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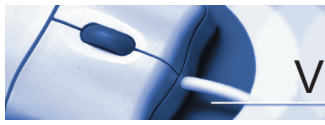
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MONDAY
June 9, 2025

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Local kids shine at state meets

Ogle County track and field athletes competed at IHSA state meets. **Section B**



Maggie & Amos event is June 14

An event for the Maggie & Amos Foundation is set for June 14. **Page 9**

WEATHER

MONDAY
HIGH LOW
72 54

TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
74 53

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
81 56

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
83 62

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
83 62

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
83 65

OBITUARIES

- Beverly Joyce Borchers
- Phyllis Kump Richardson Brown

See page 4

INSERTS

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

Work begins on Rochelle VFW Post 3878's new mural

Rochelle's Mat Steder takes on 2nd mural project in downtown area

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle VFW Post 3878 has commissioned a new mural on the back of its building and work started on May 27. The mural will be painted by local artist Mat Steder of Steder Tattoo and will depict a bald eagle, an American Flag, service members and the post's name.

Steder was recently approached by VFW Commander Dennis Orlikowski during a tattoo session, who asked him if he'd be interested in painting a mural. Steder painted a mural in the downtown area in recent years on the back of the former Hub City Furniture building. He was interested in the new project and soon brought



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle VFW Post 3878 has commissioned a new mural on the back of its building and work started on May 27.

a design that was approved by the VFW's board. "I'm always looking for murals," Steder said. "This one just hit the spot. It's really cool. The initial design I had was just the eagle and the flag and it stopped right at the door. I scrapped a little bit of that idea and wanted to incorporate the service members, the men and women that served and didn't come home."

See ROCHELLE VFW page 8

Dilling showcases wood carvings at Flagg-Rochelle Public Library

Rochelle resident has carved 100 pieces over nearly 40 years: 'I'd call it a lost art'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Currently in the display case at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library are woodworking pieces made by Rochelle resident Steve Dilling, who has carved more than 100 pieces over nearly 40 years.

The carvings in the case include pens made from deer antlers and cactus branches, a fishing lure, a Bellamy Eagle, walking sticks, a Native American arrowhead and horse, a fox, a Norwegian-style figurine, a cowboy and a locomotive kids toy.

Dilling previously displayed 33 Santa Claus figurines at the library that he's carved and painted over decades.

"I would make one for



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Currently in the display case at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library are woodworking pieces made by Rochelle resident Steve Dilling.

my mother-in-law for Christmas every year until she passed away," Dilling said. "They asked me to display some of my other pieces in the library this time. I had been in here numerous times and saw the cabinet empty and asked if they wanted a Christmas display. I did that in the winter and the things I have in there now are from around my house that I've made over the years."

See WOOD CARVINGS page 3

Life accepting Requester Cards, calls and emails

OGLE COUNTY — All Ogle County Life readers who receive their Life paper each week through the mail should have found a white Requester Card inserted in the June 2 edition.

"We are asking every household receiving the Life paper each week by mail to return their postage paid card as soon as possible, so that we can satisfy out post office mailing requirements which enables us to continue delivering your Life paper free of charge to your home," Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich said.

In order for the Life to maintain its Periodicals Class mailing permit, the office must have on file updated Requester Cards from its readers every three years, so it is important each household fill out and sign and date a card, and include a correct address and a valid phone number.

"Based on Periodicals post office standards, we are required to keep the updated cards on file and be able to present them to the post office to verify that reader have requested to receive the Life," Helfrich said. "We are paying the postage, so all we need is someone from each household to locate and fill out the card completely, sign and date it and drop it in the mail. That's all there is to it and it will help us assure that you continue to receive your Life paper each week."

It is important for readers who receive a Requester Card to send it back, indicating they still want to receive the Life at their home free of charge. The cards are necessary for us to assure that there is no disruption in delivery to your home and we can continue delivering it free.

Anyone who could not locate their Requester Card inserted in the June 2 paper may also call 815-732-2156 to officially request the paper over the phone or simply email your request to office@oglecountylife.com.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, May 29, a ribbon cutting was held in Rochelle in the parking lot of Runnings for Little O's Frozen Treats.

Ribbon cutting held May 29 in Rochelle for Little O's Frozen Treats

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, May 29, a ribbon cutting was held in Rochelle in the parking lot of Runnings for Little O's Frozen Treats. The mobile business serves up frozen custard and more and has been serving around the area for three years.

The event was put on by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of

Rochelle and speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera and Mayor John Bearrows, who welcomed Little O's Frozen Treats to the community.

"We have been talking about this for about a year now," Herrera said. "We finally got it worked out. We are excited to have you. You bring a great product here to our community and people love it."

See LITTLE O'S pg 5

Community

SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris to serve concessions

MT. MORRIS — Pulled pork, hosted by the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris, will be featured

at concessions for the summer's first Mt. Morris Jam-boree on Friday, June 13. The menu includes

pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, and chips, along with home-baked goods, and bottled water. Serving is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., while supplies last.

Donations will be accepted, with 100 percent of the funds received going to the

Mt. Morris Let Freedom Ring fireworks.

The weekly Friday night concerts are held during the summer from 7-9 p.m. at the band shell in downtown Mt. Morris. A Roy Orbison Tribute by Rick Lindy will kick off the season on June 13.

The Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris has been a part of the Mt. Morris community for more than 65 years. Worship services are held every Sunday at 10 a.m., preceded by Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 a.m. Kingdom Kids is held

during the worship service for youngsters ages 4-9, and a staffed nursery is available for children younger than 4. The church is located at 102 S. Seminary Ave.

For more information call the church office at 815-734-4942.



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Sallee named to MSOE 2025 Spring Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Milwaukee School of Engineering congratulates students named to the Spring Semester 2025

Dean's List.

Kennedy Sallee of Oregon was named to the MSOE Dean's List. Sallee is pursuing a Bachelor

of Science in Finance.

Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msoe.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking

an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow.



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BYRON
 220 W. 3rd St.
(815)234-5133

Ogle County's Real Estate Market Leader!



<p>420 N. Chestnut Street, Byron</p>  <p>\$125,000 dickersonnieman.com/202502929 CHARMING HOME WITH 5 CAR GARAGE IN BYRON! This cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath home features an open concept living room & kitchen, with a back deck, and manageable yard. The 5 car garage (4 stalls), including one heated stall. Currently tenant occupied. The garage provides additional income potential, as the owners rent out stalls to tenants in this property & neighboring multi-family.</p> <p>LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL & SEAN HOSSEINI (815) 218-0059 & (815) 200-8490</p>	<p>130 E. 5th Street, Byron</p>  <p>\$250,000 dickersonnieman.com/202502928 FANTASTIC INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN BYRON! Don't miss this solid, all brick 3-plex offering strong potential and steady cash flow. The property includes two spacious 2 bed, 1 bath units and one 1 bed, 1 bath unit - all currently occupied with month to month tenants. Each unit features electric heat, appliances, and tenants are responsible for all utilities except</p> <p>LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL & SEAN HOSSEINI (815) 218-0059 & (815) 200-8490</p>	<p>190 S. Fox Run Lane, Byron</p>  <p>\$249,900 dickersonnieman.com/202502739 BEAUTIFUL & WELL MAINTAINED RANCH HOME! 2,248 SF home with 3 beds, 2.5 baths, 2 car oversized garage & parking pad, ML features living room with gas fp, spacious dining room off of eat-in kitchen with pantry, 1/2 bath, & primary bedroom with walk-in closet & full bath w/linen closet. Finished walk-out LL includes windows, 2 spacious bedrooms with oversized closets, and large office or family room. Many updates. Must see!</p> <p>SEAN HOSSEINI (815) 200-8490</p>
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DOROTHY BOWERS
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LYRAH AUSTIN-BUSHNELL
 (815) 218-0059



TIFFANY CRAVATTA
 (815) 988-4388



RANDY CRIDDLE
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KAYLA HESLOP
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Greenhouse:
 Mon-Fri
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 Sat
9am-1pm
 Sun
closed
The Other Side Boutique:
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10am-1pm
 Mon
closed
Merlin's will be closed JULY 3rd through JULY 7th





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LOCAL NEWS

WOOD CARVINGS: Rochelle resident Dilling's works on display at library

From page 1

Dilling's love for the craft started with soap carving for a 4-H project. He worked with his grandfather building wagons and became more dedicated to wood carving as a hobby after getting married. He started carving Santas and worked with wood carving groups in DeKalb and at the Hub City Senior Center.

"I'm not an artist," Dilling said. "I couldn't draw a Santa to save my life. But I can make them or work off a pattern. I'm pretty much self taught. You learn a lot about carving from different people doing different things. It's just something to keep my mind busy and my hands

working. I do this in my spare time when I'm not farming or driving the Hub City Senior Center bus. I always have a project going."

Dilling said wood carving has taught him attention to detail, namely the dimensions of faces and bodies that can be hard to visualize. He enjoys looking at improvements made from his early carvings to his later work.

Dilling is most proud of the first Santa he carved, because it shows how far his skills have come since. He's logged 60 and 100 hours each on two pieces alone, and has a heron carving he's been working on for 15 years on and off.

"I'd call it a lost art,"

Dilling said. "People can order things like this off Amazon that are made by a machine. I like things that are made by hand and that everybody's looks different after using the same plans. Each handmade wood carving is one of a kind."

Wood carving is a skill and hobby that anyone can pick up, Dilling said. He can often be found at campsites carving and people come up to him and say they wish they had the talent. He hands them a blank slate and tells them to give it a try.

"I'm not a professional," Dilling said. "Anybody can do what I've done. And I tell people that. Because that's how I started. I made a walk-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Steve Dilling's love for the craft started with soap carving for a 4-H project. He worked with his grandfather building wagons and became more dedicated to wood carving as a hobby after getting married.

ing stick because my dad needed a cane and it was themed after farming and his military service. Most everything I do has a backstory. Sometimes I just want to learn a different technique. I do it to challenge myself."

Davis Junction Historical Society sells 150th Anniversary Book

DAVIS JUNCTION — June 14, 2025, marks the Sesquicentennial Celebration at Davis Junction. Founded in 1875, the town's 150-year history is covered in a commemorative pictorial book created by Dawn Somers. A member of the Davis Junction Scott Township Historical Society, Dawn has also prepared a video presentation showcasing photographs from the years since Davis Junction's establishment that will be shown at the Society's booth in Davis Junction on June 14, 2025, from noon until 4 p.m., across the street from the Davis Junction Village Hall. At the same time, the museum will open its doors at 202 W. Pacific St., just a couple blocks south of the planned activities

around the village's park. 50 years ago, in 1975, after the 100th anniversary of the town, a group of like-minded individuals formed the Historical Society in order to honor and preserve the past of the town and surrounding area. Hundreds of items of historical interest are housed in the building that once took a part of the town's government. A limited number of copies of the book, filled with pictures from the past, will be available for sale that day. Other items the Society will be selling include buttons commemorating the 150th celebration and buttons representing the museum and train logo as well as totes, t-shirts and baked goods at their booth. All funds raised go toward



June 14, 2025, marks the Sesquicentennial Celebration at Davis Junction. Founded in 1875, the town's 150-year history is covered in a commemorative pictorial book created by Dawn Somers.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

keeping the museum operational. Additional vendors and food trucks will be lining the street that afternoon, leading down to the kids area where a petting zoo and bouncy houses will be set up. At 4 p.m. The Party Doctors band will start their show near the

hall and at dusk, a fireworks display will light up the park. Come visit the museum and check out all the activities north of the Village Hall in the town's park and help celebrate 150 years of a town that sat at the crossroads of the railroad industry.



Polo Lions Club awards nine scholarships

On Wednesday, May 14 at the Polo Community High School during awards night the Polo Lions Club handed nine students a \$500 scholarship each. Boys recipients from left to right: Logan Nelson, Kameron Grobe, Kale Grobe, Dawson Foster and Jeffrey Donaldson. Girls recipients from left to right: Natalya Witkowski, Alayna Young, Mazy Queckboerner and Katelyn Rockwood. Congratulations to all of the class of 2025 and good luck with your future plans. (Courtesy photos)



Tapestry of Shadows auditions are June 25-26

MT. MORRIS — The Performing Arts Guild invites the public to open auditions of their fall performance of *Tapestry of Shadows*, a theatrical tribute to Edgar Allan Poe. Show dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-12 at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove Theatre. Join PAG in bringing four of Edgar Allan Poe's most haunting works to the stage—*The Raven*, *The Black Cat*, *The Cask of Amontillado*, and *The Tell-Tale Heart*—as part of the original theatrical production *Tapestry of Shadows*, directed and told by Morgan McConnell.

Auditions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 25 and 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove Library, 500 Evergreen Lane, Mt. Morris. We're casting 5-6 individuals eager to explore dramatic storytelling in a fully staged, atmospheric performance. No experience necessary—just a

love of the eerie and the theatrical. This is not a reader's theater—you'll be helping shape a unique and immersive tribute to Poe, filled with mood, mystery, and movement. Be a part of something truly unique—a theatrical experience that honors one of literature's darkest

voices in the very month of his death. Visit your local library or search YouTube for a quick refresher on Poe's chilling works! For more information, visit the Performing Arts Guild Facebook Page or leave a message at 815-734-2103. We hope to see you at auditions!!



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Rock River Riders Motorcycle Club

Father's Day Hillclimb

Sunday, June 15
(rain date June 22nd)

90th ANNIVERSARY

Gates open at 9am
Open to the Public

The Rock River Riders MC presents:
the Father's Day Hillclimb across the street from White Pines State Park near Polo, IL.
6719 W Pines Rd
Starting at Noon Sharp



\$15 donations
Under 12 - FREE
NO PETS
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For more information, please visit our Facebook page:
Rock River Riders Motorcycle Club

There will be vendors and concessions available. If you'd like to be a vendor please message us on Facebook!

Tent camping the night before is free!



06092025

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Beverly Joyce Borchers

MONROE CENTER —Beverly Joyce Borchers, age 85, passed away on Friday, May 30, 2025 at Serenity House in Oregon. She was born on August 17, 1939, in Rockford, ILL, the daughter of George and Mary (Larson) Baker. Beverly married Roe L. Borchers on August 16, 1958 at the Monroe Center Community Church. He preceded her in death on May 16, 2023.

Beverly was born the beloved daughter of a hardworking farm family, and she carried that strength and dedication throughout her life. Together with her husband, Roe, she built a beautiful life rooted in love, faith, and the support of family. Bev cherished her fam-

ily above all else. She treasured the many vacations they shared—Disney World held a special place in her heart, filled with laughter and magical memories. A devoted grandmother, she kept “Bevie’s Café” open at all hours, always ready with a warm meal, a sweet treat, or a listening ear for her grandchildren.

Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering love will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by daughters Lori (Al) Erickson, Becky Borchers and Nancy (Wayne) Alderks. Grandchildren Adam (Janna) Erickson, Amy (Billy) Lewis, Ashley (Chad) Hoover, Bryce (Amy) Alderks, Kelsey



(Peter MacLaughlin) Alderks, and Cassie (Ryan Horihan) Alderks. Great Grandchildren Brayden, Owen, Camden, Landon, Josslynn, Jade, Aubrey, Tatum, Avery and Dylan.

Private family services will be held. Memorials in her honor are established for Monroe Center Cemetery. To leave an online condolence please visit www.farrellhollandgale.com

Phyllis Kump Richardson Brown

PHYLLIS Kump Richardson Brown, born October 1943, died April 23, 2025. She is survived by her daughter, Penny Richardson of Texas, her granddaughter and three great grandchildren, two brothers Dennis and Darrell Kump, Many

nieces and nephews and faithful companion GiGi.

She was predeceased by ex-husband’s three sons and parents, and 5 brothers and 3 sisters.

She was a loving and caring mother and grandmother and friend to everyone.



County residential electronics recycling event is June 27

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecounty-il.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 26.

Accepted items include all televisions and comput-

er monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month.

Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

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

Illinois invites residents to fish for free June 13-16

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has set June 13 through 16 as Illinois free fishing days for 2025. During these four days, anglers can fish without purchasing a fishing license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp in Illinois. The goal is for non-anglers to discover

or rediscover the fun of fishing and to introduce children to the activity.

Groups and organizations that need fishing equipment and educational materials can complete the online form and IDNR will furnish materials while supplies last.

Outside of the free fishing days, Illinois

requires anyone over the age of 16 to have a fishing license to fish. Exclusions apply to active-duty military and people with disabilities. Standard fishing licenses can be purchased for \$15 at vendors throughout Illinois or online. Learn more about fishing in Illinois at ifishillinois.org.

BYRON POLICE REPORT

May 1

At 3:35 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Mason M. Crimaldi, 21, Wonderlake a citation for speeding, 40 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Blackhawk.

May 5

At 3:03 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Matthew C. Johnson, 40, Oregon a citation for obstructed windshield and front windows. This violation occurred in the 600 block of West Blackhawk.

May 6

At 9:29 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Megan D. Porter, 35, Chicago a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 100 block of East Blackhawk.

May 7

At 7:24 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Vanessa M. Guzman, 35, Rockford a citation for operating a vehicle without valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West Blackhawk.

At 5:15 p.m. Byron Police Department arrested Jonathan N. Ruiz, 30, Rochelle on an active warrant for failure to appear. Ruiz was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and held without bond.

At 7:39 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Shonnah L. Mills, 44, Byron a citation for speeding, 48 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8000 block of North Barker Road.

May 8

At 4:05 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a hit and run accident that occurred at 696 N. Colfax involving a 2017 Subaru driven by a 16-year-old female and a 2008 Pontiac driven by a 16-year-old male. The 16-year-old female received citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, failure to report an accident, and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage. There were no injuries reported.

May 12

At 3:57 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Sharon Cruses Ortiz, 45, Rock Falls citation for operating a vehicle while registration is suspended and operating a vehicle with no valid driver’s license. This violation occurred in the 1,100 block of West Blackhawk.

At 10:16 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Day Kwan Marques Jackson, 23, Rockford a citation for speeding, 48 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 400 block of West Blackhawk.

At 10:56 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jennifer A. McDowell, 43, Rockford a citation for speeding, 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 500 block of West Blackhawk.

At 11:36 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Tyler S. Bunting, 34, Stillman Valley a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

May 13

At 7:09 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Stefanie A. Bontjes, 40, Byron citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle with a suspended driver’s license. Bontjes was transported to Ogle County Jail where she was processed and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 8,000 block of North Barker Road.

May 14

At 4:36 p.m. Byron Po-

lice Department issued Jason P. Jones, 50, Chicago citations for operating a vehicle with expired registration and operating a vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 100 block of Barry Avenue.

At 10:05 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Johnathan Hernandez, 26, Byron a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. This violation occurred in the 7,000 block of North German Church Road.

May 17

At 9:27 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Kelsey M. Russell, 32, Rockford, citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration, operating an uninsured vehicle, and operating a vehicle with a suspended driver’s license. Russell was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 400 block of East Blackhawk.

At 7:46 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Mary A. Criscione, 58, Byron a citation for speeding, 50 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8,500 block of North Barker Road.

At 8:03 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Andrea L. Odom, 45, Byron a citation for speeding, 50 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8,500 block of North Barker Road.

At 9:21 p.m. Byron Police Department issued a 15-year-old female, Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle with no valid insurance. This violation occurred in the 700 block of West Blackhawk.

May 19

At 6:43 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident involving a 2021 Jeep driven by Kaleb D. Yates, 24, Freeport and a 2023 Ford driven by Alejandro M. Calleros, 30, Rockford. There were no injuries or citations issued. This violation occurred in the 800 block of West 2nd Street.

At 1:36 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Joana Rodriguez, 19, Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating a vehicle with no valid driver’s license. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Front Street.

May 20

At 5:29 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Josue Gallardo, 19, Sterling citations for operating a vehicle while license is suspended. Gallardo was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and released. This violation occurred in the 300 block of Blackhawk.

At 11:12 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Neon K. Rush, 32, Rockford citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration, operating a vehicle without a valid driver’s license, and possession of adult cannabis. Rush was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and released. This violation occurred in the 400 block of West Blackhawk.

May 21

At 7:04 a.m. Byron Police Department arrested Laverne W. Johnson, 49, Rockford on an in-state warrant for failure to appear. Johnson was transported to Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

May 22

At 11:35 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Angel L. Crowder, 30, Rockford a citation for improper

lane usage. This violation occurred in the 1,100 block of West Blackhawk.

May 23

At 9:08 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Lindy M. Boone, 52, Stillman Valley citation for operating a motor vehicle when registration is suspended and operating a motor vehicle with no valid proof of insurance. This violation occurred in the 500 block of West Blackhawk.

At 11:26 a.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of North Walnut and West 3rd Street involving a 2018 Honda, driven by Denver A. Jackson, 81, Byron and a 2014 Dodge, driven by Robert L. Rassmussen, 71, Stillman Valley. Jackson was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic sign. There were no injuries.

At 2:06 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Serafym Kolosov, 31, Rockford citations for operating a motor vehicle while registration is suspended and operating a motor vehicle with expired registration. These violations occurred in the 200 block of East Blackhawk.

At 2:07 p.m. Byron Police Department arrested Kristina P. Richards, 48, Byron on the charge of forgery. Richards was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed, and released with a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West Blackhawk.

At 5:09 p.m. Byron Police Department responded to a two-vehicle accident involving a 2011 Jeep, driven by Reginald D. Ridgeway, 31, Rockford and a 2024 Volkswagen, driven by Kyle E. McQuality, 29, Byron. There were no citations or injuries.

At 7:55 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Carla A. DalSanto, 64, Byron a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol. DalSanto was transported to Ogle County Jail processed and released on a notice to appear. This violation occurred in the 100 block of West 2nd Street.

At 2:35 a.m. Byron Police Department issued Levi N. Morgan, 28, Belvidere citations for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence with alcohol concentration in breath 0.08 or more, possession of adult use cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of the FOID Act. Morgan was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and released. This violation occurred in the 100 block of 5th Street.

May 25

At 1:06 a.m. Byron Police Department arrested Joseph A. Powell, 37, West Brooklyn on a failure to appear out of Lee County. Powell was transported to Ogle County Jail, processed, and held in lieu of bond. This violation took place in the 8,000 block of North River Road.

May 26

At 1:06 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Jonathan N. Ruiz, 29, Rockford a citation for driving while license suspended. Ruiz was arrested and transported to Ogle County Jail, processed and released on a notice to appear. This violation occurred on the 400 block of East 5th Street.

May 28

At 9:05 p.m. Byron Police Department issued Taylor M. Stoddard, 31, Byron a citation for speeding, 46 in a 35 miles per hour zone. This violation occurred in the 8,000 block of North Barker.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

LITTLE O'S: 'The city has been a great host for us and we think there's still room to grow'

From page 1

"Welcome and we look forward to many more times working together."

May 29 was the very first Food Truck Thursday at Runnings in Rochelle and Ralfie's BBQ served food alongside Little O's Frozen Treats. Little O's Frozen Treats will be at the location every other Thursday until fall. Along with frozen custard, its menu includes pineapple & strawberry Dole whip, frozen lemonades & frozen lemonade floats, mini-donuts & mini-donut sundaes, and slushies.

Little O's Frozen Treats is operated by Owner Valerie Cranden and General Manager Eric Karl. They bring over 40+ years of experience to serving treats, events and private catering.

"We're glad to be a

part of the community," Karl said. "We've been coming here for three years after getting started serving at Central Bank. The city has been a great host for us and we think there's still room to grow. We're happy to be here. We've run this business for three years and we're looking forward to many more."

Cranden is the former longtime owner of Ollie's Frozen Custard in Sycamore before selling it two years ago. Before that, Little O's Frozen Treats was started to give the business a broader reach in other communities.

"Under the agreement we were able to keep the food truck business with the Ollie's logo," Karl said. "That's why it's called Little O's. We can't carry everything Ollie's carries, but we bring everything we can."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Little O's Frozen Treats is operated by Owner Valerie Cranden and General Manager Eric Karl. They bring over 40+ years of experience to serving treats, events and private catering.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois introduces Get Ready with Girl Scouts™ program

ROCKFORD — Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is preparing incoming Daisies (rising kindergartners and first graders in fall 2025) for the upcoming school year with the new, exclusive Get Ready with Girl Scouts™ program. The Get Ready with Girl

Scouts™ program, open now until June 30, will help current pre-K and kindergartners who are new to Girl Scouting kick off their summer with fun and adventures while gaining new friendships. Children will grow their confidence, use their imagination, and build

skills they can take into the next school year. Through this special program, they will receive three skill-building activity books, shipped directly to them from June through August 2025, unlocking a world of possibilities.

These school-read-

iness activity books, available in English and Spanish, will help prepare children for kindergarten and first grade through fun, character-building Girl Scout activities. The Get Ready with Girl Scouts™ program emphasizes important skills such as motor skills,

communication, critical thinking, emotional regulation and more through imaginative play, puzzles and teamwork activities.

By signing up for the Get Ready with Girl Scouts™ program, pre-K and kindergartners will receive a Girl Scout membership through Septem-

ber 30, 2026. As Girl Scouts, they can choose from a variety of activities, surround themselves with supportive peers, and engage with mentoring adults. For more information on the Get Ready with Girl Scouts™ program, visit girlscouts.org/getready.

Fehr Graham climbs the Engineering News Record Top 500 Design Firm list

FREEPORT — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, continued its successful streak of ranking on the Engineering News-Record (ENR) Top 500 Design Firm list, ranking No. 435. The firm climbed 39 places from its 2024 rank-

ing of No. 474. It ranked No. 471 in 2023 and No. 494 in 2022, reflecting a consistent trend of growth. ENR ranks firms based on annual revenue data collected from engineering companies across the country. Fehr Graham's steady rise signals the firm's continued expan-

sion and success in serving communities throughout Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Fehr Graham President Kyle Saunders credits the achievement to the firm's people-first approach.

"We're committed to the people and communities we serve – and to

solving their complex problems," he said. "Our position on the ENR Top Design Firms list shows not just our talents and dedication to service, but also the positive impacts we're having on the communities we call home."

Founded in Freeport, Illinois, in 1973 by Al

Fehr and Joe Graham, the firm has grown from five employees to 250 people across 13 offices in three states. Growth has come organically and through strategic acquisitions.

Fehr Graham partners with private and public clients on projects ranging from water and

wastewater treatment facilities to roads, bridges and highways. The firm also designs stormwater solutions, sanitary sewer collection systems, water distribution, production and storage facilities, parking lots, residential and commercial developments, parks and more.



Polo Lions donate to PPD, PFD, Cub Scouts

On Tuesday, May 13 in the late afternoon Polo Lions Member Jeff Short presented Polo Police Chief Matt Coppotelli with a \$500 donation for the police department. On Wednesday evening May 14, Short presented Polo Cub Scout Pack 337 Cub Master Lindy Diehl a \$300 donation for Polo Cub Scout Pack 337. On the same day, Short, presented Polo Fire Chief Jim Ports a \$500 donation for the fire department. (Courtesy photos)

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VIEWPOINT

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

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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MOMENTS IN TIME

* On June 23, 1868, Christopher Latham Sholes patented the QWERTY typewriter, the first version of which he constructed using an old table, a circular piece of glass, a telegraph key and piano wire.

* On June 24, 2021, 98 people died when a 12-story, beachfront condominium collapsed in Surfside, Florida, near Miami. Engineers believed the cause of the disaster was a structural column or concrete slab giving way, and workers eventually cleared more

than 18 million pounds of concrete and rubble from the site.

* On June 25, 1947, Anne Frank's diary account of her life in hiding during the Holocaust was first published, under the title "Het Achterhuis: Dagboekbrieven 14 Juni 1942--1 Augustus 1944." After reading it her father confessed that the book revealed a side of his daughter he had never known, saying that he "had no idea of the depth of her thoughts and feelings."

The importance of getting help for your fears and anxieties

GETTING professional help for dealing with your persistent fears and anxieties is the single most important step in your recovery. Many people are reluctant to get the assistance they need for various reasons.

Making excuses for not getting treatment for your fear related issues will not help the situation.

With this in mind, there are seven reasons why getting help for your mental health problems is so important.

1. You will get tips on handling your mental health issues: Getting professional help can lead to additional insights and suggestions to your stress and anxiety problems. A professional counselor can give you many ideas on how you can successfully manage your fears and anxieties. This is important in getting your life back on track.

on your skill sets in managing your fears. You will be able to overcome your anxieties over time which will benefit you later on in your life. Knowing how to boost your mental health will get your life back on track and will make you much happier.

5. You will get better a lot faster: Getting some guidance from a counselor will save you a lot of suffering in the long run. You will get the answers you are looking for which will help reduce your fears and anxieties. You will get better a lot faster by talking to a therapist and you will feel much better about yourself which is important when it comes to dealing with your mental health.



Stan Popovich

2. Get access to different resources: Most counselors and psychologists know of ways to get rid of your fears. They can recommend certain treatments that will improve your situation. The only way you can get access to these treatments is if you talk to a counselor. Ask your primary care physician if he or she knows anyone that can be of assistance.
3. You can't manage your anxieties all by yourself: Your fears, anxieties, and depression can be difficult to manage and more than likely you will need some direction. Many people think that they can overcome their mental health problems on their own. This is a mistake. A person should seek assistance to start the recovery process.
4. You will improve: As you work with a professional, you will improve

6. It is your life: Remember that you are the person who is suffering and not your friends and family. Don't let the opinions of your peers prevent you from getting the relief that you deserve. Maintaining your anxieties should be your number one priority. Always do what is best for you and do not get into the habit of trying to please everybody else.
7. You will not be alone: You will have people in your corner who will be able to help improve your mental health issues. You won't feel as alone when attempting to get rid of your fears. It is best to be with others who are supportive and who will understand your situation. This will help make things easier when it comes to your fears and anxieties.

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

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: Home school for you?

DEAR editor, Are your children or grandchildren in home schools? If your neighbors are, you may not be aware.

History: "Conservative Evangelical Christian parents were increasingly dissatisfied with the public school system and were the main demographic that organized to promote home education in the United States. Prominent right-wing evangelical pastor and activist Jerry Falwell sought to terminate sex education and discussions of evolutionary biology from American school curricula, instead recommending replacing both topics with prayer and Christian Bible study. ... As homeschooling caught on in Evangelical Christian circles, the number of children being homeschooled increased, with some estimates suggesting the number went from under twenty thousand in the 1970s to nearly 500,000 by the end of the 1980s. ... The Home School Legal Defense Association, founded in 1983, was highly successful in influencing the legal status of homeschooling in the United States. In the 1980s, homeschooling was illegal throughout much of the United States for parents who were not themselves trained educators. Today, the United States has some of the most lax laws around ho-

meschooling, with most states requiring little to no oversight and no educational requirements for parents." (Wikipedia)

Illinois House Bill 2827: "Creates the Home-school Act. Requires the State Board of Education to create a Homeschool Declaration Form to be used by a homeschool administrator to submit information indicating that a child is enrolled in a homeschool program to the principal of the public school or to the school district that the homeschooled child would otherwise attend. Provides that a student enrolled in a home-school program in which the home-school administrator has not notified the public school or school district with the Homeschool Declaration Form is considered truant, with penalties applying. Provides that if a child in a homeschool program seeks to enroll part time in a public school or participate in any public school activities taking place on or off of school grounds, the homeschool administrator must submit proof that the child has received all required immunizations and health examinations or a signed Certificate of Religious Exemption. Sets forth requirements for homeschool administrators and programs and

reporting requirements. Makes conforming and other changes in the Freedom of Information Act, the School Code, and the Illinois School Student Records Act, including requiring (rather than allowing) nonpublic schools to register with the State Board of Education." (Illinois General Assembly Status HB2827)

"Currently, Illinois has zero, I'm going to say it again, zero regulations," said Costa Howard, the bill's sponsor. "Thirty-eight states have regulations. Illinois is an outlier. This is not something we want to be an outlier on." (Capitol News Illinois, 3/19/25)

"The Coalition for Responsible Home Education (CRHE), the only national nonprofit founded and run by homeschooled adults advocating for homeschooled children, strongly supports Illinois HB2827, a bill that would promote child safety and education access.

"If passed, HB 2827, also known as the Home-school Act, would:

- Ensure every school-age child in Illinois is accounted for. Requires parents to notify their local school district of their intent to homeschool their child each year.
- Ensure every child has a record of their aca-



ademic progress. Requires homeschooling parents to maintain a portfolio of student work to show that the child is receiving an education at least on par with public school standards.

- Ensure every child learns from educated instructors.
- Requires parents to have a high school diploma or equivalent in order to homeschool.
- Protect children from convicted sex offenders. Bans those convicted of sexual abuse crimes from homeschooling.
- Streamline the process for homeschooled children to take part in public school activities.
- Requires homeschooled children taking part in public school activities to submit immunization records the same way that public school students do, while keeping current legal exemptions to immunization in place" (CRHE)

Bill is opposed by *Focus on the Family, Illinois Policy, Christian Forums, Catholic Council of Illinois*, (other organizations?). Plenty of rhetoric to be found with those organizations. Protests against Bill were held in Springfield. Currently Bill is in committee.

Do you think homeschooling should be regulated or not?

Henry Tideman,
Oregon

Letter: A parade of purpose

DEAR editor, "A human life, I think, should be well rooted in some spot of a native land." (George Eliot, 1876) We are hard wired to both cherish and be thankful for where we are born, raised, and live out our lives. We will defend that place because it is "Where we may get the love of tender kinship for the face of the earth." (Eliot) This is part of the motivation for our country to utilize a standing army as first established by the Second

Continental Congress, June 14, 1776. Americans have answered the call to serve many times over the course of this time. The citizen soldier has been integral in providing necessary defense while a professional military provided needed support and direction. The professional soldier is guided by a creed that includes loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These values shape how our

soldiers act. In addition the citizen soldier is guided by patriotism, defending hearth and home. Both are necessary as we seek to find our way through a difficult world. It is right to honor such endeavor. A parade is appropriate but I would hope without too much hubris, sense of entitlement, or glorification of the trappings of war. There is an unintended consequence that arises when not all citizens are tasked with the care of the



nation. We become subject to self-conceit, willful indulgence and false pride.

I honor our military for the above reasons and view with disdain all attempts to make this time about American superiority, American destiny, or American expansionism. Those types of parades can be seen in Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran. That does not belong here.

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

Roberts: Party versus country

UPON leaving office, George Washington said that a political party "serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection." The far-left party (Democrat Party) appears to be bringing George Washington's predictions to fruition. Examples in recent years include the destruction of private property (burning buildings in cities), attacks against political opponents (shooting of Congressmen Scalise and Mika in 2017), and statements by minority party leader Hakeem Jeffries who called on his supporters to fight the current president's agenda "in the streets." These events seem to confirm the prediction that a political party "foments occasionally riot and insurrection."

On April 27, 2025,

Governor Pritzker spoke at a New Hampshire Democrat Party fundraising event calling for "mass protests, mobilization, and disruption" against Republicans to protest the current administration. "These Republicans cannot know a moment of peace," he said in the speech. "They must understand that we will fight their cruelty with every megaphone and microphone that we have. We must castigate them on the soap box and then punish them at the ballot box."

(Chicago Tribune) In October 2024, the former president referred to Republicans as "garbage." (New York Times) These statements appear to confirm the prediction that a party operative "kindles the animosity of one part against another."

Fearful statements about climate change have been rampant by the left. A recent book entitled "False Alarm: How

Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet" by Bjorn Lomborg (noted environmentalist) illustrates the over-hype of leftists claiming that the world will end next week because of climate change if you don't do what they want. The recent fires in California were blamed on climate change, when in fact, the fires were the result of poor forest management, a lack of water availability for extinguishing fires (poor water management), failure to plan for drought conditions, which occur periodically over the years, and possible initiation by humans. Statements on climate change seem to reflect George Washington's prediction regarding "false alarms."

George Washington also wrote, "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to



Chuck Roberts

party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism." His past writings have often been proven to be true. The Democrats lost power because, despite help from the mainstream media, their message was not consistent with the desires of the American people. Pushing gender dysphoria, homosexuality, men in women's sports, the prevention of criminal illegal aliens from deportation, indifference to public safety by not condemning violence, antisemitism, and encouraging illegal immigration all played a role in their loss of power. They struggle to present a leader with a coherent message that the American people will understand - one that is not governed by Trump Derangement Syndrome. What contributes to George Washington's prophetic statements is his understanding of human nature, which has not changed.

VIEWPOINT

Published every Monday
Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor

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

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Lowell Harp: Real Democracy's unwritten rules

“He who saves his country does not violate any law.”

That saying, which is attributed to Napoleon, appeared last February on President Trump's Truth Social page. He was apparently arguing that a nation's leader—namely Mr. Trump in this case—should be above the law. The belief that a ruler answers only to God has indeed held sway throughout most of history. But the founders of our nation rejected that ancient concept when they adopted the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. John Marshall, our first Supreme Court Chief Justice, declared early on, in a landmark case, that ours is “a government of laws, and not of men.” We call this basic principle the “the rule of law.”

Dictators understandably hate that idea. Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and

Daniel Ziblatt have spent over 20 years researching the tactics that power-hungry politicians have used to undermine the rule of law throughout Europe and Latin America. Their book, published in 2018 and titled, “How Democracies Die,” traces how it has happened time and again.

They show that authoritarians like Benito Mussolini in Italy, Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, and Victor Orban in Hungary don't necessarily start out by blatantly breaking the laws. They begin instead by violating the unwritten standards of conduct that keep democracies and the rule of law alive—and they encourage their followers to do the same.

Crude and disrespectful language toward opponents is a key part of that strategy. Another is to display disrespect for the courts, legislature, and press, and

to belittle the people who work in them. The would-be dictator's goal is to discredit these institutions as “enemies of the people,” present himself as the only hope against them, and begin to gather all power unto himself.

He replaces independent judges, law enforcement professionals, and other government watchdogs with people who are loyal to him above all else. From there, he's free to intimidate, corrupt, weaken, or control members of the legislature, courts, opposition, and press. The corrosion spreads bit by bit, often unnoticed by many, until they wake up one morning to discover that all the machinery of government is under the control of their democratically elected dictator.



Lowell Harp

Leaders and their followers take the first step on this journey when they disregard the standards of conduct that are the mark of true democracies like ours, as opposed to the empty facades found in countries like Hungary, Turkey, and many others, with their crippled legislatures, courts, and press. We're justly proud of our Constitution and the kind of government it represents. But a constitution is just a piece of paper without the codes of civility and respect for institutions that are the foundations of a free society.

The American people still honor those ideals, regardless of what we read and hear in public media and from extremists on both sides. The respected and nonpartisan research organization PRRI (Public Religion Research

Institute) reported in April that nine in ten Americans agreed that “no elected official, including the president, should be above the law.” And nearly eight in ten rejected the idea that the president should be able to ignore decisions by Congress or the Supreme Court.

Many of the respondents sensed a threat to those democratic values, as well as others, in our current President. 52% of them agreed that “President Trump is a dangerous dictator whose power should be limited before he destroys American democracy.” Others, though, at 44%, affirmed the statement that, “President Trump is a strong leader who should be given the power he needs to restore America's greatness.” The difference between these two groups falls heavily along party lines.

But the crossroad we face isn't primarily about a political party or our personal feelings about Donald Trump. It's about whether we'll place our faith in the rule of law, or instead in leaders who claim to be above it.

The death of the rule of law begins with contempt for the unwritten rules that lie at the heart of real democracy. The President started down that road many years ago. His opponents must resist the temptation, which some of them seem to find attractive, to imitate his tactics in the name of saving democracy, a tragic mistake that would seal its doom.

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

Illinois at the crossroads: Purposeful strategies to solve the educator shortage

ILLINOIS schools are at a juncture that cannot be ignored and it's hitting hardest in our rural and underserved communities. The latest IARSS/ISBE Educator Shortage Report - found at <https://iarss.org/2024-2025-educator-shortage/> - paints a stark picture for some Illinois school districts, documenting persistent leadership vacancies in districts that have long struggled to recruit and retain qualified principals.

Nowhere is this more urgent than in our rural schools. Geographic isolation, limited access to professional learning, and uncompetitive salaries create steep barriers for aspiring leaders. The result? A cycle of turnover that undermines school stability, drives away talented teachers, and ultimately hurts students. Strong school leadership isn't a luxury—it's the foundation for academic success and community vitality.

Enter the Regional Office of Education (ROE) Lead Hubs, which use real-time data from the Shortage Report to guide targeted, local interventions funded by state and federal grants, particularly the Rural Leader Program and the Learning While Leading Program.

In a true *Grow Your Own* approach, the Lead Hub Rural Leader Program, a state-funded program co-ordinated by ROE #21 in Southern Illinois, provides tuition support to 25 teachers from hard-to-staff rural districts, enabling them to earn principal licensure and lead the schools they already serve. These educators weren't just chosen—they were identified by their communities as leaders, but without a principal license, they would otherwise not be qualified to serve.

Through federal funding to ROE #17, located in

Central Illinois, the Learning While Leading (LWL) program is identifying and developing educators who already have their principal license but not working in a leadership position to step into leadership roles in under-resourced districts. Using data from the statewide Shortage Report, ROE #17 staff pinpointed ZIP codes associated with districts reporting leadership gaps and focused recruitment efforts accordingly.

The goal? To grow and support school leaders who already understand the local context—and are committed to improving outcomes for students in their communities.

But the Learning While Leading program goes beyond recruitment. The program arms aspiring principals with evidence-based strategies to drive continuous school improvement, with a strong emphasis on core skills like reading,

writing, and math. Participants in the program don't just learn theory—they lead real projects to make measurable changes in their schools.

For instance, in one school participating in Learning While Leading, teachers discovered that more than half of their students scored below average in language and writing on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test. In response, they developed a targeted writing mechanics rubric and implemented a common assessment. By December 2023, 81% of students showed proficiency in dictation, and 73% improved in written expression.

In another Learning While Leading participating school, the staff identified major deficits among incoming 7th graders in Operations & Algebraic Thinking and Real & Complex Number Sys-

tems. Teachers responded with tailored workshops and daily work aligned with students' MAP Math scores. Their goal: to reduce the number of students scoring in the bottom 20th percentile by 10%—a clear, measurable step toward long-term achievement.

These are just snapshots of what happens when we invest in school leadership at the local level. Lead Hub programs aren't just about filling vacancies; they're about building sustainable leadership pipelines and giving educators the tools—and the confidence—to lead meaningful change. When principals are supported, they stay—and so do their teachers. When principals work hand-in-hand with teachers to drive school improvement, the results are powerful as demonstrated in the examples.

The ROE Lead Hubs would not have been able

to reach the targeted districts and schools they serve without the Educator Shortage Report data. The Educator Shortage Report doesn't just stop at analysis—it drives action. It informs state-level policy, guides resource allocation, and ensures the lived experiences of school leaders are heard in Springfield. It's this kind of alignment—between data, practice, and policy—that will truly move the needle.

Every school, in every zip code, deserves strong, visionary leadership. Every child deserves the chance to thrive. Through the ROE Lead Hubs, the tools are here. What we need now is the will to scale and sustain these solutions. Great school leaders shouldn't be rare—they should be the rule in every community.

Dr. Erika Hunt of Bloomington is the co-director of Lead Hub at ROE #17. Dr. Lisa Hood of Bloomington is the director of research & evaluation of Lead Hub at ROE #17.



Lisa Hood



Erika Hunt

Ron Kern: More corn and bean acres planted

JUST saw the USDA report and it looks like Illinois producers are moving toward more corn acres planted in 2025. Numbers look for corn acres to be up around five percent and bean acres to be off the same amount.

Even with higher input prices per acre for corn I think producers are looking how their crop decisions will be affected by tariffs.

Even with low commodity prices for both corn and beans I think producers believe they can still move more corn across the global export market than beans. These tariffs will no doubt paint US farmers as an unreliable source of supply and South America is more than poised to jump at that in the bean market; but not so much in corn. I'd say our farmers are looking to hedge their bet.

With planting season in full gear it may seem like fall harvest is a long way off, and it is, but if you are going to be profitable in today's agriculture you are already looking out to May 2026. So the question today is what will I do with my 2025 crop to attain profitability? Well, we've got just the program to answer that question.

The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of June 18; at the Days Inn, Rock Falls. “Managing Crop Revenue and Market Price Risks” is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions to capture profit margins through this year into next.

Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension

Farm Management Specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999.

He specializes in topics related to government farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing, grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance.

Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually he reaches more than 200,000 producers, landowners and

other agribusiness professionals.

During the two-hour program producers will examine the following topics: Global Supply/Demand & Crop Price Outlook; Crop Insurance Coverage Review; Impact of Tariffs on US Trade; Developing & Implementing a Marketing Plan; Understanding Summer Weather Forecasts; and Pre-Harvest Marketing Strategies & Tools.

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



Ron Kern

position their marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations.

Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.com-castbiz.net

Program begins at 7 p.m. on June 18; Days Inn, Rock Falls.

To close, here's market report you can relate to.

Helium was up, feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Fluorescent bulbs dimmed with light trading. Knives were up sharply. Pencils lost a few points. Hiking equipment was trailing. Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline. Light switches were off. Mining equipment hit rock bottom. Diapers re-

mained unchanged. Cruise lines kept at an even keel. Towels dried up and then showered down. Coca Cola fizzled after heavy gains. Caterpillar stock inched up. Balloons were inflated. Batteries exploded after trying to recharge the market. Toilet paper touched bottom.

Hogs bogged down in a trough. Cattle trailed off. Chicken flew up to roost at new heights. Eggs cracked up, but then slipped off. Milk was fluid, cheese was firm, and butter churned up and down. Hay rolled up, and then soured in a storm. Corn popped early, but flaked off through the week. Cotton was soft all week. Peanuts, came out of their shell last week, and were boiling this week. Beans went down easy, but then rattled up through the end.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

ROCHELLE VFW: Local artist Steder begins work on mural at Post 3878

From page 1

“For the members and family members involved in the VFW, I thought it’d be really neat to incorporate silhouetted service members walking in a field. For people that lost loved ones in war, they could stand up next to them because they’ll be life sized. It could be whoever they want it to be standing next to them. That was my inspiration. It gave me chills.”

Steder blocked off three weeks of his tattoo schedule to complete the mural and hopes to have it finished by mid-June. He enjoys taking time off from his tattoo schedule to take on other work to challenge himself.

Steder started with the bald eagle portrait, which he believes will be the most difficult portion. After using a projector for the last mural he completed alongside his sister, Mandey, he decided to freehand the VFW’s mural. Steder does a lot

of patriotic tattoos in his tattoo shop.

“I wanted to challenge myself and look at a reference point and see if I can freehand it on a wall,” Steder said. “I will feel more accomplished if I can do it freehand this time. I wanted to take this project on because it just means a lot. I didn’t serve, but it’s the least I can do for all who did. If it wasn’t for them I wouldn’t be doing this. None of us would be doing anything. They made the ultimate sacrifice. And I get to paint on a wall. I’m honored to do it.”

More mural work may be in store for Steder in the future, as he enjoys doing it. He’s excited to do more realism-style painting. He’s available for the work if that’s what businesses or entities are interested in.

Steder wants the mural to mean more than just the themes of patriotism and America.

“In my mind I was thinking more of a tribute to the lost service men and women,” Steder said. “It’s



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The mural will be painted by local artist Mat Steder of Steder Tattoo and will depict a bald eagle, an American Flag, service members and the post’s name. Steder was recently approached by VFW Commander Dennis Orlikowski during a tattoo session, who asked him if he’d be interested in painting a mural.

America-themed. But to me it goes a lot deeper than that. I haven’t lost anybody, but a lot of families have. If this could bring even an ounce of comfort for them to see this and reminisce and take a picture, then my job is done.”

Steder thanked his wife and kids and the rest of his family for their support


as he puts in long days of work on the mural. He also thanked Rochelle Ace Hardware for its assistance with getting his paint and supplies for the mural, and Tim Bruns for allowing use of his scissor lift. He’s grateful to the VFW for putting its faith in him and to past, present and future military members for their service.

Impactful community work and leaving his mark brings special meaning to Steder. His father, Ron, was an active community member with a business that bore his name in Steder Trucking and he sponsored Little League teams.




“That’s why my business has the name it does,” Steder said. “The best way I found to honor him was through my business and doing things like this to beautify the community. I think a lot about him, especially when I’m doing things like this. He’s always on my shoulder. Every day.”

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LOCAL NEWS

Lowell Park Road work began June 2

OGLE COUNTY — Lowell Park Road will be closed between Edgewood Road & Penn Corner Road beginning Monday, June 2. It is anticipated that the closure will remain in place until mid-October. A marked detour will be posted directing traffic around the closure. During the closure, a reinforced concrete box culvert will be replaced, the intersection with Penn Corner Road will be widened, storm sewer will be installed, the road will be lowered, a retaining wall will be built and roughly a quarter-mile of pavement will be reconstructed.

Back in 2021, the Ogle County Highway Department reviewed the condition of all of the culverts along Lowell Park Road between Lee County and Pines Road. The purpose of the review was to ascertain which structures needed to be replaced or extended ahead of the road being resurfaced. As a result of this investigation, it was determined that issues at 14 cross-road structures

needed to be addressed. Of these, 13 were smaller, shallow structures that were easily accessible. However, the 14th structure was a larger, deeper box culvert just south of Penn Corner Rd. It was decided to perform the culvert work at the 13 accessible locations, and gap the pavement resurfacing project near Penn Corner Road. The project to improve the 13 culverts took place in 2022 and the road resurfacing took place in 2023. During the resurfacing project, the quarter-mile near Penn Corner Road was omitted.

During the analysis of the larger structure, it was determined that replacement was the only option. The new structure will be longer than the existing structure in order to allow for a safer, more manageable slopes adjacent to the road. This will also allow for the removal of the existing guardrail system. Given the size & depth of the culvert, it is necessary to close Lowell Park Road. Since the road will be closed, it was decided

to address deficiencies at the intersection of Lowell Park Road and Penn Corner Road during the closure. In order to improve sight distance at the intersection, the hill south of the intersection will be lowered up to five feet. Due to the presence of a cemetery along the west side of the road, a retaining wall will need to be built so as to not disturb the plots during this lowering. The intersection will be enlarged slightly to assist in turning movements and new storm sewer will be placed to better convey water runoff. Finally, the quarter-mile of roadway that was gapped during the 2023 resurfacing project will be paved and will include a new paved shoulder.

The project went out for bid in April, and Martin & Company Excavating of Oregon, IL was the lowest responsible bidder. Construction is scheduled to begin on June 2, and will last into October. A marked detour will be posted to assist the traveling public with the road closure.

PorchFest in Mt. Morris is June 14

MT. MORRIS — The Eight Annual Encore! PorchFest Mt. Morris is Saturday, June 14. PorchFest is the ultimate grass-roots community music festival. Many favorites from past years, along with some new musicians will perform 45-minute free sets on community porches and lawns throughout the festival area between 1-5 p.m. The audience picks their choices from a schedule and moves from location to location. Bring your lawn chairs or sit in the grass, walk or ride your bike.

Performing this year: Acoustic Axis - Two acoustic guitars, Classic Rock, Blues and Classic Country.

Jeff Elbel + Ping - Jeff & daughter Melody play fun songs for all ages, both original and covers. The sound is rooted in acoustic Rock and Roll.

Denny Diamond - Known for performing Neil Diamond, plus other Classics.

Denny Jacobs - Easy Listening to Oldies. Guitar and Vocal Folk and Blue

Singer.

Goin Postal Unplugged, Dan Elsassner - Classic Rock, Ballads, Country and more.

Crosswind, Lowell Harp & Harold Harrison - Guitars and Vocals. Pop, Country, and originals.

Who Drank All the Tequila - Acoustic Rock with a Bluegrass Vibe. Guitar, bass, mandolin.

Korey Pepper - The Gritty areas of 90s Grunge and Alternative Rock.

Larry and Randy - Guitar and harmonica, vocals anything from the 30's on is fair game.

Timber Point - Blue Grass.

RuthAnn Lillstrom - Singer/songwriter and also covers. Folk, pop, soft rock.

The Magtones - Husband/wife duo, perform an eclectic mix of songs from the 60's to the present, performing guitar, ukulele and vocal in a relaxed coffeehouse style

Well Strung - Four-piece band, guitars, bass, and harmonica. A variety of Rock, Country, Blues, Blue Grass, Oldies.

Ruth Raubertas - Tradi-

tional Celtic and original composition classical harp music.

Barb Sorensen - Original Contemporary Pop/Rock/Country-Folk-Rock, family friendly, upbeat and positive music

Falling West - Family band that delights in playing Irish and old-time dance music. The band includes fiddle, bodhran, hammered dulcimer, guitar, bouzouki, and banjo and invites you to join in the infectious dance of life!

Greg Crull - Home-grown Ccountry Music, some Beach and Blues. Single guitar with some simple looping.

Chris Kolling - playing mostly Original Songs on the electric guitar and also on the electric dulcimer.

Louise Price - Playing Irish, Spanish and Traditional Folk

Schedules with map, porch locations, music, and food information will be available online at EncorePorchFest.info. Find more info about all Encore! and Mt. Morris activities at EncoreMtMorris.com.

Arellano, Fritts to provide update June 10

DIXON — Join the Conversation on Illinois Legislation as your State Senator Li Arellano Jr. and State Representative Brad Fritts provide a Legislative Update from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10 at Post House Ballroom, 100

W. Second St.

This event offers a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the latest developments in Springfield.

Don't miss this chance to stay informed and have your questions addressed by those shaping our state's

future.

The session will include lunch.

Admission is \$15 for Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street members, and \$35 for nonmembers.

Go to bit.ly/lgupdd to register.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Maggie & Amos Foundation invites the community to its annual Infinity Event on Saturday, June 14 at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club in Chana.

2025 Infinity Event to honor lives of Maggie & Amos is June 14

CHANA — The Maggie & Amos Foundation invites the community to its annual Infinity Event on Saturday, June 14 at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club in Chana. This event is held in memory of Maggie Rosko and her son, Amos, and brings people together to enjoy outdoor fun while supporting local education efforts. Attending is a simple way to show support for teachers, students, and the power of community. Whether you're there to run, bid, play, or just relax and listen to music, your presence helps carry on Maggie and Amos's legacy in a way that makes a real difference. There's something for everyone throughout the day:

815 Twin City Baggers Competitive and Recreational Cornhole Bags Tournament: Enter a competitive or casual division of the bags tournament for cash prizes. Starts at 11 a.m. and is open to players of all levels.

Live music: Catch live performances from *The Killer B's* from noon to 3 p.m., followed by an evening combined performance from *Burn n' Bush* and *The Vodka Boys* from 7-10 p.m.

"Running Wild" Trail Run: Take part in the "Running Wild" 5K(ish) trail run or a one-mile paved walk starting at 4 p.m. The trail offers a mix of terrain, and the walk is stroller-friendly. You can register at www.runsignup.com/Race/IL/Chana/InfinityRun.

All ages Treasure Orb Scavenger Hunt: Free and fun for all ages scavenger hunt around the entire property of The Rochelle Conservation Club with cash prizes and more!



Starts at 1 p.m.

Kids' activities: A free area for kids will include bounce houses, yard games, crafts, the Kid's Hill Climb at 3 p.m., and a bubble fest with Bubble Master Jason Kollum between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Silent auction: Browse and bid on a variety of donated items in the silent auction, with proceeds going toward educational grants and scholarships.

Food and drinks: Grilled treats available throughout the day with beverages of choice provided by mobile bar, The Gypsy Filly (cash preferred). The Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club will be hosting their monthly Saturday Night Steak Fry starting at 6 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 815-622-8940 with choices of meal including steak, pork chop, and hot dog (each meal includes all sides).

Shirts: Event shirts are available through Kathy

Blume of GameDay Designs. Contact her directly to place an order at 815-509-8426.

The Maggie & Amos Foundation was created in memory of Maggie Rosko, a special education teacher, and her young son, Amos. Both were deeply connected to their community and school, and the foundation continues their legacy by funding education-based projects and scholarships. Its goal is to give back to classrooms and students in meaningful, practical ways to support teachers, encourage learning, and help young people succeed. To date, over \$55,000 has been awarded to educators and students in the area. Everyone is encouraged to come out, take part in the activities, and support a cause that helps our schools and area students. For more details and updates, visit the event page at www.facebook.com/maggielandamos.

Arellano bringing mobile office hours to Creston and Malta

CRESTON — State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) is continuing his commitment to accessible government by taking his office on the road again this June. His Mobile Constituent Services program will bring staff directly to communities across the 37th Senate District to help residents with state-related issues.

"Our goal is to bring government closer to the people," said Senator Arellano, Jr. "These mobile office hours are a convenient way for constituents to get help, ask questions, or share concerns without having to travel far."

The following stops are scheduled for June:

Tuesday, June 10: Creston-Dement Public Library,

201 N. Main St., Creston, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Malta Township Public Library, 203 Adams St., Malta. 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Residents who cannot attend a mobile event are encouraged to contact Senator Arellano, Jr's district office at 779-251-5003 or visit www.SenatorLi.com for assistance with any state government services or concerns.

Oregon's Brandt named to Central College Dean's List

PELLA, Iowa — Each semester, Central College recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement by naming them to the Dean's List. This distinction is reserved for those

who have earned a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 graded credit hours.

Among the honorees was Maison Brandt of Oregon, in the Class of 2025.



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LOCAL NEWS

Around the Farm Art Exhibit opened June 6 at Coliseum Museum

OREGON—The Coliseum Museum in Oregon, IL is pleased to announce the opening of the Around the Farm Art Exhibit featuring 34 artists from across the northern Illinois area, on display from June 6 – July 12. The art exhibit of 68 individual art pieces celebrates and highlights the importance of agriculture in our area.

The exhibit offers work in acrylic, mixed media, pastel, photography, oil, and watercolor.

Artists who have submitted their work include Jean Apgar, Cindy Bear, Phyllis Bergagna, David Bingaman, Larry Bond, Jill Browne, Beverly Ashley Broyles, Tina Cannova, Craig Carpenter, Janet Cederlund, Bob Cholke, Dick Cholke, Janice Conkrite, Jane Erlandson, Kate May Fitch, Margi Forss, Laurie Friemuth, Jeanne Garrett, Roger Goodspeed, Steve Hart, Mary Howe, Bob Kapheim, Linnea Koch, Robert Krajecki, Bob Logsdon, Maggie Magnuson, Joy Meyer, Jean Pechtel, Joe Popp, Tamara Shriver, Donna Smith, Steve Toole, Lucinda Winterfield, and Julie Young.

The exhibit will be

judged by Nancie King Mertz of Rockford with awards presented at a reception on June 13, 6-8 p.m. with music by Cheryl & the Down Home Boys.

Nancie King Mertz has spent her lifetime painting in oil & pastel. She was awarded the Master Circle by Int'l Assoc. of Pastel Societies, Eminent Pastelist in 2018, and is a Master Signature member of Pastel Society of America, Degas Pastel Society & Chicago Pastel Painters. She has been a member of The Palette & Chisel of Fine Arts since 1988 and Plein air Painters since 2003. Nancie was a three-year Instructor of Art at Eastern Illinois University where she received her MA in Painting two years after completing her BFA in Painting at the University of Illinois.

The Coliseum Museum mission is to present Art, Antiques, Americana and history through permanent and rotating exhibits, workshops, music, theater and more. Additional information can be found on the website, www.cmaaa.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ColiseumMuseum/



Images include "In the Driver's Seat" a pastel painting by Jean Pechtel of Elgin; the oil painting "Harvest #4" by Tina Cannova of Freeport; "Morning Chores" an acrylic on canvas by Kate May Fitch of Belvidere; and "Finished for Today" a photograph by Steve Toole of Ashton.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 11: Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 11. Kable Band concerts will begin their 129th season in the Mt. Morris Band shell. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

and will continue each Wednesday evening thru July 30. Seating provided or bring your lawn chairs.

June 13: The Oregon Church of God, which has been an active church in Ogle County for over 100 years, will be holding a Benefit Sale on Friday, June 13 from (8-5 p.m.) and Saturday, June 14 from (8 a.m. to noon) at 860 W. Oregon Trail Road in the Garage and Picnic Shelter. The sale will be based on donations to be used for Mission Work and Church of God Family Camp. The Church of God works with Lord's Harvest International to support over 450 congregations in Africa. Besides worshipping together, Congregations in Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique also care for orphans and provide food and shelter as needed for their members. If you cannot attend the Benefit

Sale, but would like to help, your prayer support is encouraged by praying for Health and Safety, Wisdom for Church Leaders, and the Orphans in the churches in Africa. You may also drop off donations on Wednesday and Thursday (June 11 & 12 from 9-noon) at 860 W. Oregon Trail Road in Oregon. If you have any questions please call Connie at 815-732-2447.

June 14: Tickets are now on sale for the 2025 Mt. Morris-Oregon FFA Alumni Pork Chop Dinner and Auction. The dinner is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 14 at the Ogle County Fairgrounds, with a live auction of items following the dinner. The ticket price for a one pork chop dinner remains at \$10 and the price for a two pork chop dinner remains at \$13. Advance tickets for the event are

available by contacting Alumni President Jon Sheely at 815-978-2264. Tickets will be available at the door on the day of the event, but the price of the one pork chop dinner will increase to \$12 and the price of the two pork chop dinner will increase to \$15. Carry-out dinners are also available. The auction will include an assortment of interesting items, many of which are viewable at www.facebook.com/Mt-MorrisOregonFFAAlumni, the Alumni's Facebook page. The pork chop dinner and auction is a major fundraiser for the Mt. Morris-Oregon FFA Alumni Association that helps fund activities in conjunction with OHS FFA chapter, including providing funds to help OJSHS students participate in FFA activities and scholarships for OHS students continuing their education after high school.

Anyone unable to attend the pork shop dinner and auction may also contribute by sending a monetary donation to the Oregon FFA Alumni care of Oregon Junior Senior High School, 210 S. 10th St., Oregon, IL 61061.

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 Hib Reber 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 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.

Aug. 5: The Oregon Police Department will host National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the 100 block of North 2nd Street.

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On May 20 at approximately 11:30 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of North River Road. After investigation, deputies placed Erick Heinzmann, 48, of Oregon under arrest for driving while license suspended. Heinzmann was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Heinzmann was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 20 at 5:59 p.m. deputies arrested Brittini N. Wiersema, 31, of Chana on an Ogle County Warrant for driving while license suspended/revoked. Wiersema was transported to the Ogle County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

On May 20 at approximately 2:48 p.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 3,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. An initial investigation determined a southbound vehicle being driven by Ismael Barrios, 223, of Mt. Morris, failed to yield when turning left and was struck by a northbound vehicle being driven by Cody Stahl, 29, of Amboy. Barrios' vehicle then overturned in the east ditch. Barrios and Stahl received minor injuries. A passenger in Barrios' vehicle, Bonnie Chapman, 26, of Mt. Morris, also received minor injuries. Deputies were assisted by Illinois DNR, Illinois DOT, and Oregon Fire/EMS. Barrios was issued citations for failure to yield when turning left, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and expired registration.

On May 20 at approximately 4:12 p.m. deputies responded to a domestic at 3747 W. Illinois Route 64, lot 20. After investigation, deputies placed Michele Botheroyd, 33, of Mt. Morris under arrest for disorderly conduct. Botheroyd was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 22 at approximately 11:25 p.m. deputies responded to a car in a ditch near the intersection of Illinois Route 2 and Kennedy Hill Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Jackson Bartelt, 19, of Byron under arrest for driving under the influence of drugs. Bartelt was additionally cited for improper lane usage and charged with aggravated DUI (class-four felony). Bartelt was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 23 at approximately 11:28 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 6,000 block of North Kilbuck Road. After investigation, deputies placed Shatira I. Smith, 23, of Freeport, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Smith was additionally cited for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Smith was released on scene with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

On May 23 at 6:08 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Kilbuck Road and Crill Road. After investigation, deputies placed the driver, Kelonte Williams, 20, of Champaign under arrest for unlawful possession of cannabis-driver. Williams was further issued a citation for operating a motor

vehicle with a suspended registration. Williams was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date. A 16-year-old male juvenile of Freeport was also placed under arrest for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon (class-four felony), unlawful possession of ammunition without a FOID, unlawful possession of a weapon without a FOID, unlawful use of a weapon, and prohibition on un-serialized firearms. The juvenile was released to his parent.

On May 23 at approximately 8:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Kilbuck Road and Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies placed Antonio Johnson, 38, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license revoked and possession with intent to deliver 30-500 grams of cannabis (class-three felony). Johnson was additionally issued citations for mufflers, operating an uninsured vehicle, and illegal transportation of alcohol/driver. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 23 at approximately 8:54 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,200 block of North Kilbuck Road. After investigation, deputies placed Kaescha Bryant, 34, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license revoked. Bryant was additionally issued citations for an improper registration light and operating an uninsured vehicle. Bryant was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear.

On May 23 at approximately 11:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Big Mound Road. After investigation deputies placed Janessa Love, 24, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Love was also issued a citation for driving 21-25 miles per hour above limit. Love was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On May 23 at approximately 2:07 p.m. deputies responded to 14035 E. Illinois Route 72 (Northwest Repossession) for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, deputies placed Almarion Bell, 21, of Rockford, under arrest for criminal trespass to real property. Bell was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On May 24 at approximately 2:24 a.m. deputies placed Rayshonda Barbary, 25, of Rockford under arrest for driving while under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of a combination of drugs and alcohol. Barbary was additionally issued citations for improper lane usage, operation of vehicle with an expired registration, and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of 0.08 or more. Barbary was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 24 at approximately 12:58 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 14,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies placed Chontrell Morris,

33, of Rockford under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of a combination of alcohol and drugs. Morris was additionally issued citations for speeding 11-14 miles per hour over the speed limit, improper lane usage, and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of .08 or more. Morris was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 24 at approximately 12:16 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After further investigation Gerardo Vidals, 51, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended and an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Vidals was also cited for improper lane usage and disobeying an official traffic control device. Vidals was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On May 25 at approximately 12:55 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic near the intersection of Ritchie Road and South Mulford Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Aaron Adams, 39, of Kingston, for driving while license revoked, obstructing identification, no insurance, and improper display of registration. Adams was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was booked for his charges and released on a notice to appear bond.

On May 25 at approximately 1 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies responded to 234 S. Rural St. in Stillman Valley. This was in response to a report of a domestic issue that occurred at this location. After an investigation, Lawrence P. Zitkus, 55, of Stillman Valley, was arrested for and charged with domestic battery. Zitkus was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Correctional Center for processing. Zitkus will appear in Ogle County Court at a later date.

On May 25 at approximately 9:45 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to 205 E. Second St. in Leaf River. This was in response to a report of a domestic issue at this location. After an investigation, Jeremy L. Posey, 42, of Oregon was arrested for and charged with domestic battery. Posey was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Correctional Center for processing. Posey will appear in Ogle County Court at a later date.

On May 26 at 7:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of Lincoln Avenue and Woolf Court in Rochelle. After a brief investigation, Amber Maronde, 40, of Ashton, was placed under arrest for driving unlicensed. Maronde was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On May 26 at approximately 8:32 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 72 and North Marrill Road. After an investigation, Kevin M. Nash, 45, of Huntley, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Nash was additionally cited for disregarding a stop sign. Nash was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was booked and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Encore! Mt. Morris Summer Art for Students planned

MT. MORRIS—Plans are underway for a variety of art experiences this summer for 2nd grade through high school students. Hannah Beach, this summer's Artist in Residence, will be teaching fun classes and coordinating art projects through June and July.

Hannah, a recent Northern Illinois University graduate in art education, has experience with "kids," including 2-6th graders, middle school and high school art students. She is full of ideas and looking so forward to engaging with students interested in art projects. Classes include shirt painting, botanical mono-printing, painted stepping stones, large yarn looms, all adapted for appropriate elementary ages. (Read below for junior high and high school options.)

Classes for elementary students meet three days each week (Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday) for just-completed second and third graders from 9:30-

11:30 a.m. during the weeks of June 17-19, June 24-26, and July 8-10. Just-completed 4th-6th graders meet those same weeks plus July 15-17 from 1-3 p.m.

All classes will be held at the Allure of Pinecrest Grove community center in Mt. Morris. Fees are subsidized by 100+ Women Who Care. Therefore, the cost is only \$5 per week for all art materials and instruction. Scholarships available. Registration can be completed online at encoremtnorris.com (Encore Kids button) or at the Mt. Morris Village Hall, 105 W Lincoln St.

Junior High students (just-completed 7th-8th grades) will be doing illusion sidewalk art projects in Mt. Morris. They will work on preliminary planning at the "getting organized" meeting on June 23 (10 a.m.-noon) at the Allure of Pinecrest community center. High School students will be designing and painting a mural. Their "getting



Hannah Beach, Encore's 2025 Artist-in-Residence.

organized" meeting will be June 23rd, 1:30-3:30 p.m., also at the Pinecrest Community Center. Students will work on the projects in small groups around their schedules, as much as possible.

Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris, IL into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in northwest Illinois focused on the visual, performing and culinary arts. Learn more at EncoreMtMorris.com or email Molly Baker mollyb@encoremtnorris.com if you have questions.

DIRECTORY OF AREA HUMAN SERVICES

Alcohol Abuse Counseling & Recovery

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

Domestic Abuse Agency and 24-Hour Shelter and Helpline

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

Low Income Housing

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

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County

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

Mental Health

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

Senior Citizens Services

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

Sexual Assault/Abuse

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

Therapeutic

Pegasus Special Riders	973-3177
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Veterans' Services

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

Wellness Services

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

LOCAL NEWS

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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.

C h e c k o u t
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!



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Instructors from Mount Morris Jiu-Jitsu led an engaging session, teaching participants essential self-defense skills, from honing situational awareness to mastering key physical techniques, all while emphasizing personal safety and confidence-building.

MT. MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Closings
The Mount Morris Library will be closed on Thursday, June 19th for the Juneteenth holiday.

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

Level up at Your Library
Monday, June 9th at 1pm. Come on Monday at 1pm to read some great books and learn all about pollinators! Meet local master gardeners Marcia and Phil for books and crafts. This program is available to everyone, regardless of library card or not.

Summer Reading Program Schedule
June 9th - 14th, Pollinators! Program Monday, June 9th, 1pm (raffle ticket). Drop-In Craft Monday, June 9th, 2pm-6pm, while supplies last. Grab-N-Go Tue-Sat, June 10th-14th, while supplies last. Pre-School Story Time Wednesday, June 11th at 11:15am. ****Do Art Productions Bead Craft!** Thursday, June 12th, 5:30-7pm (raffle ticket).

Ink with a Friend Monday, June 9th at 5pm
We will be offering a card-making class from a local crafter, Liz Gullett. She will be here on Monday, June 9th at 5pm! You will get all the materials to make two beautiful cards to take home. Stop by to see the samples, \$5 fee when you register. Registration is limited so call the library or stop by to save your spot before June 2nd!

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

Display Case Showings
We are always looking for collectors or artists who are willing to share their treasures in our display cases. If you are interested, please call, 815-734-4927.

Mount Morris Library is FINE FREE!
Yep! You no longer need to worry about paying fines for late books, dvd's, audiobooks, etc. at the Mount Morris Library! We

have no fines due for late materials, just return the item and you can check out any other item at no cost! We love serving our community and invite all patrons to visit the Mount Morris Library!

Explore More Illinois
Explore More Illinois Welcomes Elgin History Museum. Explore More Illinois, RAILS' online cultural and recreational pass program for Illinois libraries, welcomes its newest attraction, the Elgin History Museum in Elgin! The Elgin History Museum is located in a stately Greek Revival brick building that was built as Elgin Academy in 1856. The Museum has several permanent exhibits that tell the rich history of the Elgin community. Along with two levels of scavenger hunt (easy & hard), there are plenty of interactive displays for kids to play with - just look for the hand. Elgin History Museum is offering Buy One Get One Free Admission. Explore More Illinois users can access, and reserve passes from any of our attractions on the Mount Morris Library website, mtmorris-il.org, under the resources page. Visit the website to browse attractions.

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

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

Lions Club Glasses and Hearing Aids Collections
Donation boxes for eyeglass recycling are available at the library. When the boxes are full, they are picked up by local Lions members and dropped off at collection depots. These recycled eyeglasses are given to people in need, with the help of various medical missionaries, in Central and South America and

around the world. When the eyeglasses arrive in these countries, doctors and technicians conduct eye exams and provide a free pair of prescription eyeglasses that are as close as possible to that person's sight needs. When donating HEARING AIDS, please be sure to place them in a small box or hard-covered case so they do not get crushed or damaged.

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

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

Newspaper Available!
We will now be receiving the Dixon Telegraph daily! We receive the Ogle County Life, Sauk Valley, and Mt. Morris Times. If

you want to keep up with the local news-stop on by!

Curbside Service is available!
We want to remind everyone that you still have the option of having your materials delivered to your vehicle. If you have holds waiting for you, call us to tell us you are on your way, and we will bring them out to your vehicle when you arrive. Call us if you need more information.

Additional Services Offered
We make copies (\$0.25 per black and white page). We fax (\$2 for the first page and \$0.50 each additional page). We can scan a document and send it to email (\$2 per document). You can use a computer without a library card for \$1.00. Resume software is available on our computers. Come visit us and let us help you!

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

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

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.

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

WOOD CARVERS
Tuesdays-9:00-11:00

a.m.

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

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

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

OUTING OF THE MONTH - June 12
Nachusa Grasslands. Lunch Afterward at The Village Bakery. Register by June 9

DENNY DIAMOND - June 16

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Registration Requested by June 12.

Veteran's Assistance
The Veteran's Service Officer serves Veterans of all ages and assists them with applications and other benefits available to them. Your VSO 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

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.

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 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.

VFW Post #8739
1310 W. Washington St., Oregon, IL
815-732-6851

Bar Mon-Thur 4 - 8PM & Fri 4 - 9PM
Kitchen Mon, Wed, Thur 4-7PM & Fri 4-8PM
Kitchen closed Tue.
VFW EVENTS
Monday Lighting @ 5:30pm
Wednesday Bingo @ 5:30pm
Thursday Trivia Night @ 6:30pm
Fridays @ 7pm 1st Fridays, Karaoke, Live music (different Fridays)
Every Friday our Fish, Chicken, Shrimp Dinners
We do Carry Outs
Try out the hot slots every weekday!

Public is Welcome!
Public is Welcome!

Monthly Steak Fry
\$30 per person *Starts at 6pm*
Ribeye, baked potato, corn, beans, a salad and desert
Porkchop or Hotdog
option at reservation

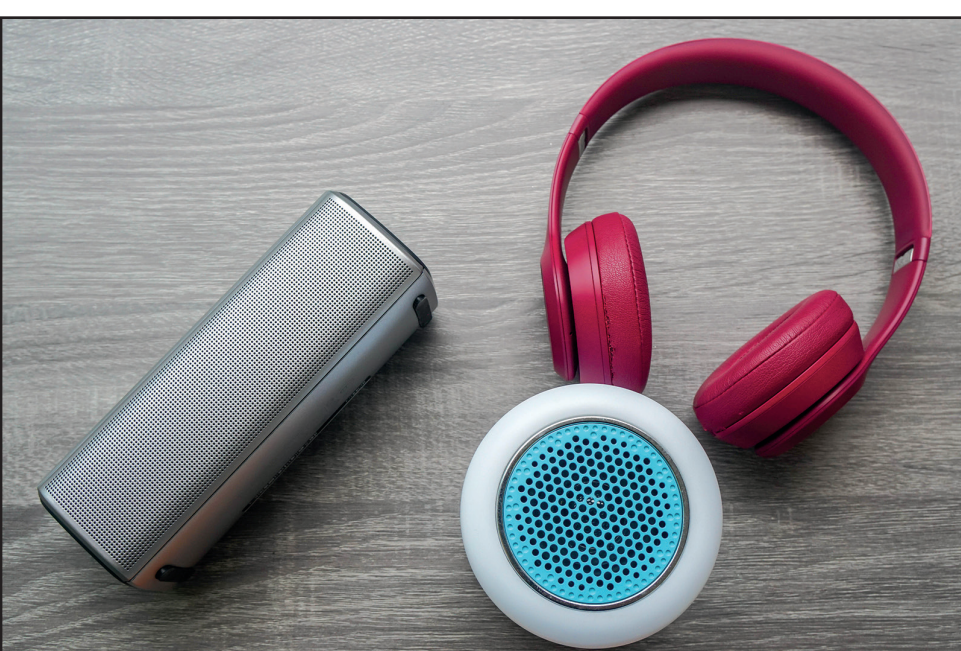
REMAINING DATES
June 14th
July 12th
Aug 9th
Sept 13th
Oct 11th

GRILL
YOUR OWN STEAK
over our charcoal pits!

Covered outdoor and indoor seating enjoy your meal surrounded by nature and good friends.
Please RSVP no later than 5pm the Thursday before the steak fry and call Nick - **815-677-8981**

Stillman Valley Nursery
9979 N. Kishwaukee Road
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084
(815) 645-8113
Premium Hardwood • Designer Colored Mulches
Pulverised Dirt • Mushroom Compost • Straw Bales
Delivery Available

FATHER'S DAY



Give Dad an original gift—without breaking the bank!

FATHER'S Day is just around the corner. Are you looking for a gift for your dad but lacking inspiration? Here are some great ideas that suit every taste and budget.

A device or tool. Does your dad often talk about an item he dreams of owning, even if it's not essential? Buy it for him! An air fryer, a pressure washer or even a miter saw could make his day. If it's a larger item, consider making it a joint gift.

A camping accessory. If your father loves the great outdoors, consider gifting him a sturdy lay-flat hammock tent, an ultralight sleeping bag or a portable propane stove. A rechargeable headlamp or multipurpose knife also make excellent choices.

Ingredients or accessories for the barbecue.

Does your dad consider himself King of the Grill? Surprise him with an assortment of local hot sauces, a cedar grilling plank or high-quality barbecue utensils. A personalized apron or Wi-Fi-enabled meat thermometer are also winning ideas.

A care basket. For the dad who likes to take care of himself, put together a basket of self-care products like moisturizer, exfoliant, handmade soap and, depending on his grooming style, beard oil or aftershave balm.

An addition to his wardrobe. If your dad likes to make a statement with his clothing, choose an eccentric sports shirt or elegant shoes with unique detailing.

A fun experience. For the adventurous dad, book an ax-throwing session, an escape room adventure,

a cooking workshop, a skydiving experience or a spirit tasting event.

A new tech gadget. If your father is the techy type, gift him a portable solar charger or wireless headset. A solar-powered watch or smartwatch would also make a fantastic addition to his collection. Additionally, Bluetooth speakers or an e-reader could bring a smile to his face.

Visit your local shops to find the perfect gift for Dad. And remember, the most important thing is to choose something that reflects your father's interests, not just your own!

Can't afford to buy your dad a present? No problem! Spending quality time together is often the best gift of all. Invite him to go for a bike ride, play a board game or watch his favorite sports team with you.

Father and adult child relationship: 3 activities to improve communication

FATHERS play a crucial role in shaping their children's lives. Their relationship often revolves around care, protection and affection during those younger years, but it can sometimes become strained as children grow up. Do you want to improve communication between you and your dad? Here are a few engaging activities to celebrate Father's Day.

Camping

If you both love the great outdoors, why not organize a camping trip with your father? Set up camp

and go fishing or hiking together to enjoy nature's beauty and create shared memories. You don't have to complicate your life; just spend some quality time with one another.

Building project

Collaborating on a woodworking project is an excellent opportunity to work towards a common goal. If your dad is an experienced DIYer, ask him to teach you how to use different tools and share his expertise. If you're both beginners, search online for a simple project with easy-to-follow instructions, like a picture frame

or storage box.

Beer tasting

Does your dad love a good brew? Sign up for a guided beer tasting. The organizers will encourage you to discuss the unique characteristics of each one, helping you and your father develop a more sophisticated vocabulary around your favorite beverages. After the workshop, continue the conversation by trying new beers together.

By being open and willing, you can improve communication with your father and make a meaningful difference in your relationship.



11 gift ideas for a beloved grandpa

HERE are 11 thoughtful gift ideas to show your appreciation for your dear grandpa on Father's Day:

A photo album filled with beautiful family memories

An item with a humorous message, like a beer mug or cap

A handmade decorative work, such as a drawing,

craft or painting

A high-quality accessory, like a leather wallet or tie

A tool for his workshop, such as a jigsaw or electric screwdriver

A greeting card with a personalized message

An outdoor activity, like a picnic, hike or fishing trip

An inspiring book based on his interests,

whether it's a gripping detective novel or a motivational biography

A gourmet box featuring spice mixes, jams or whatever food your grandfather enjoys most

A nice, comfortable piece of clothing, such as cozy pajamas or a stylish jacket

A cultural outing, like a museum visit or tickets to a play or concert

FATHER'S DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



Show Dad Some Love with a Special Gift!

Enjoy 20% Off

Container trees & shrubs

Sale Runs from June 10th through June 15th

All Annuals now 30% off through June 29

Unique Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, Mulch & More!

462 S. Chana Rd., Chana, IL
Just North of Route 64 • 815-751-4162



hiddentimbergardens.com
Tuesday-Saturday 9am-6pm | Sunday Noon-5pm
info@hiddentimbergardens.com



Hello, Dad!



We plan to be open all summer long offering fresh produce and beautiful plants and will offer Mums and pumpkins again this fall!

Happy Father's Day!

Check out our fresh produce and Beautiful Perennials!



Mon., Wed., Thur., Sat. 9AM to 5PM
Tue. & Fri. 9AM-6PM | Closed Sun.
2810 W. IL Route 64, Oregon, IL 61061
920-229-9787

FATHER'S DAY

Brunch: a tasty way to celebrate Father's Day!

Wondering how to celebrate Father's Day this year? Brunch is the perfect opportunity to get together and celebrate in a delicious way. Here are four fantastic options.

Go to a restaurant. Treat yourself and your family to a hassle-free brunch at a local restaurant. Many establishments offer special menus and group discounts for Father's Day. Spots fill up quickly, so reserve your table or private room as soon as possible.

Host a potluck. Invite your father's family and friends to your home for a potluck brunch. When everyone brings a dish, it simplifies the planning process and spares you from having to pay for everything.

Try a take-home meal. Explore gourmet boxes created by restaurants and food companies specifically for Father's Day. You can have one delivered directly to your dad or pick one up and prepare it at home for a special treat.



Hire an in-home private chef. Do you want to give your dad an unforgettable experience? Hire a private chef to come to his home and cook an extraordinary brunch for the entire family. With reasonably priced options starting around \$40 per person, it's a guaranteed success. Reach out to food companies in your area to make this Father's Day extra special.

What to give a new dad for Father's Day

HAS someone special in your life just become a dad for the first time? Here are a few gift ideas to mark his first Father's Day.

Prepare a few simple and delicious meals. New dads face busy days—with a newborn at home. Help him stay energized with nutritious and balanced ready-to-eat meals that will save him time and effort.

Get him a baby accessory. Consider gifts like a hiking baby carrier, a digital video monitor or a jogging stroller. These practical gifts will significantly enhance his daily life as he embraces fatherhood.

Gift him a parenting book. Choose a book that shares insights from other loving fathers or offers practical advice. This thoughtful gift will help him navigate his new role

with confidence. **Make babysitting coupons.** Create coupons that are valid until the next Father's Day. This will give him the freedom to enjoy a short outing with his other half or time to pursue his passion projects.

Put together a gift basket. Fill a box or basket with items that will brighten his busy days. Handmade soaps, gourmet chocolates, pampering



body care products, artisanal beers and unique snacks are all great options. Visit your local shops to find the perfect gifts to make a new dad's first Father's Day truly memorable!



FATHER'S DAY

BOAT CRUISES & ALL YOU CAN EAT BBQ

12:00PM to 4:00PM

1-Hour Boat Cruises

12:30PM to 1:30PM
boards at 12:00PM
&
2:00PM to 3:00PM
boards at 1:30PM

All you can eat BBQ out on deck
(unless it rains)

Can eat BEFORE or AFTER Boat Cruise

Includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, coleslaw,
potato salad, baked beans and potato chips

Beer and soft drink specials

COST

\$25 each for boat cruise and BBQ
\$15 each for BBQ only

1469 IL RT 2, Oregon, IL | 815-732-6761
www.maxsons.net



Gift ideas for 10 different types of dads

SELECTING the ideal gift for Dad can be challenging, but keeping his interests and hobbies in mind can result in a memorable and cherished present. Here are some Father's Day gift ideas for 10 distinct types of dads:

1. The amateur cook Dad. Consider gifts like a premium-quality chef's knife set, a sous vide precision cooker for mastering restaurant-style dishes at home or a cooking class voucher to refine his kitchen skills.
2. The sports lover Dad. Elevate Dad's game day experience with tickets to a big game, autographed memorabilia from his sports idols or high-performance sportswear. Cap it off with a sports-themed gift basket filled with snacks and accessories for extra enjoyment on game nights.
3. The DIY Dad. Power up Dad's handyman spirit with gifts like a comprehensive toolset for his next home improvement project, a woodworking or crafting magazine subscription or a personalized sign for his workspace.
4. The tech-savvy Dad. Techie dads will appreciate cutting-edge gadgets, like a virtual reality gaming system,



- noise-canceling wireless headphones or a smart home automation kit.
5. The outdoor enthusiast Dad. Fuel Dad's adventurous spirit with gifts like a rugged camping tent, a portable solar charger for off-grid expeditions or a national park membership for endless exploration opportunities.
6. The bookworm Dad. Indulge Dad's love for literature with gifts like a collection of classic novels, a cozy reading nook complete with a plush armchair and reading lamp or a subscription to an audiobook service for literary adventures on the go.
7. The fashion-forward Dad. Help Dad look his best with gifts like a tailored suit from his favorite designer, a luxury watch or personalized cufflinks.
8. The music lover Dad. Amplify Dad's passion for music with gifts like a vintage record player, concert tickets to see his favorite band or a premium-quality pair of studio headphones for an immersive listening experience.
9. The gardening Dad. Nurture Dad's green thumb with gifts like high-quality gardening tools, heirloom seeds for his garden or a personalized sign for his outdoor oasis.
10. The travel junkie Dad. Dad's wanderlust will soar with gifts like a durable travel backpack, a scratch-off world map to track his adventures, a personalized luggage tag or a travel journal to document his globetrotting escapades.

Whatever type of dad you're shopping for this Father's Day, remember to shop local and support businesses in your community!



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Oregon High School girls track and field team concludes 2025 season at IHSA 1A State Championship

The Oregon High School varsity girls track and field team brought home multiple medals from the IHSA 1A State Championship at Eastern Illinois University from May 22-24. Jillian Hammer received state medals in the 300-meter hurdles (third - 44.46 seconds) and the 100-meter hurdles (fifth - 15.17 seconds). Grace Tremble medaled in the 400-meter dash (fifth - 57.68 seconds) and Skylar Bishop medaled in the high jump (fifth - 1.58 meters). Oregon had state qualifiers participating in the pole vault (Sonya Plescia - 15th), high jump (Grace Tremble - 16th) and discus (Alease McLain - 34th) as well as the 1600-meter relay (11th), 800-meter relay (13th) and 400-meter relay (17th). Representing Oregon at the state meet were Madeline Rogers, Lorelai Dannhorn, Taylor Weems, Gabby Hoyle, Skylar Bishop, Miranda Ciesiel, Jillian Hammer, Sonya Plescia, Alease McLain, Daleanah Koertner and Grace Tremble. (Courtesy photo)



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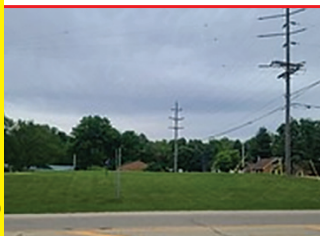
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605 N 4th Street Oregon \$259,900 Call Rebecca

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510 E Washington Street Oregon \$175,000 Call Carla

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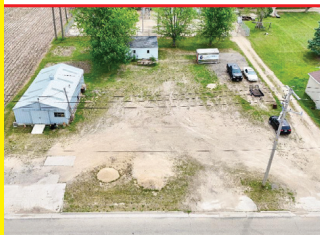
110 E Center Street Mt Morris \$169,900 Call Becky

Charming 1.5-Story on Corner Lot - 4 Bed, 2 Bath Spacious 1.5-story home featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, 10' ceilings, crown molding, and built-ins. Large sunroom spans the front. Kitchen offers light cabinets, white appliances (included), breakfast bar, and cozy dinette. Three main bedrooms have walk-in closets; huge 4th bedroom upstairs with wood ceilings. Radiant heat, many updated windows, 8" trim, 3-panel wood doors. Unfinished lower level with pool table, dartboard, and mirror included. Washer/dryer stay. One-car garage under house, shed, front deck. Roof (2016), gas water heater (2019). Close to downtown Mt. Morris, shopping, and restaurants. Estate sale - sold as-is.



4 E Lincoln Street Mt Morris \$78,000 Call Jennifer Rybicki

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SPORTS



Stillman Valley High School girls track and field team sends athletes to IHSA 2A State Championship
Stillman Valley High School's girls track and field season concluded in the IHSA 2A State Championship meet at Eastern Illinois University from May 23-24. Qualifiers who competed include Alexandria Hoff (26th - 400-meter dash), Dionyesia Cantu-Ramos (28th - 100-meter hurdles), Makinzie Lamb (22nd - 300-meter hurdles) and Sandra Brodersen (25th - high jump). Stillman Valley took 29th in the 1600-meter relay (Sandra Brodersen, Alexandria Hoff, Taylor Davidson and Makinzie Lamb) and 30th in the 400-meter relay (Taylor Davidson, Makinzie Lamb, Sandra Brodersen and Alexandria Hoff). (Courtesy photo)

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Wrapping up the 2024-25 year that was in sports

BY ANDY COLBERT
CORRESPONDENT

end, with a near complete domination by the private schools.

That disparity in competitive balance even made its way into national news feeds. It started with a very good Lena-Winslow team getting blown out by Belleville Althoff in 1A and continued in the next seven title games.

It was an ugly debacle and put the IHSA in the unenviable position of attempting to balance the playing field without splitting publics and privates apart. To that end, the IHSA has tightened up its success factor and 1.65 multiplier for the privates.

Its crown jewel, the state basketball tournament, the original "March Madness", also was tarnished by a competitive imbalance. Empty seats abounded at the state finals with so many private schools and Chicago public open enrollment schools, who bring small crowds.

Off the court, the IHSA is wrestling with a Right to Play House Bill, which would allow athletes to compete in both their high school and club team in the same season. Sounds like a conflict of interests to me. And, don't forget the effort to remove Native American mascot names.

On the area scene, Byron's football team gave Lombard Montini all they could handle in a 21-20

loss, falling just inches shy of the goal line in an extra point attempt after a well-executed two-minute drill. Though, it wasn't a part of the Thanksgiving weekend debacle, it helped set the public-private outrage in motion, as did Rochelle's loss to LaGrange Nazareth.

My favorite high-school football game was Byron traveling to Dixon and winning on a two-point conversion. It was a lively atmosphere A.C. Bowers Field, with Dixon the only team other than Lombard to test them.

I purposely referred to it as high-school fave, as being on hand in South Bend for the Northern Illinois University-Notre Dame upset far surpassed anything else I witnessed this past year. Being an NIU grad with press pass in hand allowed me to realize a dream of both seeing and covering my Huskies pull off the college upset of the year.

In basketball, it was hard to beat the intense rivalry games between Byron and Stillman Valley girls. The only thing that came close was covering the boys sectional final between Eastland and Pecatonica.

The slowdown tactics employed by Eastland created a theatre of dramatics at a jam-packed Pec gym.

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THE FOUR C NOTES

SPORTS



Byron High School girls track and field team concludes season at IHSA 2A State Championship

The Byron High School girls track and field season concluded in the IHSA 2A State Championship at Eastern Illinois University from May 23-24. Byron earned state medals in the 100-meter hurdles (Malia Morton - ninth in 15.67 seconds) and the high jump (Neve Schilling - fourth at 1.58 meters). The Tigers also competed in the 1600-meter relay (Neve Schilling, Macyn Burris, Ashley Potter and Skylar Palmgren) and the 800-meter relay (Skylar Palmgren, Ashley Potter, Neve Schilling and Malia Morton), finishing 14th and 29th in those races, respectively. (Courtesy photos)



Oregon Junior High athletes compete at IESA State Championship in East Peoria

Oregon Junior High sent three athletes to the IESA State Championship at East Peoria High School from May 23-24. Sixth-grader Kollins Anaya medaled for the Junior Hawks, finishing eighth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:40.32. Eighth-grader Anya Anaya took 12th in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:35.46 and seventh-grader Brady Wills took ninth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.75 seconds. (Courtesy photo)

A coach's change and wrapping up spring sports

ONE of the pleasures of covering high-school sports is meeting so many wonderful people, be it players, coaches, parents, administrators, referees and fans. One such person is Forreaston coach/teacher Jake Groom.

I was surprised to learn earlier this year that he is leaving the place where he grew up and later returned after college to work at. Not only that, but there is a lot of young talent coming back on the basketball team, of which he was head coach.

So, why would a 31-year-old take such a detour in life?

"If I didn't feel a calling, I wouldn't be doing it," Groom said. "I still love what I am doing at Forreaston. It will be a huge adjustment leaving. I'm fighting a lot of emotions right now. Formers students have stopped in to see me."

His plan is to join the Army, specifically the Ranger Regiment, with hopes of becoming a chaplain's assistant.

"At my age, the Ranger Regiment is no joke," Groom said. "If I don't make it, God's got me in a different spot to help people."

Now it's making sense to me. Being a humble servant to those around us is a surefire way to spiritual enlightenment. Certainly, here is no more noble gesture than service to humanity.

However, committing four years of one's life to the armed services is a bit different at age 31 than 18. "It seems like everything that has happened along the way this year has verified I made the right decision," Groom said. "And at worst, it's only four years away. If it doesn't work out, I can come back. I will see where the good Lord takes me."

One thing Groom feels comfortable with is leaving the basketball program in good shape. The 2012 Forreaston grad joined a long list of home-grown individuals that return to coach at their alma mater.

Likewise, with Robert DeVries taking over as head basketball coach and Brandon Fyock and Jonathan Schneiderman assisting.

"The right people are taking it over," said Groom, who even sold his house to DeVries and missed the last day of the boys state track meet to attend his wedding.

That's a good segue way to the final IHSA event of the Ogle County sports calendar that we had competitors in – the boys track & field meet in Charleston.

In 1A, Forreaston-Polo (and I emphasize both schools, as the program is only referenced downstate as the Forreaston Cardinals) made its presence felt. Yes, Forreaston is the host school of the co-op, but let's not forget Polo plays a big part too, such as senior anchor Noah Dewey finishing his career out with eight state medals in the relays.

It was another banner year for F-P, with state places in the 400, 800 and 1,600 relays. In fact, the NUIC dominated the sprints, with team 1A team champ Morrison setting a meet record in 800 relay (1:26.87) and Lena-Winslow also near the top.

How fast was Morrison? Their time of 1:26.87 would have placed second in entire state, regardless of classification. Occasionally, there may be an individual 1A kid, like Jordan Thomas of Oregon a

number of years ago, who can hold their own with the best of the state.

But, to find four kids in a small school is extremely rare. Morrison's two fastest runners, juniors Brady Anderson and Levi Milder, won the 100 and 200-meter dashes.

Rochelle nearly had its first state champ since 1965, but pole vaulter Andrew Nuyen settled for second at 15 feet, a couple feet below his personal best. The Hubs added a seventh in the high jump from Jack Tilton.

With Daniel Gonzalez taking fourth in the 800 meters at 1:57, Oregon

had its best finish since 2019 when Jake Mennen was pole vault runner-up.

As nearly the smallest school in 2A, Byron was shut out downstate in the medal quest. For 2A schools like Byron, Stillman Valley, Pec-Durand, etc., the 1A track enrollment classification needs to go up to include them. Had that been the case, Byron would have sent five more events downstate instead of just two of them. Hats off to Byron girls soccer for winning the regional over SV.

The big shocker from Byron this spring was the baseball team losing in the sectional 9-2 to Johnsburg. The Tigers came into the game with a 28-game win streak.

High-school post season baseball is like that. One bad inning can spell the end of a season and that is what happened to Byron.

Then you have someone like Dixon, who was on an 11-game losing streak going into the post-season and ended up winning a regional.

That's a wrap for the 2024-25 high-school sports year in Ogle County and beyond. Hopefully, I will be back in the fall to continue where we left off. Have a good summer everyone.

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



Andy Colbert

WRAP UP: Colbert details highlights of 2024-25 sports season in Ogle County

From page 2

The entire 32 minutes kept of us all on the edge of our seats until Eastland sealed the unexpected win over the No. 1 ranked team in 1A.

A sport that gets little publicity, bowling, saw a Oregon make it all the way to Saturday's state finals in a one-class system. That's a huge accomplishment.

Individually, how about the job done by Lucas Nelson of Forreaston in wrestling? With only one arm, Nelson almost qualified for state in 2A.

On a personal note, I was excited to learn that he is going to college for same program I was in, nutrition and food science.

In spring sports, the last hurrah for Dale Hartman was of note. The Byron baseball coach had a long run of success and the Tiger baseball team had a regular season to remember.

The top county performer in the spring was Rochelle pole vaulter Andrew Nuyen, whose 17-1 clearance was ranked no. 9 in the nation. With one year left, 18 feet is in

his sights.

It was season to remember for Oregon girls track & field, with a first-ever sectional title and several state medals. Forreaston's Bree Schneiderman also tore up the track and has two more years to ply her trade.

After a 33-year career at Oregon as teacher, coach and athletic director, Mike Lawton is retiring. Hosting more events than any school its size in the state, Lawton and assistant Tracy Harvey (also retiring) did it in style.

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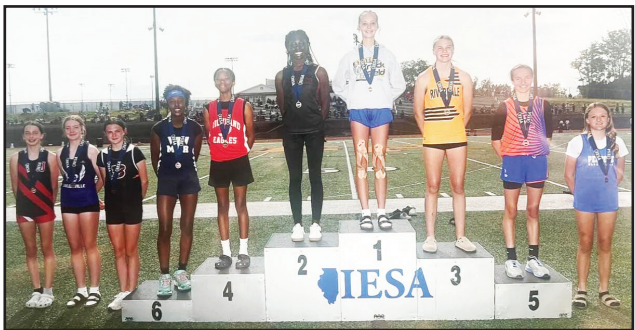
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SPORTS



Byron Middle School athletes medal at IESA State Championship in East Peoria

The Byron Middle School track and field program had several athletes compete and earn medals during the IESA State Championship at East Peoria High School from May 23-24. On the girls side, Byron's 400-meter relay group of Harper Hogan, Kenna Boyer, Hadley Considine and Mila Snyder medaled in fourth with a time of 53.84 seconds. Byron also earned medals in the 200-meter dash (Hadley Considine - second in 27.08 seconds and Mila Snyder - fourth in 27.49 seconds), high jump (Bella Engberg - eighth at 1.34 meters), pole vault (Iris Nielsen - fifth at 2.21 meters) and long jump (Hadley Considine - seventh at 4.72 meters). On the boys side, Byron medaled in the discus (Brooks Auker - third at 46.15 meters), shot put (Jared Althoff - seventh at 13.15 meters) and the long jump (Briggs Hubbard - eighth at 5.03 meters). (Courtesy photos)

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

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

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

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

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"Building Faith for Life"
6467 N. German Church Rd., Byron, IL - Ph. (815) 246-2685 - beaconhillbyron.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 448, Byron, IL 61010
Pastor: Gary Cortese
Service Times: Sundays at 10AM; Wednesday night Faith-Lift at 6:30PM
Find us on Facebook/Byron 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 815-938-3203Pastor Scott Ralston
Sunday Worship 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:00 am

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

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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.
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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

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102 N. Maple Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-4853 secretary@disciplesumc.org
www.disciplesumc.org
Pastor Marcia Peddicord

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

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

MT. MORRIS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 E. Brayton Rd. Mt. Morris, IL Phone: 734-6354 Rev. Josh 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

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ECCOCministries@gmail.com 107 N Daysville Rd. Oregon, IL Phone: 815-732-2960
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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.
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LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST
Pastor Dave Rogula 4962 S. Daysville Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 lighthouseUMC@yahoo.com
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1831 S Harmony Rd. Oregon, IL 61061
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Pastor: Norman Reinford 779-861-3700

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

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

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

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

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

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114 S. 5th St. Oregon, IL. Phone: (815) 732-2367
Website: stpaulnalcoregonil.weebly.com
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Crave Youth Group (6th-12th grade) ~ Wed. 6:30PM - June 1st.

Visit our website: www.crossroadscn.com

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

STILLMAN VALLEY

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

WINNEBAGO

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



Flag Etiquette

Flying the Flag At Night

THE flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if well lit during the hours of darkness. The Congressional Research Service reports that the dignity accorded to the banner is preserved by lighting that prevents its being enveloped in darkness.

If you feel your flag should wave during nighttime hours, it's important to have a sufficient light source to display its recognizable stars and stripes. Here are some ideas to consider when creating a patriotic display.

If you're flagpole is not around an electrical source, you have a few different options to provide light. Remember your budget when you decide which avenue is the best for your yard.

Extension cord: One way to achieve a beam of light is investing in a light bulb rated for outdoor use. Check your local hardware store for a spike-mounted beam so you can easily transport it out of your way during daytime hours. You also could choose a heavy-duty extension cord designed

to handle the electricity required for extended periods of time.

Outdoor outlet: If you would rather have a permanent light fixture in your yard to display Old Glory, assistance from a licensed electrician is a must. They can tap into your home's current electrical source and install an approved outdoor outlet.

Solar lights: Modern solar power is incredibly efficient as a light source; just be sure it has the power and durability to maintain its shine overnight.

If you intend to wave

your flag 24 hours, it's crucial to have a banner that can withstand the extended use and inclement-outdoor elements. According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed." An all-weather flag provides you with a banner that is made of high-quality materials while being able to flow in the breeze.

During your search, look for flags made from a nylon material for ex-



tra-long use or heavy-weight cotton to maintain a traditional appearance while boosting durability.

Showing Respect For the Flag

The Flag Code was adopted to protect our nation's symbol of freedom and accomplishment of those who have served. If you are unfamiliar with the rules of the banner, it's possible to be unintentionally disrespectful.

LEARN the basics from Chapter 4 U.S.C 8, to understand how to honor the flag, per the Government Publishing Office.

The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.

The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The flag should never be

used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.

The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.

The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, word, figure, design, picture or any drawing of any nature.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



"You're the emblem
of the land I love.
The home of the free
and the brave."
- George M. Cohan



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Flag Etiquette

Restore and Repair Your Flag

LIGHT damage or a dirty appearance doesn't always mean a flag should be retired. In fact, the Flag Code encourages banners to be cleaned or mended when necessary. Before committing to a retirement ceremony, try to prolong a flag's duty with maintenance or repairs. While it is disrespectful for a flag to touch the ground, it can happen during regular raising and lowering.

It's important to eliminate the dirt or grime immediately to avoid a lasting stain.

If you are unsure on how to properly wash your American flag, don't hesitate to visit a local-dry cleaner. Most experts can analyze the current condition and decide a best course of action. It's important to follow their cleaning instructions, as improper techniques may cause irreversible damage to your banner. Here are a couple of ways to prolong the life of your symbol of American tradition and heritage.

At-Home Washing

For those who can clean a flag without the help of a professional service, special care should be administered. If possible, reach out to the manufacturer for specific cleaning instructions. For most materials, it's easy to get great results by hand-washing your banner in cold water, with a mild detergent. Make sure to lay the flag flat while it dries and avoid hanging or folding it while wet. This will help its recognizable colors stay in place without bleeding into one another.

Once you have completed the cleaning, inspect it to ensure the filth has been removed and there are not issues like holes or frays. Routine cleaning is important to maintain and examine the integrity of a flag as elements like dirt, salt and air pollutants can have a negative impact.

Repair

If you notice small tears in the fabric of your banner, immediate repair it to limit the amount of damage. A small imperfection can be exposed during rippling winds or poor weather conditions. This correction is usually best left to the experts as frequent modifications can alter the appearance and size, leading it to a state where retirement is necessary.

Search for a flag-repair facility in your area or seek assistance from patriotic organizations to find a professional.

How to celebrate Flag Day

The flag of the United States be 13 alternate stripes red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." This resolution by John Adams was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, placing our nation's banner in the spotlight as a respected symbol.

AS new states gained independence and entered the United States, the number of stars and stripes increased. However, in 1818, Congress enacted a law to restore the original 13 stripes and only include additional stars to symbolize incoming states. A century after enacting the Flag Resolution, the first Flag Day was observed on June 14, 1877.

While Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a day of recognition for the banner in 1916, it wasn't until 1949 when regulators officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance. Do you know how you are going to celebrate this year? Consider sharing the occasion with your

peers and loved ones.

June 14 is a day to celebrate the historic symbolism of our nation's banner. You can do your part by donating your time or resources to benefit the occasion.

Reach out to local leaders to inquire about volunteering to help raise flags throughout your community. Many businesses and public parks in your area may need help acquiring and displaying the banner. You also can offer to donate flags to ensure there are enough throughout the area. Consider hosting a community event inviting peers and neighbors to celebrate the day. Make it an event where others reflect on what the flag means to them and praise the active or retired service people

in their lives.

If you are an educator, Flag Day is an awesome opportunity to teach your students about their responsibility to respect the symbol. Take the following ideas from the National Education Association when developing a positive lesson plan.

History of Flag Day: Discuss the origins and importance of the holiday.

Changes to the flag: The banner hasn't always appeared the same, its history is an interesting and entertaining story to show students how the country has evolved.

Overview of the War of 1812: Explain how the significance of this conflict had in shaping the Star-Spangled Banner and its connection to the flag.



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Flag Etiquette



The Pledge of Allegiance

THE Pledge of Allegiance gained its first major publicity through an official program called the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day. It was Sept. 8, 1892 when the prose was printed in the Youth's Companion leaflet and distributed to schools throughout the country.

While it has seen a few revisions since its original form was penned by Francis Bellamy, it became a staple in classrooms while remaining unrecognized by Congress. According to the American Legion, it wasn't until 1942, when the Pledge was officially included in the United States Flag Code and 1945 when the official name of the Pledge of Allegiance was adopted.

When discussing the Pledge of Allegiance with younger children, explain that it is an opportunity to display

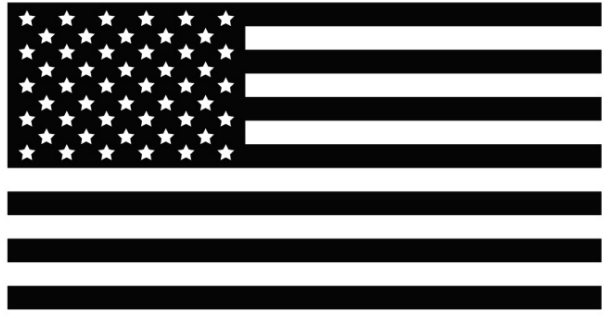
their loyalty as a citizen to our country. It should be considered an act of unity for students to stand together and pay their respect to America's banner. Children should be encouraged to learn more about the meaning of the Pledge, rather than only recite the words.

Much like the National Anthem, there is a proper way to show your respect to the flag during the Pledge. Here are the steps, from the U.S. Flag Code.

The pledge is to be recited by standing at attention; Face the flag and place the right hand over the heart; People in uniform must face the flag, remain silent and take the military salute; and those not in uniform must remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand, place it on their left shoulder, in such a way that their right hand is over the heart.



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Flag Etiquette

Facts About the American Flag

Whether you're an educator yourself or a parent who loves their country (and its flag), impress the kiddos in your life with these fun facts about the history of Old Glory.

THE colors of the United States flag are no accident. Red stands for bravery, valor and zeal; white symbolizes purity and innocence; blue for loyalty, devotion, vigilance,

perseverance and justice of our ancestors. Here are some fun facts about the American flag.

Nicknames for the American flag include: the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory and the Star-Span-

gled Banner.

The blue union holds 50 stars to represent the states that make up the United States, the stripes symbolize the 13 original states.

The flag was created to

celebrate the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain.

On June 14, (now Flag Day) 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act which ultimately established the new flag for

America.

The first official flag featured its signature red and white stripes but had a bare blue union. Stars were added later to signify the different states as they entered the union.

The current design of the flag has been the same since 1960, when Hawaii joined the union.

The United States flag should always be on top of a staff if multiple flags are flown.

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King Crossword

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

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

HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is longer. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

[illegible]

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2025 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

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)

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COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
OGLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS**
**IN THE MATTER OF
A CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE FOR A MOTOR
VEHICLE**
SPRING BROOK MHP,
LLC
an Illinois limited liability
company,
Plaintiff,
v.
MICHAEL FOX and,
CONSECO FINANCE,
Defendants
No. 2025CH13
**NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION**
Conseco Finance
That this case has
been commenced in
the Court against you
and other defendant
requesting the entry of
a Court Order directing
the Illinois Secretary of State issue title to
and in that certain
1979 Mobile Home:
VIN: 0130409N; Title
Number T0174763024,

located at 501 N. Ash
Avenue, Lot 11, For-
reston, Ogle County,
Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE,
UNLESS YOU file your
answer or otherwise file
your appearance in this
case in the Office of the
Clerk of this Court:
Clerk of the Circuit
Court
Ogle County Court-
house
106 S. Fifth Street
Oregon, IL 61061
On or before July 3,
2025. A DEFAULT
MAY BE ENTERED
AGAINST YOU AT
ANY TIME AFTER
THAT DAY AND A
JUDGEMENT MAY BE
ENTERED IN ACCOR-
DANCE WITH THE
PRAYER OF SAID
COMPLAINT.
Dated May 21, 2025
Kimberly A. Stahl
Clerk of the Circuit
Court,
Ogle County, Illinois
No. 0601
(June 2, 9 and 16,
2025)

**NOTICE OF FILING
OF PETITION
FOR ADOPTION**
STATE OF GEORGIA
SUPERIOR COURT
OF NEWTON COUN-
TY, GEORGIA
**IN THE INTEREST OF
C.M.V., a MALE MI-
NOR CHILD**
DOB: April 27, 2009
POB: Rockford, Illi-
nois
LEGAL FATHER: AH-
JAMAH JOHIND VAR-
NADO
LEGAL MOTHER: KA-
TIE MARIE (HESS)
LILLY
Civil Action No. 2025-
AD-4-2
**TO: BIRTH FATHER
OF C.M.V., whose
whereabouts are un-
known.**
By Order of the Court,
you are hereby ad-
vised that on or around

the 22nd day of April,
2025, a petition for the
adoption of the minor
child was filed in this
court. Said petition in-
cluded a motion to ter-
minate your rights and
obligations with re-
spect to the child, and
of the child arising to
him from the potential
parental relationship,
including the right to
inheritance. You will
neither receive notice
nor be entitled to ob-
ject to the adoption of
the child unless, within
30 days of receipt of
such notice, the bio-
logical father files:

(1) A petition to legiti-
mate the child pursuant
to Code Section 19-7-
22 as a separate civil
action;
(2) Notice of the filing
of the petition to legiti-
mate with the court in
which the action under
this Code section, if
any, is pending; and
(3) Notice of the filing
of the petition to legiti-
mate shall be served
upon Petitioner's at-
torney, W. Michael
Waters, Esquire, 1117
Church Street, P.O.
Box 150, Covington,
Georgia 30015, (770)
786-8123.
Witness the Honorable
Clerk of Superior Court
of Newton County, this
2nd day of June, 2025.

Stephanie Finnie,
Clerk of Superior Court
Newton County, Geo-
gia
No. 0603
(June 2, 9 and 16,
2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby
given that on May 28,
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:

Across The Tracks
Diner
312 E Hitt St
Mt. Morris, IL 61054

Dated: May 28, 2025
Laura J. Cook, Ogle
County Clerk
No. 0608
(June 02, 09 and 16,
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.

103 AUCTIONS

LAND

AUCTION

390.06 AC± | 4 TRACTS
OGLE/WINNEBAGO CO, IL

7/8/25 AT 1 PM
AUCTION HELD AT:
PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF
COURSE PAVILLION
6734 N GERMAN CHURCH RD
BYRON, IL 61010

IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC
TODD HENRY, AGENT: 815.997.2256

RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM

BARB & THE LATE KEVIN

ADAMS AUCTION

SAT. JUNE 14TH @ 10 A.M.

6710 E. WOODLAND DR.,

STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084

Sold Home, Will Sell: Nice selection of very clean items. Featuring 2021 John Deere Z345R Ztrak Mower; Savage Mark II .17 Mach 2 cal. Rifle; Ammo; John Deere Farm Toy Collection; Red Wing Stoneware Collection; Breyer Animals; Antiques; Primitives; Tools; Shop Equip.; Lawn & Garden; Household Items & Furniture; *More!*

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

AUCTIONEER

DIRECTORY

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

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

Lenny Bryson
Sales Of All Kinds
815-946-4120

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

BUY OR SELL Place A Classified Ad



201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless
licensed or holding a
permit as a childcare
facility, may cause
to be published any
advertisement soliciting
a child care service. A
childcare facility that is
licensed or operating
under a permit issued by
the Illinois Department
of Children and Family
Services may publish
advertisements of the
services for which it is
specifically licensed or
issued a permit. Your
Hometown Newspaper
strongly urges any
parent or guardian to
verify the validity of the
license of any facility
before placing a child in
its care.

203 HELP WANTED

Class-A CDL

Drivers Wanted

\$500 Sign on bonus

Earn up to

\$33/per hour

Local Trucking

Company seeking

full time,

year- round driver to

haul grain.

815-938-3644

Please

leave message.

09052022

301 ANTIQUES

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

203 HELP WANTED

Byron School District Opening
2025-2026 School Year

Lunchroom Supervisor
Middle School
2.75 hours

To submit an application:

Apply online at
www.byron226.org

1. Click on the MENU button
2. Go to the "About Us" section
3. Click the Employment Opportunities link

ROCHELLE

News-Leader

**Part-time local
delivery driver**

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

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

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

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

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

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

No phone calls please.

305 GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE: 412 N

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

OREGON/MT. MORRIS

Newer 1, 2 & 3 BR APTS.

Water, sewer, garbage inc.

w/most units. HOUSES

some w/garages, all in like

new condition.

Starting at \$425/mo.

815-734-4348

815-590-2302

Lemon Ave, Freeport, IL
61032; June 5-7 (if rain,
June 12-14); 9am-5pm;
Antiques, Collectables,
Knick knacks

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For
Sale. Contact 779-251-
0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

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

K&P SELF

STORAGE

1563 Kysor Drive, Byron
(next to D&W Garage)

815-247-8518

OUTSIDE STORAGE
NOW AVAILABLE

Storage Unit Sizes:

5' x 10' 10' x 10'

10' x 15' 10' x 20' 10' x 30'

Place an Ad:
Rochelle News-Leader
815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156

Subscribe:
Rochelle News-Leader
815-562-4171
Ogle County Life
815-732-2156

**All in the
Classifieds!**

03/25/2023

RNLHOUSE

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY • OGLE COUNTY

305
GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE - ROCHELLE
1207 Sunrise Ct
Thur. June 12 - 5p - 8p, Fri. June 13 - 8a - 5p &
Sat. June 14 - 8a - Noon
THE 5 BAY GARAGE IS LOADED!
Multi-Family Sale
Hunting gear and tools, bike and carrier, TV and electronics, weber gas grill, wheelbarrow, outdoor fountain, mid-century modern couch, baby to adult, loads of shoes, junior name brands, decorator and antiques, wall decor and clocks
Endless treasures!

06092025

GARAGE SALE JUNE 12, 13, & 14
8a - 5p
1021 4th Ave, Rochelle
Calling all who work with young children - selling all preschool materials, toys, educational games. Perfect for daycare, home school, preschool or kindergarten. 20 years of classroom materials must go!

PIA#8

Neighborhood GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 14
8:30a-5:00p
6 houses; multifamily
3327 S Manor Dr, Oregon, IL
3 mi south of HWY 64E on Daysville Road
Roomba vacuum; air purifier; dishwasher; bath vanity; Household items; Toys; kids, boys 10+, young woman's clothes; Something for everyone



PIA#9

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration
6331 11th Street | Rockford
06122024
New, Used, Scratch & Dent
Refrigerators
Freezers
Washers/Dryers
Stoves
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers
815-262-3900
We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

Recliner for Sale
Golden colored
Only 6-months old!
Just too big.
\$350 O.B.O.
Contact 815-297-4699

Targeted Local Advertising

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



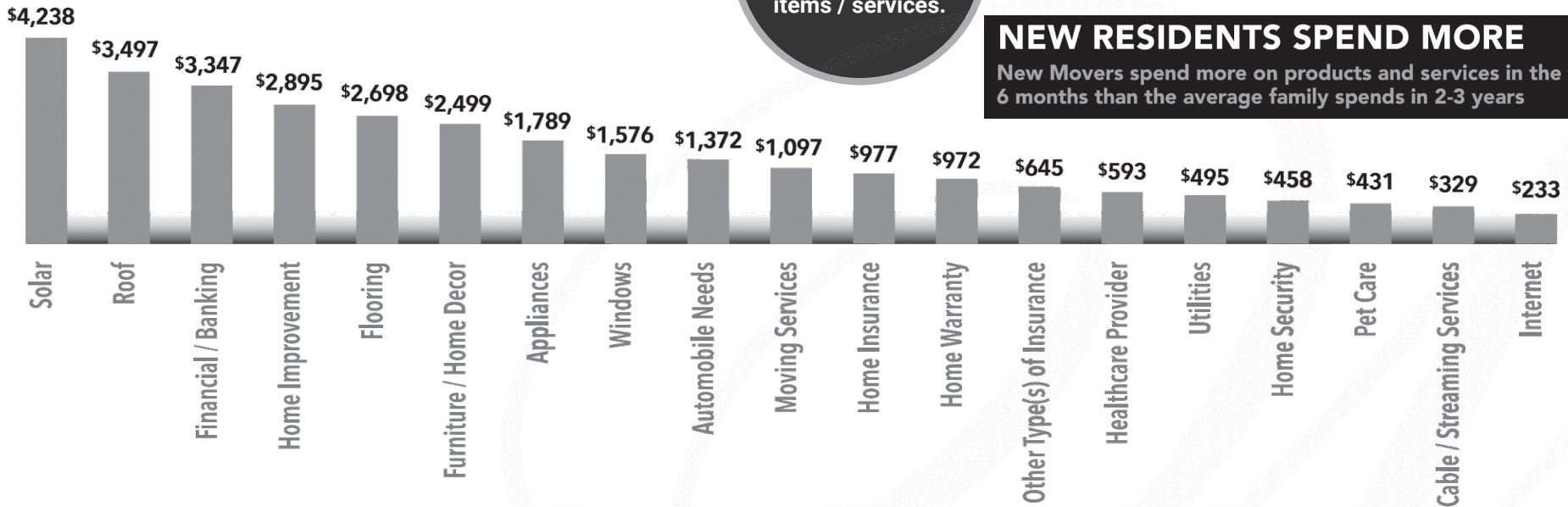
To learn more about advertising, contact one of our helpful ad consultants today.
815-732-2156

OGLE COUNTY
LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER

DecKalb & Ogle Counties Hometown Welcome Program



Reach an average of **332** new families per month



The average new mover spends over \$11,000 in the first 6 months.



Reaching approximately 11,952 new families in and around DeKalb & Ogle Counties each year!

211 Hwy 38, Rochelle • 815-562-4171

Contact your ad representative today!
Chris Ackland 815-561-2153
cackland@rochellenews-leader.com

90% of NEW MOVERS would be likely to try a new brand of items / services.

NEW RESIDENTS SPEND MORE
New Movers spend more on products and services in the first 6 months than the average family spends in 2-3 years

“EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR, HE’S FUNNY LIKE THAT.”
-TUCK adopted 05-04-11

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

adopt
theshelterpetproject.org

7 excellent reasons to advertise regularly

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

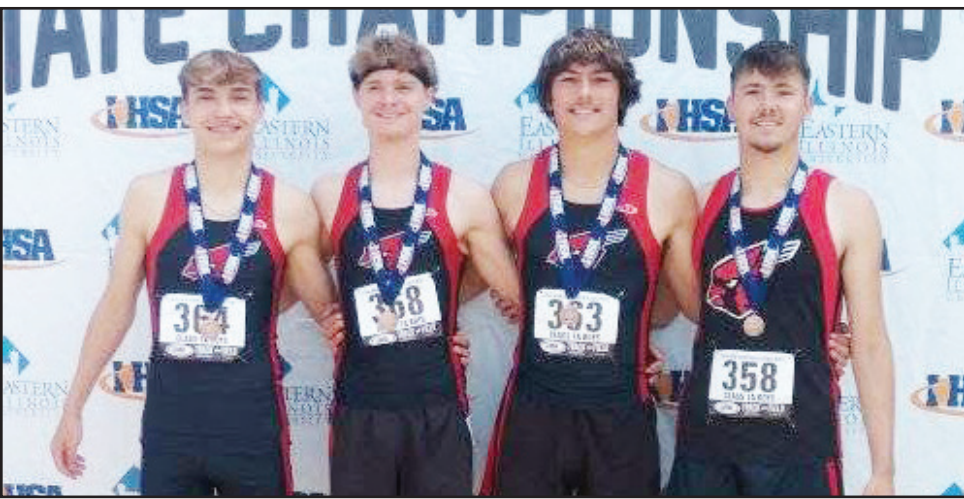
In short, regular advertising multiplies your chances of increasing your revenues.

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS



Gonzalez medals, Oregon Hawks send two athletes to IHSA 1A State Championship

Oregon High School's boys track and field team sent two athletes to the IHSA 1A State Championship at Eastern Illinois University from May 29-31. Daniel Gonzalez medaled in fourth in the 800-meter run with a PR time of 1:57.14 and Nick Burke finished 23rd in the pole vault with a clearance of 3.05 meters. (Courtesy photos)



Forreston-Polo boys track and field team completes season at IHSA 1A State Championship

The Forreston-Polo boys track and field team's season concluded at the IHSA 1A State Championship meet from May 29-31. Forreston-Polo medaled in three relay races. The 800-meter relay team (Eli Ferris, Brody Schwartz, Jon Milnes and Noah Dewey) finished fifth in 1:30.17. The 400-meter relay team (Mercer Mumford, Brody Schwartz, Jon Milnes and Noah Dewey) took sixth in 43.38 seconds and the 1600-meter relay team (Brody Schwartz, Hayden Vinnedge, Eli Ferris and Noah Dewey) placed eighth in 3:27.85. Forreston-Polo qualified athletes in the 400-meter dash (Hayden Vinnedge - 28th in 52.38 seconds), 110-meter hurdles (Eli Ferris - 15th in 15.67 seconds and Lucas Nelson - 36th in 16.58 seconds), shot put (Jakob Kobler - 34th in 13.22 meters), discus (Hunter DeWall - 11th in 44.55 meters), high jump (Eli Ferris - 15th in 1.83 meters and Jon Milnes - 18th in 1.78 meters) and triple jump (Billy Lowry). (Courtesy photo)

MT. MORRIS SENIOR CENTER

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

Potluck
Join us for a Potluck on Tuesday, June 10th at 12:00. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Lawn games
Do you like to play lawn games? On June 11th at 4:00 pm we will be doing just that on the lawn of The Center. Come have fun with us!

Flag Day
Our Flag Day Ceremony is Friday, June 13th at 11:00 am. Oregon Chamber of Commerce Director Chance Monroe will be our speaker and Serenity Hospice and Home will be there to honor all veterans who are present. Enjoy a free hotdog lunch after the ceremony. All are welcome!

UW-Stevens Point undergraduates honored for scholastic achievement

STEVENS POINT, Wis.—The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,400 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the spring semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.9 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

Students who received honors include:

Forreston: Aaron Anderson, High Honors and Montanna Heinz, Highest Honors.

Stillman Valley: Matthew Meyer, High Honors; Jack Orlando, Highest Honors and Cullen White, Honors.



LOCK IN
FOR 2025, 2026 & 2027

NIU FOOTBALL

SEASON

TICKET

RATES

WEST RESERVE AND GA ONLY
HUSKIE ATHLETIC FUND MEMBERSHIP NOT INCLUDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 815-753-7225 (PACK)
DEADLINE TO PURCHASE, JUNE 30TH

BERTOLET MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Closed June 7th
Bertolet Memorial Library will be closed Saturday, June 7th during Leaf River Daze. Enjoy the festival and we will see you on Monday!

Color Our World Summer Reading Program
Thursdays June 5th-June 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!

June Book of the Month
In The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters, Ruthie, a child from a native tribe in Nova Scotia, disappears a few weeks after her family arrives to pick blueberries in Maine. Her brother was the last one to see her and it affects him for the rest of his life. Norma, the daughter of a wealthy family, has strange recurring dreams that her family puts off to imagination. Is there truth in what she is dreaming? Find out today and pick up a copy at the circulation desk.

June Take & Make Craft
Welcome in summer with a beach themed craft, a sand dollar. Pick up your kit at the circulation desk today.

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
The Jackal's Mistress by Chris Bohjalian
The Prisoner by B.A. Paris (LP)

Chapter Book
Mr. Pei's Perfect Shapes by Julie Leung

Picture Book
There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Rainbow! by Lucille Colandro
There's No Such Thing As Vegetables by Kyle Lukoff



SERVICES

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Storm Clean Up
- Lawncare
- Landscaping
- Spring & Fall Clean-Up
- Shrubbery Trimming & Planting
- Mulching
- Forestry Cutting





Gabriel Mack
pineview@daystar.io

Phone • Fax
779-251-0254 • 815-946-4372

LOCAL NEWS

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Level Up at Your Library summer reading program has begun!

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!

Summer Reading Program Program Schedule

Registration required for all programs. 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. Registration required.

JULIA HULL DISTRICT LIBRARY

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. May

tion requested. Wednesday, June 11, Dungeons & Dragons-One Shot, 6 pm, (13 yrs. & up). Here's your chance to learn how to play the iconic board game featured in "Stranger Things" & other TV shows. Gamemaster Alex Lazdins will guide players through a self-contained adventure, explaining the rules & gameplay of the popular roleplaying game. Space is limited. Monday, June 16 Story Time 10 am (18 months -6 yrs.) Tuesday, June 17, Activity Time, 1:30 pm (grades 1st & up) Thursday, June 19, River's Edge Farmers Market, Bubble Time! 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Summer Eats

Free Meals for Kids & Teens (provided by the United Way of Lee County). Grab-and-go meals are provided free of charge to all kids and teens. No registration or paperwork required. Three kid-friendly lunches plus extra goodies will be available to each person. Pick up at the Oregon Public Library. Stop in and ask a librarian for more info. Lunches are available until supplies last and are resupplied each week.

Ogle County Mini

26 - Aug 2.

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.

Food Center Pantry

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

Book Clubs

The 2WBC meets Wednesday, June 11, at 12:30 to discuss The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan. The Afternoon Book Club meets Wednesday, June 18, at 1 pm to discuss James by Percival Everett. Cocktails and Crime will meet June 22, so stop by the Library to find out title, location and time. Is This Just Fantasy? Book Club will meet in June at 6 pm at the Library to discuss Paladin's Grace by T. Kingfisher. Books on Tap Book Club will meet Thursday, June 26 at 6 pm at Cork & Tap to discuss The

Last Animal by Ramona Ausubel.

Ink with A Friend Monthly Card Club

Monday, June 16 at 6:00 pm. Sending personal cards to your friends and family is a way to let them know you care and are thinking about them. All designs include beautiful colored cardstock, gorgeous designer series paper, detailed stamped images, die-cut pieces, matching ink, ribbon, and embellishments. All cards come with matching envelopes. Whether you're a new card maker or a seasoned pro, our kits are suited to every skill level. Don't wait! Sign up today to reserve your spot. Oregon Patrons only. Registration required, call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com

Try It Tuesday

Tuesday, June 17 at 1:30 pm or 5:30 pm (Choose your time slot). Fourth of July Wreath. Be ready to welcome the 4th of July with your own handmade clothespin wreath. This is an adult only class, 18 and up. Registration required, please call (815) 732-2724 or visit www.oregonpubliclibrary.com.

Functional Fitness

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.

Maintaining Lawn & Garden Tools

When it comes to working in your yard, having high quality tools in mint

condition makes any outdoor job simpler and more efficient. Join Master Gardener, Phil Britta, for a tutorial on cleaning lubrication, sharpening and maintaining your garden tools to keep them in good working condition. Tuesday, June 24, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

Knit & Crochet

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

Photo Printer at the library!

The library has a photo printer capable of printing 4

x 6, 5x7, 8x10, and 8.5 x 11 from computer, USB drive or SD card. It will not print directly from a phone. Call for more info.

Community Seed Library

It's not too late to plant a garden this year. You can't beat the taste of fresh food that you grow yourself. Come in and browse our seed library. Seeds are FREE for anyone.

Oregon Writers Group

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

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

Call 815-732-2724, follow the prompts and presto... a story! Current story- The Book Without a Story by Carolina Rabei. Available at the StoryWalk is Have You Seen Gordon? by Adam Jay Epstein.

with games and crafts. Friday, June 27, 1 p.m. Ages 5-9. Registration required: 815-645-8611.

European Travel: Portugal? PortoGo!

The sun shines on Portugal: its stunning cliffs, teal-blue waters, tiled buildings, windswept castles and mosaic-laid streets. Join frequent fliers, Joanna and Wayne, for an inspirational journey through this beautiful country: its regions, sample itineraries and insider tips. Monday, June 30, 6 p.m. Adults. Registration required: 815-645-8611.




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Friday, June 13 - 4pm to 7pm
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