard Rodriguez, 36, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license suspended and for two active Rockford PD warrants for domestic battery. Rodriguez was additionally cited for no insurance and improper display of registration. Rodriguez was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was given a notice to appear for driving on a suspended li-

cense. Rodriguez was left in custody on the warrant with no bond.

On May 5 at approximately 3:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at 2nd Street and Market Street in Byron. After investigation, deputies placed Charles Littard, 35, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Littard was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 6 at approximately 7:18 a.m. Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,500 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, Kenneth Wolf, 45, of Rock Falls, was arrested for driving while license suspended and for an active Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Wolf was additionally cited for no insurance and suspended registration. Wolf was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was given a notice to appear with a return court date for driving on a suspended license. Wolf was detained on the Lee County warrant.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

State Rep. Fritts announces 2025 Summer Tour

DIXON — Today, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) announced his 2025 Summer Tour of District 74.

"I am excited to begin my third annual summer tour to speak with constituents," said Rep. Fritts.

"These annual summer tours have become one of my favorite parts of being a State Representative. It allows me to meet with hundreds of constituents and have authentic conversations about their needs and priorities. Being

able to assist them with state issues or bringing their ideas back with me to Springfield is what this job is all about."

The tour consists of coffee & conversation events and town halls held on most Wednesdays from

June 4 to Aug. 27. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also be touring local businesses, attending community events, and more.

Rep. Fritts continued, "I look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, as I work to better understand the needs of every community in the 74th District."

The tour begins with

a coffee & conversation event at 8 a.m. in Franklin Grove and a town hall at 6 p.m. in Waterman on June 4.

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit RepFritts.com/SummerTour.

Antiques & Collectibles

Belvidere Collectible Coins
 www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com
 We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion
10% More For Jewelry With This Ad!
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm
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 Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer
 Redesign with Prima Retailer

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 JAMES AND ANN TUCKER, PROPRIETORS
 321 WEST STATE STREET
 SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS
 OPEN
 WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
 10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY
 815-895-4720

Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!

Call:

Christel Ackland 815-561-2153

Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

LOCAL NEWS/COMICS

Catch The Twain: The Musical comes to White Pines State Park June 10 -12

MT. MORRIS — The White Pines Lodge welcomes “Catch The Twain: The Musical” for three matinee shows at the Dinner Theater on June 10, 11 and 12. The theater is located at 6712 W. Pines Road.

Warren Brown is Mark Twain,” said folk musician and songwriter Mark Dvorak who provides the soundtrack to Brown’s performance, performing old-time banjo tunes, period songs and audience participation.

“Warren is hilarious. We’ve been crossing paths for years and it’s

been a lot fun working with him to put this show together.”

“Mark and I have been developing this chautauqua style program for over two years now,” said Warren Brown, who has spent over thirty years researching the life and work of Twain. And just like Twain himself, “we like to play off the audience members and each other with stories, jokes and songs.”

The Blue Island Public Library calls the show, “Better than Holbrook... almost as good as Twain,” and Humanities Nebraska says, “Brown reaches out


to people and makes them laugh and learn at the same time.”

Since 1989 the Pines Dinner Theater has blossomed into a well-known live professional theater features talent from around the country presenting more than thirty shows each year.

Silver tickets are \$62, Gold \$65 and Platinum \$72. Reserve at 815.655.2400 or log on at www.whitepines.com.

Learn more about “Catch The Twain” at www.catchthetwain.com.

Find Mark Dvorak at www.markdvorak.com



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The White Pines Lodge welcomes “Catch The Twain: The Musical” for three matinee shows at the Dinner Theater on June 10, 11 and 12. The theater is located at 6712 W. Pines Road.

Stillman Bank to host free community shred day

STILLMAN VALLEY — Stillman Bank will be hosting a free Community Shred Day on Saturday, June 14. A shredd truck will be on-site to safely dispose of your personal documents and

information, and help you avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and fraud.

Shredding will be offered at Stillman Bank in Stillman Valley from 8-10 a.m. and at Stillman Bank in Byron from 10:15 a.m.

to noon. Anyone is welcome to take advantage of this free service to dispose of personal papers and unwanted documents in a safe, secure way.

Individuals may bring up to six boxes, weigh-

ing less than 35 pounds each, full of items to be shredded. Suggested items include those that contain personal information such as names and addresses, birthdates, social security and insurance numbers,

and banking and credit card information. Documents may contain staples and paperclips, and most non-plastic file folders are also accepted. For a complete list of acceptable shredding items, please

contact Stillman Bank at (815) 645-2266.

For more information on Stillman Bank, or to find out more about Stillman’s products and services, please visit www.stillmanbank.com.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sprint
5 Dalai —
9 Humorist
12 Twice cuatro
13 Done with
14 Here (Fr.)
15 Impulsive
17 Born abroad?
18 Sweetheart
19 Sequence
21 Freudian concept
22 Ersatz chocolate
24 Lascivious
27 "Wham!"
28 Rain-delay cover
31 MSNBC's Melber
32 Night before
33 "Gosh!"
34 Gasp for air
36 Scale members
37 Despot
38 Tub outlet
40 Battery size
41 Laugh track sounds
43 Author Lurie
47 "I love," in Latin
48 Tropical cooler
51 Writer Harper
52 Theater award

DOWN

1 Columnist Maureen
2 Massage target
3 Actor LaBeouf
4 Dreadful
5 Actor Rob
6 Bird (Pref.)
7 Gents
8 Passion
9 Motormouths
10 Frozen drink brand
11 Level
16 Cover
20 Hogwash
22 Witch group
23 Dazzles
24 Napkin's place
25 Geological period
26 Namibia's capital
27 Gilpin of "Frasier"
29 Actor Stephen
30 Apiece
35 — -la-la
37 East Asian country
39 Silents star Mary
40 Hearty brew
41 Sentry's cry
42 Iowa city
43 Citrus drinks
44 Beget
45 Small bills
46 Secret-protecting docs
49 Slugger's stat
50 Succor

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MAGIC MAZE ● — CAKE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: 16 OUNCES

Angel food	Layer	Red velvet	Wheat
Black forest	Marble	Rice	White
Funnel	Patty	Seed	Yellow
Johnny	Piece of	Upside-down	

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Weekly SUDOKU

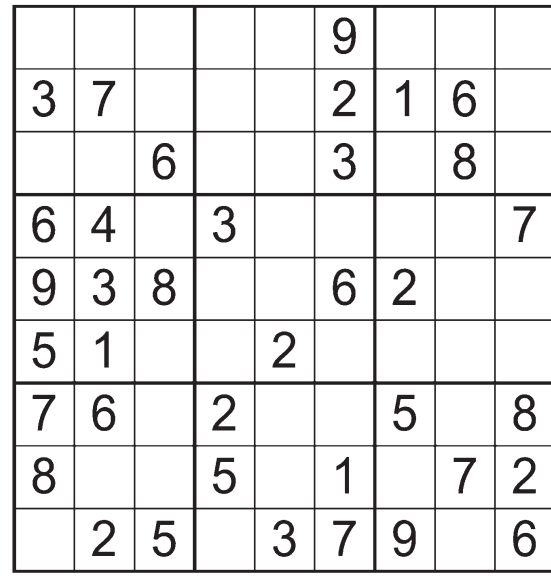
				9				
3	7			2	1	6		
		6		3		8		
6	4		3					7
9	3	8		6	2			
5	1			2				
7	6		2		5		8	
8			5		1		7	2
	2	5		3	7	9		6

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. Man is moved. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Purse in window is moved. 4. Hand is not showing. 5. Hat is different. 6. Letter E is larger.



King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU





LOCAL NEWS

FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book Sale
May 1st-May 30th. We've extended our annual spring book sale to the end of May! Books, puzzles and DVDs are available for purchase (by donation) during regular business hours. We have a

nice selection of new and gently used items for all ages and interests. Find some great bargains while you help support the library!
Color Our World Summer Program
Wednesdays at 10:00am.

June 11th - July 23rd. Ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to join us when our summer fun begins on June 11th! We'll celebrate all the ways our world is colorful and learn how we can add to it through art, music, science

and more! Plan to join us and bring a friend!
Community Room
Looking for a place to hold your event? Our community room (with a small kitchenette) is available for meetings, parties, showers,

family reunions, and more. Please call the library at (815)938-2624 for additional information.
Soft Plastic Recycling
We are collecting film-type plastic for recycling. This includes plastic bags,

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

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

The following events are happening at the Mt. Morris Senior & Commu-

nity Center!
Jam Session and Lunch
Wednesday, May 28th

at 10:30 am we have Jam Session and Lunch. Come listen to local musicians and

enjoy a meal after. Cost of lunch is \$8 with a \$3 discount for members.

Diamond Painting
Diamond Painting on Friday, May 30th @ 11:00

am. No experience necessary. Paintings are available for purchase.



Polo Cub Scouts hold award ceremony

On Saturday morning, May 3 at the Faith United Methodist Church in Polo, The Polo Cub Scout Pack 337 held its end of year Awards Ceremony. It started with the presentation of the flags. Everyone that attended said the pledge of allegiance and then the scouts and leaders repeated the scout oath. Shortly after that the awards were presented to the scouts that were there. We were missing two scouts and one leader due to prior commitments. The scouts worked hard to achieve all the awards they were presented. Thank you scouts for working hard and thank you to your parents for helping you at home to achieve the awards. Thank you to parents, grandparents, all the volunteers, leaders, and especially the three leaders that were there at the beginning and learned on the go. Those leaders are: Heather Roop, Courtney Meador and Lindy Diehl. All the people involved with the scouts made the first year a success. (Courtesy photo)



Stillman Valley Ag Mechanics team finishes in 3rd at state

The Stillman Valley Ag. Mechanics Team sent five students to the state competition to compete as a team as well as five individual trades. As a whole the team scored 90 points out of 100 earning them third place out of 20 participants. Members of the team Lucas Dallio (electrician) and Lucas Cheesman (surveying) placed first in their respective competitions as well. This is the third year in the row that Stillman Valley has won the electrician competition. In addition, the following members of the team had strong performances as well: Callan Farris (third place in Carpentry), Robbie Thurow (11th place in ag power), and Will McGhee (27th place in welding). Pictured left to right: Lucas Dallio, Callan Farris, Lucas Cheesman, Will McGhee, and Robbie Thurow. (Courtesy photo)



On Saturday, May 31 at 10 a.m. at the Oregon Illinois Depot, Chris Martin and Roger Cain will be the presenters for the "Those Were The Days" program.

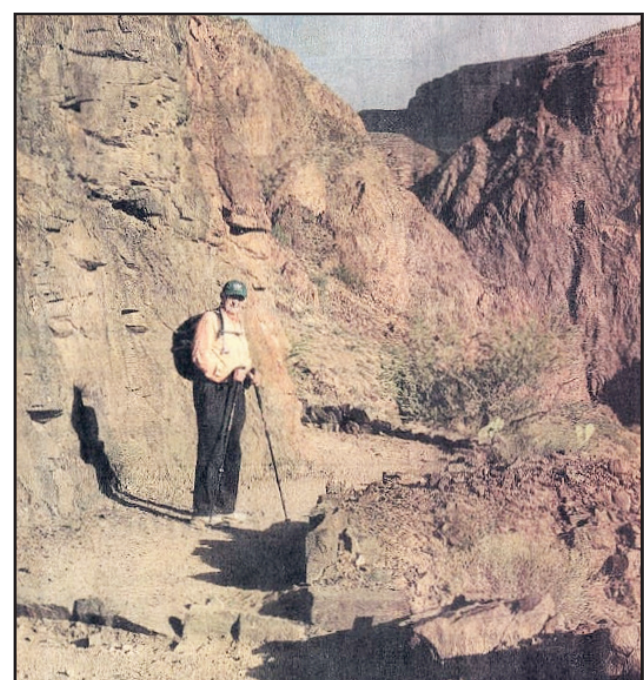
Martin and Cain to present Depot program on Grand Canyon trip

OREGON — On Saturday, May 31 at 10 a.m. at the Oregon Illinois Depot, Chris Martin and Roger Cain will be the presenters for the "Those Were The Days" program. They'll talk about the trip they took with nine others to the Grand Canyon in May of 2016. Careful and coordinated planning and preparation were necessary. Reservations for lodging and meals at the bottom of the canyon are limited to 60 per day so these reservations had to be made a year in advance. On May 1, 2015, Martin faxed a request to the operators at Phantom Ranch at the base of the canyon. This is where the hikers wanted to stay. Martin said on his fifth fax attempt, he hit the jackpot when the reservation request for 16 hikers was accepted. Now

that he had the canyon hike dates secured, he had to make hotel reservations at the North Rim for the night before the hike and reservations at the South Rim for the night after the hike out of the canyon. Martin says it was a relief to know that they had time to juggle the room arrangements, not being sure of the makeup of the final number of hikers. Two months before the hike date, they sent out the final email giving the hikers a drop-dead-date to decide. At that point, it was narrowed down to 10 hikers and their driver. The 10 hikers were: Curtis (Chris's son) and his wife, Ceci Martin from Reno, Nevada, Ted and Carol Fox from Eugene, Oregon, brothers, Roger and Mike Cain, from Oregon, Chris Martin from Ore-

gon, Adam and Heather Walden from Byron, Linda Lenore from Rockford and Zack Martin (Chris's grandson) from Oregon who would be the hikers' driver. Total preparation was a coordinated effort. Martin's son, Curtis and his wife, Ceci did a great amount of research regarding hiking boots, backpacks, nylon sock liners, hiking poles and energy drinks and snacks. They also researched the various trails and supply station locations. As far as being physically fit for the trip, Curtis and Ceci regularly hike Mt. Rose Reno, Ted and Carol were alpaca ranchers and keep physically fit with their daily chores. Roger and his brother, Mike work out at Nash Recreation Center on a regular basis. Roger

invited Chris to join him at Nash three mornings a week, which he did. Heather and Linda got on a conditioning schedule in a hurry as the big day approached. The day arrived and all parties met up at the Las Vegas Airport where their adventure in the west began. You won't want to miss Chris and Roger's recollections about the incredible vistas they saw and all the experiences they had with this group of family and friends. One of their favorite stories is about the mule trains who rule the trails. It's the responsibility of the hikers to yield and scramble to the side of the trail as the mules thunder and gallop by in a flash. The group enjoyed a trip of a lifetime. At their final dinner together, the group toasted the 100th



anniversary of the National Park System. There were conversations about planning a rafting trip down the Colorado River for the following year, a dream still to be realized.

For more information about this program or other depot topics, please contact Roger Cain 815-757-9715, Chris Martin 815-742-8471 or Otto Dick 815-440-0639.

Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club holds May meeting, celebrates Cinco de Mayo

CRESTON — Happy Cinco de Mayo!

It was fiesta time at the May meeting of the Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Participants celebrated by learning about Cinco de Mayo from club member Mateo Torres; enjoyed tostadas made by club mom Lyn Cabanas; and took turns trying to break open a pinata.

The pinata almost got the best of us, but as soon as member William Stein came up to bat, there was a candy free for all! Everyone had a great time celebrating Mexican heritage!

Also on the agenda was a new club banner for the Ogle County Fairgrounds, a "Go Fish" Tournament for our June meeting, and our County Fair Fundraiser for Heifer International.

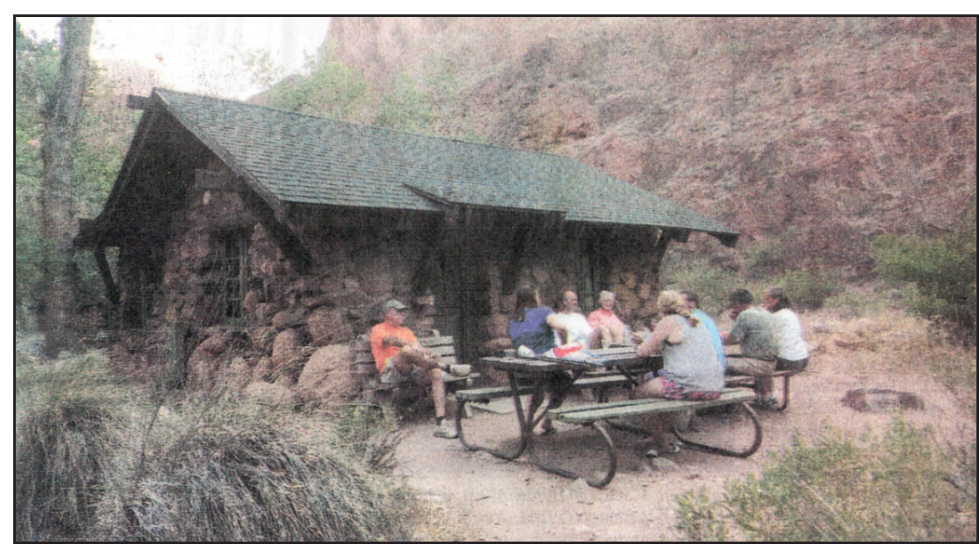
Speaking of our fundraiser, please save up your change to help raise money for the Heifer International Penny War. Clubs compete against each other to earn the privilege of choosing the Heifer package to be gifted. Each penny counts as a point, but all silver coins are subtracted from the total. Bring on the sabotage and may the best club win!

The Hub Hickory Nuts meet on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Creston. If you would like more information, please call the University of Illinois Extension at 1-815-732-2191.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

It was fiesta time at the May meeting of the Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Participants celebrated by learning about Cinco de Mayo from club member Mateo Torres; enjoyed tostadas made by club mom Lyn Cabanas; and took turns trying to break open a pinata.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Classified Marketplace

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OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

101 LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS, OFFICE OF VILLAGE OF LEAF RIVER, COUNTY OF OGLE, LEAF RIVER, ILLINOIS

The following is a statement by JANICE L. MYERS, treasurer of the Village of Leaf River in the County and State aforesaid, of public funds received and disbursed by her during the fiscal year ending on the 30th day of April A. D. 2025 showing the amount of public funds on hand at commencement of said fiscal year; the amount of public funds received, and from what sources received; and the amount of public funds expended, and for what purpose expended, during said fiscal year ending as aforesaid.

The said JANICE L. MYERS, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that the following statement by her subscribed is a correct statement of the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year above stated, the amount of public funds received and the sources from which received, and amount expended, and purposed for which expended, as set forth in said statement.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 20th day of May, 2025.

Tena L. Krueger, Village Clerk
Janice L. Myers, Village Treasurer

Amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the Fiscal year commencing the 1st day of May 2024

GENERAL CORPORATE ACCOUNT	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024 - \$294,444.84	
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Property Tax	\$12,473.94
State Income Tax	\$75,083.83
Local Use Tax	\$14,454.65
State Sales Tax	\$30,639.58
Utility Tax	\$20,961.33
Telecommunications Tax	\$7,642.39
Video Gaming Tax	\$11,090.44
Cannabis Use Tax	\$678.86
Replacement Tax	\$4,147.89
Gaming License	\$225.00
Liquor Licenses	\$3,200.00
Business Licenses	\$50.00
Building Permits	\$410.00
Poultry Permits	\$55.00
Water & Sewer Rents, Sewer Sur Charge RVC Rental	\$197,097.91
RVC Rental	\$5,730.00
Tower Rental	\$7,000.00
Misc. Detail:	
Museum Gas Bill	\$1,398.83
Refunds	\$2,374.02
Clean-Up Day Grant	\$1,347.83
ML- Insurance Payments	\$12,142.94
Transfer	\$11,631.43
RVC	\$1,200.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$421,035.87
DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT
S.J. Penn - Wages	\$42,140.04
F. Bergman - Wages	\$3,618.89
M. Penn - Wages	\$5,341.95
T. Krueger - Clerk	\$8,128.67
J. Myers - Treasurer	\$6,928.83
Janes Environmental	\$12,000.00
American Legal	\$4,070.45
BOK Financial	\$68,344.00
Byron Bank - Interest	\$4,486.04
Cahoy Pump Svc.	\$27,840.00
ComEd	\$31,121.80
Core & Main	\$3,203.40
Elite Door Opener Svc.	\$3,950.00
gWorks	\$3,732.00
Helm Service	\$4,074.41
Herrill Electric Svc.	\$12,420.98
High Top Tree Svc.	\$6,250.00
IEPA	\$3,955.10
Illinois Dept. of Revenue	\$4,544.00
Illinois Municipal League	\$16,920.31
Newkirk & Associates	\$10,950.00
NICOR Gas	\$14,873.02
Norup Trenching	\$3,961.00
Pace Analytical	\$2,389.90
Polo Coop.	\$2,513.27
Rush Power Systems	\$13,760.44
Sensus	\$3,700.00
Sewer Sur Charge Account	\$17,769.97
USA BlueBook	\$14,022.95
U.S. Treasury	\$19,390.13
VISA	\$4,530.23
Ward, Murray, Pace, & Johnson	\$3,468.78
Wunderlich-Malec	\$14,580.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS PAID TO VENDORS, OVER \$2,000.00	
	\$398,981.16

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS UNDER \$2000.00 PER VENDOR	\$29,412.88
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$428,394.04
GENERAL CORPORATE ACCOUNT - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$287,086.67

MOTOR FUEL TAX ACCOUNT	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$56,737.45
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
MFT Allotments	\$9,711.69
MFT Renewal Allotments	\$9,806.45
Interest	\$265.77
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$19,783.91
DISBURSEMENTS	NONE
MOTOR FUEL TAX ACCOUNT - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$76,521.36

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$40,611.70
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Interest	\$285.04
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$285.04
DISBURSEMENTS	NONE
CERTIFICATATE OF DEPOSIT - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$40,896.74

WATER - CD	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$20,271.81
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Interest	\$701.47
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$701.47
DISBURSEMENTS	NONE
WATER - CD - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$20,973.28

SEWER - CD	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$6,757.29
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Interest	\$233.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$233.82
DISBURSEMENTS	NONE
SEWER - CD - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$6,991.11

Leaf River Water Fund - MM	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$38,561.19
RECEIPTS	
Interest	\$84.32
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$84.32
DISBURSEMENTS	
Service Fees	\$40.00
Transfer	\$1,789.51
Cahoy Pump Svc.	\$36,816.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$38,645.51
Leaf River Water Fund - MM - Balance on Hand April 30, 2025	-0-

Economic Development	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$9,764.90
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Interest	\$77.02
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$77.02
DISBURSEMENTS	
Transfer	\$9,841.92
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,841.92
Economic Development - Balance On Hand April 30, 2025	-0-

SEWER SUR CHARGE ACCOUNT	
Balance on Hand May 1, 2024	\$17,329.85
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Transfers	\$17,769.97
Interest	\$24.83
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$17,794.80
DISBURSEMENTS	
NONE	
SEWER SUR CHARGE ACCOUNT - BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 30, 2025	\$35,124.65

No.0521
(May 26, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
OGLE COUNTY, ILLI-
NOIS

COMMUNITY STATE
BANK OF ROCK FALLS,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROBERT L. TURNER,
AVEN FINANCIAL INC.,
d/b/a AVEN FINAN-
CIAL as successor in
interest to COASTAL
COMMUNITY BANK,
GOODLEAP, LLC, UN-
KNOWN OWNERS, and
NON-RECORD CLAIM-
ANTS,
Defendants.
Property Address:
8083 South Green Street
Dixon, Illinois 61021
No. 2025FC20

NOTICE BY PUBLICA-
TION

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 cer-
tain 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 Miscelland-
eous Records, Page
160 in the Recorder's
Office of Ogle County,
Illinois; situated in the
Township of Grand De-
tour, the County of Ogle
and the State of Illinois.
PIN: 21-13-107-002.

COMMONLY KNOW
AS: 8083 South Green
Street, Dixon, Illinois
61021

and which said Mort-
gage was made by Rob-
ert L. Turner, Mortgagor,
to Community State
Bank of Rock Falls,
as Mortgagee, and re-
corded in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
of Ogle County, Illi-
nois, as Document No.
202202912; and for oth-
er 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

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, ILLI-
NOIS

IN THE MATTER OF
A CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE FOR A MOTOR
VEHICLE
SPRING BROOK MHP,
LLC, an Illinois limited
liability comapany,
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 Or-
der directing the Illinois
Secretary of State issue
title to and in that cer-
tain 1967 Duke Mobile
Home; VIN: 522257, Title
Number 16221697484,
located at 501 N. Ash
Avenue, Lot 8, Forres-
ton, 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby
given that on May 19,
2025 a certificate was
filed in the Ogle Coun-
ty Clerk's Office setting
forth the names and
post office address of
all of the persons own-
ing, conducting and
transacting the busi-
ness known as:

Built Right Masonry
5875 N Blackwood Rd
Davis Junction, IL
61020

Dated: May 19, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle
County Clerk
No. 0520
(May 26, June 2 and 9,
2025)

NOTICE
Notice of Intent to
Issue Bonds
and Right to File
Petition

Notice is hereby giv-
en that pursuant to an
ordinance (the "Ordi-
nance"), adopted by

the Board of Trustees
(the "Board") of the Or-
egon Fire Protection
District, Ogle County,
Illinois (the "District"),
on the 14th day of
May, 2025, the District
intends to issue gener-
al obligation alternate
bonds (the "Bonds"), in
an aggregate principal
amount not to exceed
\$4,000,000, for the
purpose of renovating,
repairing and equip-
ping District facilities,
expanding the District's
existing fire station and
purchasing emergen-
cy response fleet and
equipment. The reve-
nue source that will be
pledged to the payment
of the principal of and
interest on the Bonds
will be corporate pur-
pose taxes of the Dis-
trict. If such revenue
source shall be insuffi-
cient to pay the Bonds,
then the Bonds shall
be payable from ad
valorem property taxes
levied upon all taxable
property in the District
without limitation as
to rate or amount. A
complete copy of the
Ordinance follows this
notice.

Notice is hereby further
given that if a petition
signed by 351 or more
electors of the District
(being equal to the
greater of (i) 7.5% of
the registered voters in
the District or (ii) 200 of
those registered voters
or 15% of those regis-
tered voters, whichever
is less), asking that the
issuance of the Bonds
be submitted to referen-
dum, is submitted to the
Secretary of the Board
within thirty (30) days
after the date of pub-
lication of this notice
and the Ordinance, an
election on said propo-
sition shall be held on
the 17th day of March,
2026. The Circuit Court
may declare that an
emergency referendum
should be held prior to
said election date pur-
suant to the provisions
of Section 2A-1.4 of
the Election Code of
the State of Illinois, as
amended. If no such
petition is filed with
the Secretary within
said 30day period, the
Bonds shall be autho-
rized to be issued.
By order of the Board of
Trustees of the Oregon
Fire Protection District,
Ogle County, Illinois,
this 14th day of May,
2025.
Rich Rhoads
Secretary, Board of
Trustees,
Oregon Fire Protection
District,
Ogle County, Illinois
Ordinance Number
An Ordinance autho-
rizing the issuance of
General Obligation
Bonds (Alternate Rev-
enue Source) of the
Oregon Fire Protection
District, Ogle County,
Illinois, in an aggregate
principal amount not
to exceed \$4,000,000
for the purpose of ren-
ovating, repairing and
equipping District fa-

cilities, expanding the
District's existing fire
station and purchasing
emergency response
fleet and equipment.
* * *
Whereas, the Oregon
Fire Protection District,
Ogle County, Illinois
(the "District"), is a duly
organized and existing
fire protection district
created under the pro-
visions of the Fire Pro-
tection District Act of the
State of Illinois, as sup-
plemented and amend-
ed; and
Whereas, in order to
raise funds for the pur-
pose of renovating,
repairing and equip-
ping District facilities,
expanding the District's
existing fire station
and purchasing emer-
gency response fleet
and equipment (the
"Project"), the Board of
Trustees of the District
(the "Board") has de-
termined that it is advis-
able, necessary and in
the best interests of the
District that the District
borrow an amount not
to exceed \$4,000,000
and, in evidence there-
of, to issue alternate
bonds in an aggregate
principal amount of not
to exceed \$4,000,000,
all in accordance with
the Local Government
Debt Reform Act of
the State of Illinois, as
amended; and
Whereas, the reve-
nue source that will be
pledged to the payment
of the principal of and
interest on the alternate
bonds will be corporate
purpose taxes of the
District; and
Whereas, if such reve-
nue source is insuffi-
cient to pay the alter-
nate bonds, ad valorem
property taxes upon
all taxable property
in the District without
limitation as to rate or
amount are authorized
to be extended to pay
the principal of and in-
terest on the alternate
bonds:
Now, Therefore, Be It
Ordnained by the Board
of Trustees of the Or-
egon Fire Protection
District, Ogle County,
Illinois, as follows:
Section 1.Incorporation
of Preambles. The
Board hereby finds that
all of the recitals con-
tained in the preambles
to this Ordinance are
full, true and correct and
does incorporate them
into this Ordinance by
this reference.
Section 2.Determina-
tion to Issue the Bonds.
In order to raise funds
for the purpose of pay-
ing costs of the Project,
it is advisable, neces-
sary and in the best
interests of the District
that the District borrow
an amount not to ex-
ceed \$4,000,000 and,
in evidence thereof, and
issue general obligation
alternate bonds of the
District in an aggregate
principal amount not to
exceed \$4,000,000 (the
"Bonds").
Section 3.Publication.
This Ordinance, togeth-

AUCTIONEER DIRECTORY

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

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"UWANNASELLITCALLUS"

Lenny Bryson
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Service, Inc.**
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Appraisals

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Now Available
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Hacksauction.com



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er with a notice in the statutory form, shall be published in the Ogle County Life, the same being a newspaper of general circulation in the District, and if no petition, signed by 351 or more electors of the

District (being equal to the greater of (i) 7.5% of the registered voters in the District or (ii) 200 of those registered voters or 15% of those registered voters, whichever is less), asking that the question of the issu-

ance of the Bonds be submitted to referendum, is filed with the Secretary of the Board within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication of this Ordinance and said notice, then the Bonds shall be

authorized to be issued. Section 4. Additional Ordinances. If no petition meeting the requirements of applicable law is filed during the petition period hereinabove referred to, then the Board may adopt additional ordinances or proceedings supplementing or amending this Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of the Bonds and prescribing all the details of the Bonds, so long as the maximum amount of the Bonds as set forth in this Ordinance is not exceeded and there is no material change in the Project described herein. Such additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective immediately without publication or posting or any further act or requirement. This Ordinance, together with such additional ordinances or proceedings, shall constitute complete authority for the issuance of the Bonds under applicable law.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Repealer. All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed. Adopted May 14, 2025. /s/ Steve Carr President, Board of Trustees, Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois Attest: /s/ Rich Rhoads Secretary, Board of Trustees, Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois No. 0522 (May 26, 2025)

NOTICE
Notice of Public Hearing
Concerning the intent of the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois
to Sell \$4,000,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source)

Public Notice Is Hereby Given that the Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 11th day of June, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. The hearing will be held at the OFPD Administrative Services Building, 106 South First Street, Oregon, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of renovating, repairing and equipping District facilities, expanding the District's existing fire station and purchasing emergency response fleet and equipment. By order of the President of the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois. Dated the 14th day of May, 2025. Rich Rhoads

Secretary, Board of Trustees, Oregon Fire Protection District, Ogle County, Illinois No. 0523 (May 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

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In Print & Online
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Make sure to ask about our online classified ads!

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

Multimedia Sales Consultant
If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.
As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.
If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.
Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.
The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.
Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:
Multimedia Sales Position
Rochelle News-Leader
ATTN: Will McMacken
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to **bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com**
ROCHELLE News-Leader
RNLHOUSE

305 GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE
GARAGE SALE
Thur. May 29 - 3-6pm
Fri. May 30 - 8am-5pm
Sat. May 31 - 8-11am
113 Parkview Dr, Oregon, IL
Furniture, home decor, seasonal items, Longaberger, Sohes, toys, bedding, kitchen items, books.

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
New Milford Refrigeration
6331 11th Street | Rockford
We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.
New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
Freezers
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Stoves
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Dehumidifiers
815-262-3900

— 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

103 AUCTIONS
RICHARD A. SUNKO ESTATE
BLACKSMITH SHOP COLLECTION
ONLINE AUCTION
OPENS: SAT., MAY 24 @ 8 A.M.
PREVIEW: SAT. MAY 31—10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
9249 BEEDE RD., MT. CARROLL, IL 61053
hacksauction.hibid.com
Featuring Extensive Antique Blacksmithing & Woodworking Tools. M&H Armitage Mouse Hole Anvil-Peter Wright Anvils & Others; Forges; Hammers-Tongs-Pinchers; Swage Block; Anvil Hardies & Stakes; Mandrels; Cones; Foot Powered Punch-Vises-Machines; Farm/Blacksmith Post Drills; Boring Machines & Augers; Sterling Power Trip Hammer; Nice Old Stanley Pat. Tools & Planes-Woodworking; Draw Knives & Shaves; Cooper's-Tinsmith-Wheelwright-Carriage; Carpenter's Maple Work Bench; Old Farm Iron; **More!**

RICHARD A. SUNKO ESTATE
LIVE AUCTION - DAY ONE!
SAT., MAY 31ST @ 10 A.M.
9249 BEEDE RD., MT. CARROLL, IL 61053
(1-Mile W. of Lanark, then S. on Beede Rd.)
Large-Live-Onsite Estate Collection! Featuring Farm Primitives; Shop Equip. & Tools; Oliver OB Motors; Cast Iron; Cook Stove; Adv.; Vintage Motor Oil Cans & Containers; Lanterns; Antiques & Collectibles; Country Store Tobacco Show Case; Woodworking Planes-Tools-Maple Work Bench; Maytag Wooden Washing Machine; Architectural & Lumber; Old Phonographs-Records-Cylinders; Early Post Office Desk; Antique Furniture; Pottery & Glassware; Many Local History Books & Items; **Much More!**

DAY TWO!
SAT., JUNE 7TH @ 10 A.M.
Large-Live-Onsite Estate Collection! Featuring Vintage Chevrolet Vehicles-1975 Impala-1968 Chevelle; 1999 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4x4 Pickup & Snow Plow; Massey Ferguson 2244 Crawler/Loader & MF 35 Tractors; Farm Machinery & Implements; Horse Drawn-Buggies-Sleighs-Wagons-Harness-Tack; Farm Antiques & Primitives; Wooden Cupboards; Ornate C. I. Stoves; Wood Washing Machines; Boats; Lumber & Architectural; Old Tool Collection; Safes; Gravely Garden Tractors; Cub Cadet; Many Early Farm Related Items; **Much More!**

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103 AUCTIONS
AUCTION CLOSING
After 75 years of past service to the community, we are closing the doors permanently due to the lack of community support and the co-owners concern of cross contamination from Paragon Pork. Its with a heavy heart that our consigners will have to go elsewhere, so come out and enjoy our **last 2 Auctions**
Sunday June 1st - 10 am
Sunday June 15th - 10 am
Consignments are still being taken with a reservation for our last 2 auctions.
Antiques, Collectibles, Primitive, Tools, New Items, Household:
Cash or Good Check
No Credit Cards - 10% Buyers Premium.
Not responsible for accidents or articles sold. Announcements made day of auction take precedence over all printed matter. All items sold as is where is.
Follow us on Facebook and Auctionzip.
CHANA AUCTION
620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, IL 61015
For more info call: 815-830-3898

ONLINE PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
MAY/JUNE CONSIGNMENT SALE
8813 N. MULBERRY ROAD, LEAF RIVER, IL 61047
Thursday, May 29th 8AM to Sunday, June 1st 5PM
This is an Online Auction.
Please visit <https://aandtauctionservices.hibid.com/> for full sale viewing beginning 5/28/2025.
Pictures will be uploaded prior to that date as they are available.
Personal Property: Various antique furniture, including secretary cabinet, hall tree, and more; other various antiques & collectibles; Longaberger baskets & pottery; Thomas Kinkade Village Pieces; Crocks-various sizes up to 15 gal; many hand tools, garage items, power tools, hardware, and more; china, dishware, pottery, & glassware pieces; John Deere Pedal Tractor & Wagon; many miscellaneous items; selling items from several consignors and still adding items—too much to list!
Item Viewing: Items will be available for online viewing @ 8am on 5/28/2025. 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, June 5th 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
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Storage Unit Sizes:
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IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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LOCAL NEWS



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The knee featured is a visual representation of the ATTUNE™ Knee System implant position. Please refer to the instructions for use for a complete list of indications, contraindications, warnings, and precautions. Every patient is different, and individual results vary. Not all patients are candidates for joint replacement. All surgeries carry risk. ©DePuy Synthes 2021, 2023. All rights reserved. 172449-230609 DSUS

Locals named to Dean's List at ONU

BOURBONNAIS — To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Locals that earned honors included: Leo Cardenas of Mt. Morris, Shawn Clinton of Byron, and Alaina Haas of Byron.

Martindale named to RU Dean's List

ROCKFORD — The following students at Rockford University were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester, earning at least a 3.5 GPA with no grades below "C" and having completed all requirements for the semester: Jackson Martindale of Stillman Valley.

Hodson graduates with master's

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Kara Hodson, from Mt. Morris, graduated from Cedarville University Spring 2025 with a Master of Athletic Training.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate programs across arts, sciences, and professional fields. With 6,384 students, it ranks among Ohio's largest private universities and is recognized by the Wall Street Journal as being among the nation's top three evangelical universities.

Join Our Presentation

Join XCEL Orthopedics' Dr. Delisca for a special presentation and demonstration to learn more on how the VELYS Robot improves his total knee replacement procedures and can help you get back to an active lifestyle.

**THURSDAY
JUNE
05**

**4:30-
5:45
PM**

RCH Training Room
900 N Second St
Rochelle, IL 61068

Light refreshments will be served.

**Limited seating, please
RSVP to mlapage@rcha.net
or call 815-561-3110*



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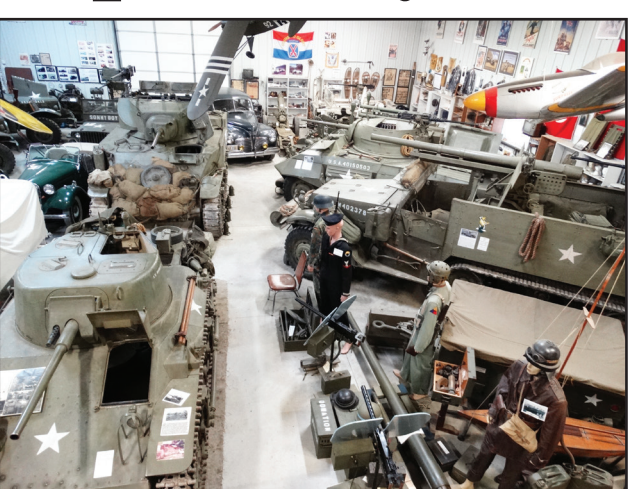


LOCAL NEWS

Roberts Armory WWII Museum open May 26

ROCHELLE — Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open to the public on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 from 1-4 p.m. The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting.

The next opening will be Aug. 16. To get to the museum, follow the signs on the Army truck at Illinois Route 251 & Intermodal Drive (approximately three miles). Many WWII artifacts are on display including tanks, trucks, cannons and More information is



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open to the public on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 from 1-4 p.m. The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting.

available on the Rochelle website at: <http://www.enjoyrochelle.com/online-directory/what-to-do/history-attractions/robert-s-armory.html>. There is no admission charge.

do/history-attractions/robert-s-armory.html. There is no admission charge.



SVHS Environmental Club hosts Earth Day Assembly

The Stillman Valley High School Environmental Club recently hosted an Earth Day Assembly along with Corinne Sosso from Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful. Corinne spoke about recycling guidelines and the locations of local recycling centers. The SVHS Environmental Club designed a recycling relay challenge game for students to participate in after the presentation. (Courtesy photo)

SALE THRU THE END OF MAY!

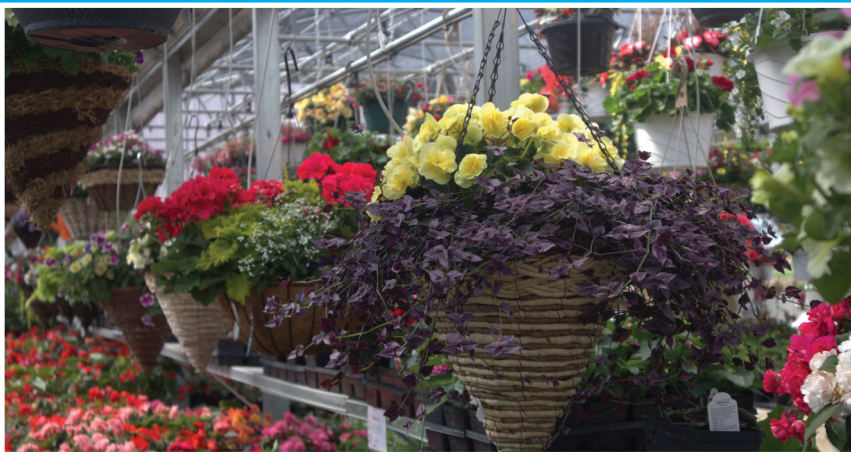
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Select Varieties
10.3 - 13.71 oz
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Bakery FLAKY PEACH TURNOVERS
2 ct
1.29

JUMBO CANTALOUPE MELONS
2.99 ea

Brew Pub PIZZA BOWLS
Select Varieties
8.15 - 9.7 oz
2/\$8

JIF PEANUT BUTTER
Creamy or Extra Crunchy
16 oz
1.99

Kingsford CHARCOAL
16 lb
9.99

Graduation Sheet Cake

\$72.99

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

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Graduation Bakery Packages 2025

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