

# The SHOPPER

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VOL. 20 • ISSUE 43 **FREE** THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 2019



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# Police beat

The following arrests are on file at the Loves Park and Machesney Park Police Dept. Readers are reminded that suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Loves Park

### Sept. 22

Forest Hills/Park Terrace – Crystal L. Euell, 27, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license and speeding

4702 N. 2nd St. – Ryan C. Smalley, 28, on charges of a warrant/summons/subpoena

### Sept. 23

400 River Park Road – Erik L. Mahnesmith, 26, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no registration, improper use of registration, and a suspended/revoked driver's license

East Dr./E. Riverside Blvd. – Cristoffer D. Haurymcdaniel, 23, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

Riverside/Second – Adriana Benavides-Quinones, 33, on charges of driver's license offenses

4900 N. 2nd St. – Kody J. Hallstrom, 26, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a registration/title violation and a suspended/revoked driver's license and speeding

### Sept. 24

5854 Beechwood Dr. – Benjamin P. Knodle, 28, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

7650 N. Alpine Road – Donna M. Day, 60, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving under the influence of alcohol

Forest Hills/Park Terr. – Seth Brumfield, 19, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no driver's license, speeding, and traffic light violations

### Sept. 25

6000 N. 2nd St. – Kellen V. Heald, 32, on charges of battery and resisting/obstructing officer

Second/Grand – Jazmine Joy Daniels, 27, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no registration, a registration/title violation, and no driver's license

Second/Grand – Mentrell Collier, 31, on charges of seatbelt violations

River/Second – Kevin M. Long, 29, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with suspended registration and a suspended/revoked driver's license

Riverside/Perryville – Ashley N. Garman, 29, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, improper lane usage, muffler violations, resisting/obstructing officer, and multiple warrants/summons/subpoenas

4800 N. Second St. – Albert F. Scott, 36, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

Second/Sheridan – Kyle James Murphy, 26, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, failure to signal/improper signal, and muffler violations

Second/Sheridan – Eric T. Fletcher, 25, on charges of multiple warrants/summons/subpoenas

### Sept. 26

Harlem/Venus – Jessica M. Bozavsky, 35, on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, traffic signal violation, and improper lane usage

Second/Windsor – Mindy K. McClanahan, 47, on charges of reckless driving, traffic signal violation, improper lane usage, and speeding

Nimtzt/Perryville – Steven Ruiz, 23, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a registration/title violation and a suspended/revoked driver's license

Second/Cottage – Stephanie Paz, 26, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

### Sept. 27

Riverside/Wilson – Marquan T. McCray, 24, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an in-state warrant

3849 Northridge Dr. – Tamika Randle, 42, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended registration (no insurance), and a suspended/revoked driver's license

Forest Hills Road/Windsor Road – Brandice M. Villareal, 44, on charges of a warrant/summons/subpoena

## Machesney Park

### Sept. 23

236 Northway Park Road – John R. Valery, 33, on charges of disorderly conduct (not drunkenness) and resisting/obstructing an officer

### Sept. 24

N. 2nd/Swanson Road – Latravious M. Robinson, 21, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no registration and a suspended/revoked driver's license

### Sept. 25

7613 Grenville St. – Kellen V. Heald, 32, on charges of domestic battery

5199 Zenith Pkwy. – Jinlee Im Bredeson, 20, on charges of domestic battery and illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor

N. 2nd St./West Lane Road – Amy L. Banta, 38, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with no driver's license, improper lane usage, and traffic accident with no injury

N. Alpine Road/West Lane Road – Aaron M. Rohda, 37, on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol (aggravated)

### Sept. 26

11620 Dorothea Ave. – Dustin C. Watkins, 36, on charges of domestic battery

Contractors Dr./Forest Hills Road – William M. Thomas, 49, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

9833 N. Alpine Road – Samuel R. Giuffre, 20, on charges of retail theft, unlawful entry (no force), and possession of burglary tools

### Sept. 27

N. Perryville Road/West Lane Road – Francisco J. Galindo III, 26, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with no driver's license and speeding

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# Weekly connection

## The joy of grandparenting

It's kind of amazing how important a grandparent's relationship is with their grandkids. I loved my grandpa and grandma when they were alive and with us. Grandma used to fuss over us kids and pour out her affection on us at every opportunity. She giggled a lot when we were racing around being kids. We loved her, but Gramps was our idol. He was so hard working, yet kind and loving to all he met. He took an interest in each one of us grandkids, and treated us all like we were his favorites. He knew everything we thought. He was truly our hero.

I remember riding with Gramps into the grain elevator with a full truckload of wheat, beans, or corn. He worked at the steel mill during the week, but was always at the farm bright and early on Saturday mornings throughout the summer lending a helping hand with the work. There was always plenty of work to get done, but it was more than just work with Gramps. He shared his life with us. On those trips to the elevator, Gramps would notice how I used to stare at the pop machine over by the office door. Those big sixteen



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

ounce glass bottles of pop looked so delightful and enticing on those hot summer or early fall days of harvest. He would dig down in the pocket of his gray work pants and pull out a couple of dimes and hand them to me and tell me to grab us a couple of bottles of Orange Crush. Boy, did they ever taste good!

We never got pop at home unless it was once in a while in the summer when we would stop on the way home from church and grab a gallon of A & W Root Beer. Anyway, after a couple more trips into the elevator, gramps would slip me a couple nickels and tell me to grab a couple of Almond Joy candy bars. He loved those and so did his grandsons. I was lucky that I got to ride with Gramps a lot of the time. You see I was the youngest of the first six kids and

wasn't able to do a lot of fieldwork so he took me along with him.

Gramps always ranted and raved about my mom's cooking and especially her pies. He constantly said we should lay down and rest for fifteen minutes after lunch and so many times we would go outside and lay down in the grass under the big oak tree and rest after we ate. He loved coming over and working on the farm with us and we loved it when he came over, that's for sure. We adored him and I know he loved us too. I remember at my wedding after Grandma had passed away, Gramps came down the aisle after the service with tears streaming down his face he said, "I'm so proud of you boys!" I'll never forget that.

Now that I'm a grandpa I find that my mind goes back to my own grandpa a lot. It's almost like I'm reliving some of my own wonderful memories with him with my own grandkids. I love them all so much. I love to tease them, wrestle around with them, do tricks on the floor with them, push them on the swings, or help them ride their bikes. It's so much fun

to read books to them and make up silly stories to tell them. We just can't get enough of our grandkids. We have been so blessed to have these beautiful little people in our lives.

It's also great to share our love for the Lord and to pray with them whenever we can. Psalm 103:17 says; "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting

to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to your children's children." I used to go to church with my grandpa and listen to him sing the great hymns of the faith. His love for the Lord was instrumental in the development of my own faith in Christ. It's my prayer that I can do the same for mine. Until next week, God bless.

## Loves Park fire calls

The Loves Park Fire Dept. responded to 43 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls from Sept. 23 to 29.

- Sept. 22**  
309 Belteberg Road – gas leak
- Sept. 23**  
5370 Painted Pony – carbon monoxide alarm
- Sept. 24**  
8002 Harlem Road – water rescue
- Sept. 25**  
7260 N. Alpine Road – rubbish fire
- Sept. 26**  
4702 N. 2nd St. – fire alarm
- 7150 E. Riverside Blvd. – sprinkler activation
- 5658 Covey Ridge Tr. – gas leak
- Sept. 27**  
4342 Stone Quarry Road – MA-BAS Boone Co. #2 – structure fire
- Sept. 28**  
1019 E. Hosmer St. – odor investigation

## The Gazette Drop Box

For our readers and advertisers convenience we have a drop box located at Summit Fitness, 219 Main St., Peconica. We offer 24/7 access to our drop box. You are welcome to drop off wedding and engagement information and photos, subscription renewals, classified ads, letters to the editor, all news items and whatever else you have for the newspaper.

**(815-) 239-1028**

282269

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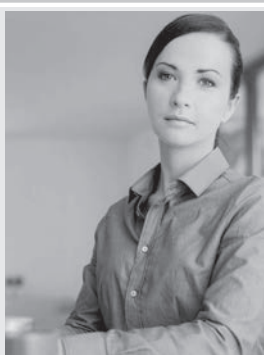
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*Puzzle answers on page 11!*

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 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**Statepoint crossword • Theme: World Series**

**ACROSS**

- At a great distance
- \*TV network, last aired World Series in 1993
- Biological blueprint
- "For" in Spanish
- Clarified butter
- Kind of Wrangler
- Foolish person
- Capital of Latvia
- More so than #16 Down
- \*As opposed to #51 Across
- Grateful Dead's kind of rock
- Like Hitler's ideal
- Bugling ungulate
- \*2018 World Series winner
- Like default settings
- American cuckoo
- Interstellar cloud
- Female gamete
- Noonan in "Caddyshack"
- Olympic chant
- Related on mother's side
- Narc's unit
- Kind of acid
- Mountbatten-Windsor \_\_\_\_ Markle
- Financial deficit
- Made noise
- "I \_\_\_\_ You Babe"
- Next step for juvenile
- Dylan Thomas, e.g.
- \*League with most World Series victories
- Miss America's headgear
- \_\_\_\_ en scene
- Successor
- Picnic invaders
- Change for a five
- Marine eagle
- Unknown power
- \*Formerly known as Stockings
- Shirt is tied, then \_\_\_\_

**DOWN**

- City dwelling, abbr.
- Babe in the woods
- Cantatrice's offering
- Drum sound
- Formal dishes
- Between "begin" and "begun"
- Notary Public's mark
- Cold cuts store
- Demand
- Credit card acronym
- Breakwater
- \*Single series HR record holder
- Opposite of sun-kissed
- Often-missed humor
- \*Pitching stat
- Hard place to scratch?
- Currently broadcasting
- Sashay
- Surveyor's map
- \*1984 winner Darrell or 1986 loser Dwight
- Tutor's student
- \*World Series play-by-play announcer
- Take illegal drugs
- Fitting reward
- \*2018 losing team
- Cause for food recall
- Adam of "Stand and Deliver" fame
- Hardens
- I, to a Greek
- Used a back-scratcher, e.g.
- Kind of acid
- Spay
- Pub order
- Solemn promise
- Singer Tori
- Bald eagle's nest
- \*Positions on the field
- Summer glow
- \*Sock color of the 1918 and 2004 winners

**CROSSWORD**

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**Slices of life**

# When life doesn't go as planned

Life has not always worked out like I planned. And here's the thing – the more unplanned it becomes the more I learn. The more I grow – and trust. The better everything becomes.

I haven't always embraced this concept. What can I say? I have control issues.

But the more you try to harness control, the less you have of it. Illogical, but true – trust me.

My latest lesson involves my granddaughter. Isn't that fitting? A newbie human teaching an older human new tricks. You've got to love the irony. I know I do.

It started with an unfortunate situation as many life changes do. She started at a new daycare and had a few bad experiences in the first week, the last of them being a bump to the head.

We were devastated. Our daughter and son-in-law doubly so.

And we witnessed our 16-month old granddaughter's personality change in ways we couldn't have previously imagined. She went from being a feisty, confident toddler to a fearful, clingy, crying, sad little girl. I saw it with my own eyes and I knew something had to give.

I never, ever (never ever) set out to be a daycare grandma. I did my time in the trenches with my own four children, and while it was wonderful and worthwhile, I figured I was done. Ready to be done.

But then life happened and my granddaughter needed a safe place to go during the day.

My husband and I were crushed



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Contributer

by her situation and the way the circumstances had altered her personality.

"We can take her," he said.

I wasn't so sure. I work from home. I have responsibilities. I was worried about over-extending.

"We've got this," he said. "If you are busy, I've got this."

Over the years I've learned to trust his judgment.

The first day she arrived whimpering. She didn't want to stay. She asked for "mama" and

"dada" repeatedly. After about half an hour she calmed down.

By the third day the whimpering was gone. We had to distract her while mom left for work.

On the eighth day she waved to mommy and said "bye bye."

Within two weeks we've watched her go from fearful to fearless. And that, as they say, is priceless.

She's grown to love each of her three uncles and says two of their names clearly. The other she plays a pointing game with. She calls my husband "papa" and worries when he leaves the room: "Papa?" She doesn't have a name for me – yet, but that's not a concern. She is silly. Her personality has returned. Her love is palpable. As is the effect she's had on the household.

So there you have it. My husband and I never would have become daycare grandparents by choice, but it was something that was meant to be. I believe that now.

Our house is alive again. Alive and messy and loud with giggles and squeals of contentment and a dollop or two of scrambled eggs on the floor. We wouldn't have it any other way.

Even if not by choice. Because that's life and life can be wonderful if you let it be.

*Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author, and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook*

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## FF TIRE WORLD AND SERVICE CENTER Oil Change Service

Standard **\$14<sup>88</sup>** High Mileage **\$29<sup>99</sup>**  
 Full Synthetic **\$59<sup>99</sup>** Includes Top Off Service  
 Includes Synthetic Blend Motor Oil

- Most vehicles • Install new oil filter
- Refill up to 5 quarts motor oil (Additional quarts extra)
- Lubricate chassis (if applicable)
- \$3.00 disposal fee.

Ask about a  
**FREE TIRE ROTATION!**

Not to be combined with another offer. See store for details. Expires 10/24/19

## \$25 OFF ANY SERVICE OF \$150 OR MORE



*Must present coupon at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or tires. Expires 10/24/19*

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5257 SWANSON RD. ROSCOE  
2 MILES SOUTH OF  
HONONEGAH ELEVATOR ON RT. 251  
M-F: 8-5:30, SAT: 8-3  
**815637-4055**

### YOUR LOW PRICE TIRE STORE! [WWW.TIREDEALS.COM](http://WWW.TIREDEALS.COM)

520 LOGAN AVE. BELVIDERE  
3 BLOCKS EAST OF BELVIDERE PARK  
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1983 PAWLISCH DR.  
CHERRYVALE MALL  
M-F: 8-5:30, SAT: 8-3  
**815332-9445**

5302 N. 2ND LOVES PARK  
ACROSS FROM POPEYE'S  
M-F: 8-5:30, SAT: 8-3  
**815282-1177**



# Harlem-Roscoe fire calls

The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Dept. responded to the following calls on Sept. 20 to 27. They also responded to 46 medical calls.

**Sept. 20**  
600 block of Poppy Dr. – smoke alarm  
8200 block of Eddington Dr. – mutual aid  
I-90, Mile marker 5, westbound – semi fire

**Sept. 21**  
2000 block of Anjali Way – moving vehicle accident  
Gleasant/Roscoe Road – moving vehicle accident

**Sept. 22**  
13800 block of Pleasant Valley Road – wires on tree  
10200 block of Monarch Road – water problem

**Sept. 23**  
1300 block of Anvil Dr. – fire alarm  
9200 block of N. Alpine Road – el-

evator Problem  
9900 block of N. Alpine – machine on fire  
**Sept. 24**  
1300 block of Anvil Road – fire alarm  
9900 block of Clay Court – carbon monoxide alarm  
10100 block of N. Second – gas leak

**Sept. 25**  
1300 block of Anvil Dr. – fire alarm  
200 block of Elevator – moving vehicle accident  
5800 block of Harrison St. – fire alarm  
Alpine Road/West Lane Road – moving vehicle accident

**Sept. 26**  
Forest Hills/West Lane – moving vehicle accident  
2200 block of Ridge Ave. lock in  
I-90, mile marker 6, eastbound – steam scare on semi

# Death notices

**Sept. 23**  
Dolores Rhodes, 87; Aaron Enciso, 20; Mary Sohenk, 89; Martin Thorsen, 79; Darlene Kelley, 56

**Sept. 24**  
Harmonie Starks, 1; Susan Holton, 72; Anna Lawson, 96; Harold Sterbuck, 92; Jeremy Lones, 32; William Oberle, 76; Robert Smith, 81

**Sept. 25**  
William Sanders, 66; Nadine Hamas, 52; Donald Carlson, 77; Willard Bjornstad, 91; Lorraine Tervio, 90; Gary Young, 70; Ione Clark, 104; Corry Regnier, 80

**Sept. 26**  
Ralph Erickson, 94; William Hartshorne, 38; Marian Canpoli, 95; Beverly Rakowska, 91; Richard Taylor, 82; Rose Hovlid, 98; Kevin Richmond, 60; Jeanette Pimos, 93;

Louis D'Agnolo, 86; Larry Clark, 69; Sarah Taormino, 39; Ernestine Balsten, 76; Robert Rydholm, 70; Lloyd McNames, 87; Garry Tubbesing, 69; Nicklaus Sowl, 25; Dennis Helm, 81; Joyce Maxoy, 67

**Sept. 27**  
Timothy Diehl, 65; Irmgard Widell, 89; Rodney Vansickle, 63; Paul Groh, 83; Frank Slavin, 84

**Sept. 28**  
Robert Pittman, 87; Troy Hedrick, 82; Constance Lux, 62; Peter Gilgorevic, 81; Edward Davis, 68; Joan Eckert, 89; John Kuntze, 48; Bernice Hagemann, 80; Maurice Partridge, 74; Ada Tillery, 96; Rachel Smith, 76; Gordon Clark, 82

**Sept. 29**  
Paul Clausan, 88; Dean Whitcomb, 89; Boyd Holmstrom, 79; Robert Schaeffer, 76

**Sam's Club will be visiting  
Prairie View Winnebago  
Friday, Oct. 25 • 1-3 p.m.  
Stop by to take advantage of this offer!**



**NEW Club Members** will receive \$20 Sam's Club Gift Card & \$45 in Instant Savings  
*Includes a FREE Rotisserie Chicken*

**NEW Plus Members** will receive \$10 Sam's Club Gift Card & \$100 in Instant Savings  
*Includes a FREE Rotisserie Chicken & FREE Chocolate Chunk Cookies*

.....

**Renewing Club Members** will receive \$45 in Instant Savings  
*Includes FREE Rotisserie Chicken*

**Renewing Plus Members** will receive \$100 in Instant Savings  
*Includes FREE Rotisserie Chicken & FREE Chocolate Chunk Cookies*

.....

**Renewals can take place up to 6 months early with no-time lost**

.....

**Current members who upgrade to Plus will receive a \$10 gift card**

.....

**Club Membership = \$45 (per year)**  
**Plus Membership = \$100 (per year)**

Payment can be made by Cash, Check, Debit or Credit Card. Instant Savings items are loaded to your membership card for 30 days. All Memberships come with a 100% Money Back Guarantee. This offer is available the day of the event ONLY.

**500 E. McNair Rd., Winnebago, IL • 815-335-1800**

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*Not only do we stand behind our windows, we stand on them!*  
Local Owner  
**Scott Williamson**

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**Call Today For Your  
FREE ESTIMATE**

- America's Largest Home Improvement Company**
- Locally Owned & Operated
  - Professional & Insured Crews
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  - Serving Northern Illinois for nearly 15 years



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or Toll Free  
866-449-1333  
6010 Forest Hills Rd,  
Rockford, IL**

**www.windowworldrockford.com**  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm; Sat 9:00 am-Noon

# Annual FLU & PNEUMONIA SHOT CLINIC at Prairie View

**Friday, Oct. 18 • 1-3pm**  
*Snacks & refreshments will be served to all flu shot recipients*

Everyone welcome -  
No appointment necessary!

Bring your insurance or Medicare card!

**Out of pocket costs  
without insurance:**

- Flu shot: \$36.99
- High dose flu shot (for 65 yrs & over): \$66.95
- Pneumonia shot: \$123.99
- Prevnar 13 booster: \$227.99

Administered by Snyder's Pharmacy on site



**500 East McNair Road, Winnebago IL  
815-335-1800**

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The Journal • The Herald • The Gazette • Tempo • The Shopper  
The Independent-Register • The Clinton Topper • McHenry County News  
Belvidere Republican • The Scoop Today • The Shopper's Guide

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- ★ Police Beat
- ★ Local News
- ★ Upcoming Events
- ★ Church News
- ★ Legals
- ★ Auctions
- ★ Classifieds

**ROCK VALLEY**  
*Publishing* LLC



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Business Hours:

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For your convenience  
Visa & Mastercard  
are accepted



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BRANDS, INC.  
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MUST BE  
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**NOW HIRING!!!**

**1st, 2nd & 3rd SHIFT**

Lineworkers  
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Receive a FREE  
GIFT for  
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**\$11.25 up to \$18.50/** PER HOUR

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Oct 19  
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Employment Office  
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9:00am-1:00pm

Apply Today! **TEXT** ColonyJobs to 97211  
ColonyBrands.com 800-487-9477

**Byron Middle School**  
has the following  
extra-curricular vacancies:

- MS Boys Assistant Track Coach
- MS Builders Club Advisor
- MS Girls Head Track Coach
- MS Girls Assistant Track Coach
- MS Assistant Cross Country Coach

Interested individuals should apply online at [www.byron226.org](http://www.byron226.org) under the "About Us" tab in Employment Opportunities section.

**FIND YOUR NEXT JOB IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

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Experience helpful but not necessary.  
Call 815-765-1551.  
Apply in person: 2255 Route 173, Caledonia, IL

**BYRON CUSD #226**  
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Call today to request an application!  
1-815-339-2140  
Immediate Openings for 1 & 2 BR apartments. Rent includes water, sewer & trash. Amenities are: range/refrigerator, A/C, off street parking, W/D hook-ups as well as on-site laundry.  
Now managed by  
**Haun Management Systems,**  
an equal opportunity provider.

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## FOR SALE

**Farm Market**

**GARAGE SALES**

**Rockton-Roscoe Garage Sales**  
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**Free**  
CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

**IT'S GARAGE SALE TIME AGAIN!**

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2005 BUICK LA SABRE LIMITED V6, leather, cruise, auto A/C, very clean. Runs great, 55K. \$3,300. 262-767-7401. Leave message.

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2014 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD, 39k, one owner, garage kept, asking \$15,100. 262-353-6029

2014 CHEVY IMPALA 133,000 mi., V6, 4 dr., \$8,900 262-770-0557

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GET UP TO \$500 for your unwanted junk truck, running or not, will haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807.

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**Campers and RVs**

1993 JAYCO 1208 POP UP CAMPER \$1,400 Call or text (262-758-2089)

2006 30FT. DURANGO 5th Wheel. 2 slides, sleeps 6. A-1 shape. \$7,400. 815-335-2094.

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INTERNATIONAL M TRACTOR 1949 with narrow front end. 3 point hitch, thresher pulley, runs great. \$2800. Days 262-909-2878, eve., 262-862-7070.

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2000 SUZUKI INTRUDER 1500 Excel. cond. Cobra pipes, mustang seat, new tires & windshield. \$1,950 OBO. 262-909-5656.

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'67 MUSTANG DISASSEMBLED Many new parts, too much to list. \$6,000 OBO. Dennis 262-914-1091.

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2009 FORD ESCAPE Great shape, garage kept. \$4,000 OBO. 815-248-4638.

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**Vans, Mini Vans**

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Call **815-877-4044** to place your classified ads DEADLINE IS NOON ON MONDAY

**Rock Valley Publishing LLC**

# The postscript

## Pinecones

By Carrie Clason  
COLUMNIST

I saw him just a moment too late, coming down the path.

I wasn't expecting anyone to come down this section of the trail. No one ever did. At least I never saw anyone, which is why I was messing around with the pinecones.

Okay, I better start at the top.

The whole thing started because there was a line of pinecones crossing the trail and it caught my attention. It was just few enough that it could have happened by chance. Did it? I stopped and looked at them. Then, just because I couldn't help myself, I suppose, I straightened up the line. Then I added a few more until there was a perfect line of pinecones running across the trail. This pleased me probably more than I should admit.

The next day, the line was intact, but the day after that my line was all messed up. Was it deer? Were humans responsible? Now I was curious. So, I straightened out my line and made it a bit longer. It became my little thing. Okay, it became one of the many little things I do that I think of as harmless but a less charitable person might view as a latent compulsive disorder or early onset dementia.

Then, one day, I was caught.

He was wearing a bright blue puff jacket so I should have seen him coming but I was busy scavenging up some new cones so my line could be really impressive. Plus, I had to replace some cones because there had clearly been some trail bike traffic and several of my cones in the center had been squashed flat and I was right in the middle of doing this when... there he was.

"Hi," I said.

"Hi," he answered, looking down at my pinecones.

"I, uh, I just like to do this to see if there's been anyone on the trail," I said, sounding even more foolish than

I imagined I would.

"Well, we've all got our little thing," he said in what was clearly an attempt to explain inexplicable behavior.

And I thought about the many habitual things—like these pinecones—that I do and have done over the years, daily rituals and quirks that made me unreasonably happy. As far as I could tell, my well-maintained pinecone line was doing no harm and coming upon it every day filled me with a feeling of satisfaction that was hard to either explain or justify.

Oh well, I thought. I'll never see him again!

But I did—the very next day.

I had not yet gotten to my line of pinecones and he had just passed them when we met.

"How're my pinecones doing?" I asked.

"They look good," he said. "Maybe a little disturbance along one end," he added. He seemed like a nice person. He had a smile on his broad face and a trace of a foreign accent.

"You think I'm a crazy person, don't you?" I asked.

"Aren't we all?" he answered. The way he said it, it didn't sound like a rhetorical question.

And I suppose he might be right. We're all struggling—in some way—to make sense of a world that often moves too fast and changes too quickly. This tidy line of pinecones lets me keep track of one tiny spot in the world. In a very small (probably crazy) way, it helps me make sense of things.

He started to leave, then stopped.

"Oh..." he said, and his smile grew broader, "I did add one yesterday."

"Excellent," I told him.

Excellent.

Till next time,

Carrie

*Learn about Carrie at CarrieClason.com.*

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# Northern Illinois & Southern Wisconsin

# Classifieds

Cont. from previous page

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising  
Email: [vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com](mailto:vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com)  
Fax: (262) 725-6844

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**Loves Park**  
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Expires 10/24/19

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Install new oil filter • Includes up to 5 quarts of 5W30  
Lubricate chassis (if necessary) • Free brake inspection  
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Expires 10/24/19

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**BRAKES • ALIGNMENT • AIR CONDITIONING  
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ENGINE REPLACEMENT • HEAD GASKETS  
INTAKE GASKETS • AND MORE**

**FREE**  
**Lube, Oil & Filter  
Change**  
**With the purchase of 4 tires**  
*Cannot be combined with any other offer*