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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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TODAY



Stillman Bank
presents checks

Stillman Bank recently
made donations to
Foundation for Focus
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Page 3

WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
72 54	73 57
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 56	70 56

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OBITUARIES

• WAYNE JEROME
FURMAN

See page 4

INSERTS

• MENARDS
• LIVING 50+

INSIDE

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8 52078 00112 6

Ogle County no longer liable for \$17.3 million after Constellation agreement

County Board approves 2024 holiday schedule

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — At the monthly meeting Tuesday of the Ogle County Board, Chairman John Finfrock said the county received official notification Tuesday from the Property Tax Appeal Board that it is no longer liable for \$17.3 million worth of taxes following an agreement with Exelon/Constellation and the Byron Nuclear Plant regarding real property tax assessment that it approved unanimously in June.

“That was good news,” Finfrock said. “So now we start fresh with Constellation. We passed that agreement with them and that was a really big step. I thank the people that were on that committee and worked to do that.”

The agreement made the plant's equalized assessed valuation \$500 million for the years of 2022-2027. Back in June, Finfrock called the agreement “good for all of the taxing bodies in the county.” The county liability for \$17.3 million was from 2012 on.

Finfrock said back in June that after the sixth



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At the monthly meeting Tuesday of the Ogle County Board, Chairman John Finfrock said the county received official notification Tuesday from the Property Tax Appeal Board that it is no longer liable for \$17.3 million worth of taxes following an agreement with Exelon/Constellation and the Byron Nuclear Plant regarding real property tax assessment that it approved unanimously in June.

year, it's expected that Exelon will possibly add more to its current station, at which point the county and taxing bodies could then renegotiate and possibly increase the taxing dollars after that.

Holiday schedule

The board voted 14-9

to approve the county's holiday schedule for 2024. It includes New Year's Day (Jan. 1), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12), Washington's Birthday (Feb. 19), Good Friday (March 29), Memorial Day (May 27), Juneteenth Independence Day (June 19), Independence Day (July 4), Labor

Day (Sept. 2), Columbus Day (Oct. 14), General Election Day (Nov. 5), Veteran's Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday (Nov. 28-29) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25).

Some board members took issue with the number of holiday dates.

See COUNTY page 2

Area departments respond to Erie Foods fire

Fire in mill machinery causes box alarm level, evacuation

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Erie Foods in Rochelle was the site of a fire early Thursday evening, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Zach Prewett said.

Rochelle Fire was called to the industrial business at 1201 S. Main St. at 5:32 p.m. for the report of an active fire in mill machinery. The building was evacuated by staff on site and fire crews saw heavy black smoke on approach, which caused it to elevate the situation to the box alarm level, calling in its off-duty personnel and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District stations of Hillcrest, Creston, Flagg Center and Steward, along with DeKalb, Ashton and Lynn-Scott-Rock.

“We were directed to the machinery that was on fire by staff on site, and we've had some experience with it when they've had issues before,” Prewett said. “We made entry and extinguished the fire. It was confined to just that piece of machinery. We then ventilated the building with some fans and helped

them to move some of the standing water out of there.”

Prewett praised Erie Foods staff for their work at the incident, as they evacuated the building and took video of the fire and showed it to fire crews before any firefighters entered the building.

“The facility staff did a very good job,” Prewett said. “We were pretty certain where we were going. The facility staff was working on deenergizing that particular piece of equipment and anything around it that could've caused any hazard to us. And then as soon as we were able to, we turned on exhaust and ventilation fans to move the smoke out of there.”

Fires in industrial structures like Thursday's can pose a number of hazards to firefighters, Prewett said.

“That machinery is all run by high voltage, so there's an electrical hazard,” Prewett said. “Also any time that there's processing, there's machinery equipment that we're not familiar with. Also in a large area like that, we have to cover a lot of ground. There's not only smoke



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Erie Foods in Rochelle was the site of a fire early Thursday evening, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Zach Prewett said.

banked down at the level we're walking, but there's also a lot of smoke up in the air which presents potential for flameover explosive from the gasses in that smoke above us. We want to make sure we're aware of our environment and how it's different from a more standard residential-type fire for us.”

Prewett said the mill machinery will be in need of repairs and that Erie Foods

staff was working Thursday night to get the facility back up and running as soon as possible after clearing, cleaning and disinfecting work. The dollar amount of damage was unclear Thursday night.

Fire crews were on scene at Erie Foods until 7:18 p.m. Equipment failure was the likely cause of the fire, Prewett said.

“This mill is essentially run by large belts under-

neath it in an enclosure,” Prewett said. “That's what had broken down before and those belts had burned up. As far as I know, that's really the only flammable material within that machine. We had investigators on scene that were conducting a preliminary investigation to try to find out. Overall, once we were able to gather the information and get to it, it was a straightforward operation.”

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LOCAL NEWS

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In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
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(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The board voted unanimously to appropriate \$32,475 from the County Highway fund for ice abrasives and accepted a low bid for the materials from Steve Benesh & Sons for that amount.

COUNTY: Board appropriates funds for ice abrasives

From page 1

"I can't and won't support this," One board member said. "I see we're talking about 15 days off. That's three five-day weeks in addition to their vacation time. Every time we turn around, somebody has another holiday they want. I just don't think it's right. It's excessive."

The board also approved its meeting schedule for 2024 and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Ogle County Courthouse at 105 S. 5th St. on the third floor. Meeting dates will be Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and

Dec. 17. The 2024 budget hearing will be held Oct. 28.

Ice abrasives

The board voted unanimously to appropriate \$32,475 from the County Highway fund for ice abrasives and accepted a low bid for the materials from Steve Benesh & Sons for that amount.



Rochelle Fire Department members complete step challenge in memory of Sept. 11

In honor of the 343 firefighters lost on Sept. 11, 2001, members of the Rochelle Fire Department each completed 2,071 steps on the stair master to represent the amount of steps from ground floor to the roof of the twin towers.

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2023 HOME SCHEDULE

SEP. 9
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

SEP. 23
TULSA

OCT. 14
OHIO

OCT. 21
EASTERN MICHIGAN

NOV. 7
BALL STATE

NOV. 14
WESTERN MICHIGAN

LOCAL NEWS



Stillman Bank recently presented donation checks to Foundation for Focus House and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center. At left are Stillman Bank Human Resource Coordinator Sara Mitchell, Retail Office Manager Ryan Spradlin (left), Vice President Retail Banking Kathy Yocum and Universal Banker Jasmin Galvan (right) presenting the \$2,500 check to Foundation for Focus House President Russell Crull, Focus House Director Brenda Mason and Foundation for Focus House Executive Director Jeni Hardin (center). At right, Stillman Bank Retail Banking Representative Jodi Peters (left) presents the \$2,500 check to Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center Executive Director Jessica Cash (right).

Stillman Bank donates \$15,000 with 'Purchase with a Purpose' campaign

STILLMAN VALLEY — Stillman Bank recently ended its "Purchase with a Purpose" debit card campaign in

which a \$1 donation was made to local charities with every Stillman Bank debit card transaction up to \$15,000!

Six local nonprofit organizations from the Rock River Valley were nominated by its local communities to receive

\$2,500 from this promotion: Focus House, Helping Hands Pantry, Junior League of Rockford, KFACT (Keeping Fam-

ilies and Communities Together), Shining Star Children's Advocacy, and the Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation.

For more information about this campaign or Stillman Bank's products and services, visit www.stillmanbank.com.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle's Chuck Roberts participated in the 129th Big Rock Plowing Match last weekend.

Roberts competes in 129th Big Rock Plowing Match

BIG ROCK — Rochelle's Chuck Roberts participated in the 129th Big Rock Plowing Match last weekend. On Oct. 12, 1895, the George W. Thomas farm, north of Big Rock, was host to the first Big Rock Plowing Match. The day was complete with dinner and nine plowmen (actually eight, as one was ruled out because he used two, instead of three horses). There were classes for gang plows, riding plows and walking plows, and the sweepstakes winner was Benjamin Thomas. By the turn of the 20th cen-

tury there was a plowing match every weekend in September: Big Rock, Lily Lake, Troy and Wheatland. Today, only the Big Rock Plowing Match remains.

Roberts took fourth place out of 12 in the Farmers Open division and fifth of 21 participants overall. He used a 1936 Farmall F-12 tractor pulling a 1936 John Deere, two-bottom plow. This F-12 tractor has F-14 pistons installed and a lower gear ratio in order to pull a two-bottom plow. The maximum score a participant can achieve are as follows: back furrow:

25 points; uniformity of furrows: 25 points; line of furrows: 25 points; trash coverage: 15 points; and general neatness: 10 points for a maximum total of 100. Roberts' score was 81.5 (19/25 back furrow; 20/25 uniformity of furrows; 23/25 line of furrows; 12/15 for covering trash; 9.5/10 for general neatness). The plowing match rules require a one or two-bottom plow, seven rounds of plowing on a randomly assigned area, and no usage of electronic aids such as GPS systems during plowing.

Local students named to NIU summer 2023 graduation list

DEKALB — Students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in August. Included among the graduates were the following students from the area:

Chana - Nichole Harper, Bachelor of Science, Management - Leadership and Management. Rochelle - Isaac Quinonez, Bachelor of Science, "Engineering Technology-Applied Manufacturing Technology"; Brittini

Sticka, Master of Science, Kinesiology and Physical Education - Physical Education Pedagogy and Shay Sticka, Master of Science, Kinesiology and Physical Education - Physical Education Pedagogy.



Ogle/Lee Retired Teachers meet at Stronghold

The Ogle/Lee Retired Teacher Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon. The retired teachers enjoyed a delicious lunch served by Stronghold's staff. Following lunch, Dr. Danny Pierce, executive director of Stronghold Center, presented a program on the history of Stronghold. From left to right: RTA Co-President and Membership Chairperson Jean Whipple, Pierce, retiring RTA President Kim McKenna and RTA Co-President Mary Gardner.

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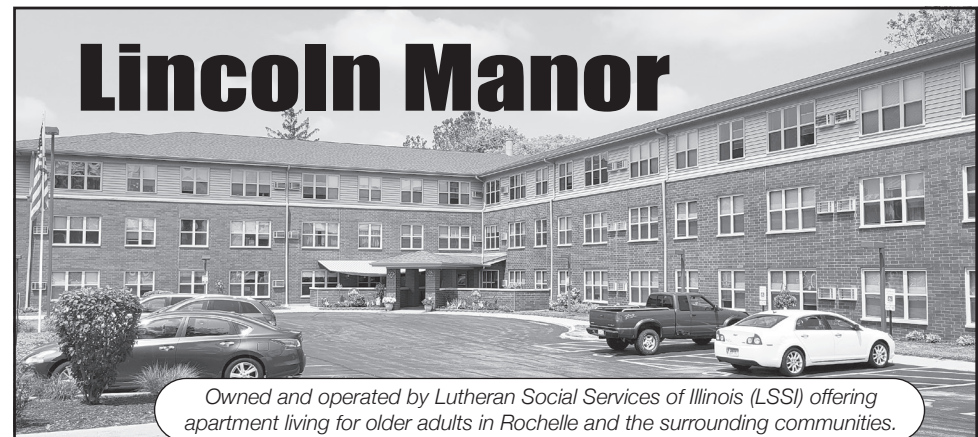
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Wayne Jerome Furman

BREESE—Wayne Jerome Furman, 79, of Breese, died Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023 at his home. He was born Nov. 15, 1943 in Rochelle, the son of Wendell and Hiskea “Carrie” nee Harms, Furman. He married Connie Gochee Aug. 15, 1964 in Lee and she survives in Breese.

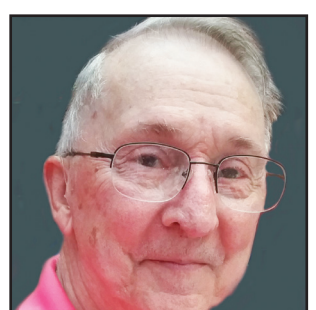
In addition to his wife he is survived by his children, Robert, Steven, and Carmen; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and his siblings, Kay Clark, Loren (Ruth) Furman, and Wendell Furman.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his siblings, Keith Furman, Curtis Furman, Rita Meling, Doris Hardy, Joyce Gittleston, and Carol Friestad.

Mr. Furman was a veteran of the United States Air Force and then worked as a lab technician at St. Joseph Hospital in Breese for over 43 years. Wayne was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He loved to play golf.

All services will be private.

Memorials may be



made to Hospice of Southern Illinois and will be received at Nordike Funeral Home, 150 N. Clinton St., Breese, IL 62230 who is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.nordikefuneral-home.com

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Thursday, Sept. 14 the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office received reports from both the Creston School District and Kings School District of a suspicious person taking pictures from the roadway in front of the schools. The subject was reportedly driving a black Audi. The same vehicle was also observed at a school in a neighboring county. Investigators from the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office have identified the vehicle, a black four-door Audi with Indiana registration, and are actively

seeking to speak with the driver. On Tuesday, Sept. 19, the individual observed taking pictures outside Creston and Kings Elementary Schools was located. Through the investigation, it was determined the subject was employed by a company to take photos of schools, restaurants and local amenities for real estate purposes throughout many communities in northern Illinois. All information has been verified and there are no additional concerns with this incident.

On Sept. 19 at ap-

proximately 8:52 a.m. deputies responded to Flagg Road and Lowden Road for a reported car in the ditch. After a brief investigation, deputies learned that a domestic altercation occurred inside the vehicle, which caused the vehicle to lose control and go into the ditch. As a result, Albert Brooks, 40, of Dixon, was arrested for domestic battery. Brooks was transported to the Ogle County Jail and must appear before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 15 at 8:21 a.m. Edwardo Villalobos, 60, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 33 miles

per hour in a 20-miles per hour school zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 6 Rochelle court

date.

On Sept. 15 at 10:09 a.m. Dakota S. Ryun, 29, of no fixed address was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Sept. 17 at 7:33 a.m. Ryan F. Taylor, 22, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated domestic battery and transferred.

On Sept. 17 at 7:46 p.m. Alberto Ruiz Rocha, 27, of Belvidere was cited for illegal transportation of alcohol. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 21 at 12:43 a.m. Derek L. Townes, 30, of Broadview was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 20 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Fat Cat Slots golf outing on Aug. 26 raised \$10,755 to go towards the inclusive wheel at Memorial Park in memory of Beau Sullivan.

New Memorial Park playground to be installed this month

ROCHELLE — Located at Memorial Park will be the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District’s first inclusive play piece to welcome all children and adults to a play experience where everyone can interact. Inclusive play equipment enables children of all abilities to participate, no matter physical, cognitive, social, or emotional development, ensuring play options and engagement within all activities.

Establishing the district’s first inclusive piece is a meaningful step forward as part of our ongoing focus to bring play and activities to all. We want to ensure that all children and adults enjoy an equal quality of life in Rochelle, and with play being an integral part of one’s well-being, our parks and recreation facilities are making positive strides.

The Fat Cat Slots golf outing on Aug. 26 raised \$10,755 to go towards the inclusive wheel at Memorial Park in memory of Beau Sullivan. Special thanks to Cory Myers and Corey Ansteth for their extra efforts for the event.

Beau’s family said, “If you were fortunate enough to have known Beau, you would understand how important it was for him to be included. He knew he was handicapped, but he felt more ‘normal’ than not. We lifted, carried, modified and finagled him throughout his entire young life to ensure this. We did everything within our power, but sometimes it wasn’t within our control. There is something about independent play with peers that can’t be replicated when an aid or parent is the only breach to the mobility barrier. Beau was never able to autonomously enjoy the same playground activities as his siblings or classmates. Recently, several individuals and companies donated valuable time, expertise, services and money to ensure that wheelchair-bound children, like Beau, will be able to feel included on a playground. We would like to thank everyone who contributed, planned, donated and organized for Beau to be memorialized in such an awesome way. We are in awe and cannot

express enough gratitude to those involved, special thanks to Uncle Grant for remembering and making a difference.”

The Memorial Park playground was selected as a National Demonstration Site by PlayCore’s Center for Outreach, Research and Education, made possible through an initiative by GameTime and the SC Recreation and Parks. The National Demonstration Site Network is an important effort for raising national awareness and helping local communities share the positive impact they are making on community health and wellness.

The Flagg-Rochelle Park District prepared a grant application to participate in PlayCore’s initiative and was awarded over \$26,000 towards this project. The initiative will allow for ongoing data collection and research finding reports on Rochelle’s vitality.

This information will be useful for future master plans throughout the park system. The new Memorial Park playground will be installed September 2023.



Hills win Cederholm Memorial Citizen Award

During the Creston Booster Days festivities, the Cederholm Memorial Citizen Award was presented to Mark and Dee Hill. “They have been outstanding examples of what makes ‘Creston Proud,’” Award Organizer Debby Katzman said. “They have served our community for many years and we were honored to be able to present this award to them.”

Rochelle Edward Jones Office supports Toys for Tots drive

ROCHELLE — Anthony Rowley, a local Edward Jones financial

advisor, is supporting the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program by using his office as a drop-off location for this year’s toy drive. Local residents may help make a difference for children in the area by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy to the office, 326 Lincoln Highway, during regular business hours beginning Oct. 1 through early December. Monetary gifts cannot be accepted. “With the holiday season around the corner, we are all getting ready for the festivities,” Rowley said. “And as this is the season of giving, now is a great time to remember the less fortunate in our community.” Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and through

its affiliate in Canada. The firm’s nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more than eight million clients with a total of \$1.8 trillion in client assets under care at the end of June 2023. Edward Jones’ purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. Through the dedication of the firm’s approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68 percent of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIP

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LOCAL NEWS

CITY: City Manager Fiegenschuh discusses potential bond issuances

From page 1

Staff has recommended taking advantage of “the potential of a low interest rate environment” and issuing bonds. TIF districts grow funds through development in the area that generates increment. The debt service payments would be paid out of downtown TIF through the life of the TIF district and it would not require a property tax rate increase. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said Sept. 20 that a parameters ordinance to give staff authority to explore the issuance of debt will likely be voted on at the city council’s first meeting in October. A final ordinance vote to go out to sell the bonds would take place at the second meeting in November and the bond issuance would take place in December. Fiegenschuh went into more details on the potential uses of the funds “We talked a lot about the reconstruction of 2nd Avenue,” Fiegenschuh said.

“There are some other properties we’d like to look at for some redevelopment. Certainly replacing some water and sewer mains and boring electric infrastructure out behind Lincoln Highway near the municipal lot where events are held. We’re also looking at other sidewalk and street improvements. A lot of it is going to be geared towards infrastructure improvements.” The city managers said it’s important that the city not only support the downtown area economically, but also through ensuring sound infrastructure for the businesses that reside in it. In recent years, the city has worked on separating shared service lines to downtown businesses, which is not up to code today. The downtown can be supplied with power during an outage by the Rochelle Municipal Utilities power plant, Fiegenschuh said. “I think that adds value, too,” Fiegenschuh said. “It’s hard to market your property if you can’t guarantee that there’s going to be a reliable

source of water, sewer and power. I think it adds to the marketability of downtown and we do it in a way that is cost effective. The council lowered our commercial electric rates a few years ago and we don’t have any plans to raise them. Reinvestment in infrastructure is important. It’s roads and sidewalks. I’m big into walkability and I know a lot of people are. Having the ability to connect the downtown to the southern and northern corridors and allowing people to come in and congregate and walk and not have to drive adds value to the properties and experience of the downtown.” All three of the city’s TIF districts have seen increases in their value recently, with the highest increase being the downtown TIF district. That’s been due to private investment including improvements at Kenny Farms Distilling, the newly-renovated Seldal Properties building, Acres Bistro and Scale House Lounge & Slots.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its meeting on Sept. 11, the Rochelle City Council discussed the option of issuing alternate revenue bonds not to exceed \$2.5 million for the purpose of paying the cost of improvements to the city’s downtown tax-increment financing (TIF) district and resolved to move forward and look into the issue further.

“The downtown has seen a lot of investment and that new investment is generating additional increment and that increment can go towards funding projects to continue to grow the tax base in the downtown area,” Fiegenschuh said. “It takes private investment to grow EAV, so we need more private investment. And we’ve been very blessed to have some very good businesses

and business owners invest in our downtown. Our job is not to bring in business, it’s to create an environment that’s conducive to economic growth. And I think that we’re doing that.” The city’s desire to make the bond issuance for downtown infrastructure improvements is an effort to hedge against future higher project costs. “We have a lot of im-

provements to infrastructure that we’d like to make in the downtown area,” Fiegenschuh said. “We have a guaranteed source of revenue to come in and pay for it. Sure, we could save up for it over the next three years. But if the interest rates come in at a competitive level, it makes more sense to do the improvements now while the costs are where they’re at and not going up.”

Rochelle Area CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ashton Bible Church, corner of Main and Paddock in Ashton. Pastor Farrel Stauffer, church phone is (815)453-2190, church website www.ashtonbible.org. Sunday School for all ages 9:00-10:00am, Morning Worship 10:15am, Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm.

The Bridge Church, Pastor Greg Duncan, 11038 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-7750. Sunday School: 9:00 am; Sunday Service: 10:00 am; Nursery & Children’s ministry during am service; Bible Study Tuesday 10:00 am and Wednesday 7:00 pm. Web: thebridgechurchrochelle.com Email: thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com

Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday Worship & Children’s Church 10:00 A.M., Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers Childrens Classes, Nursery available for all services. HE-Brews Cafe is open before and after services. For further information, please call the CLC office at 815-562-7701, or email us at staff@calvarylighthouse.com

Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMC - “To Know Christ and to Proclaim Christ in Word and Deed” -19 Perry Road, Lee, IL 60530 (the intersection of Perry Road and W. County Line Road). Rev. Martha Uecker Nelson, Pastor. Coffee Hour starts at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Bible Study are at 9:15 a.m. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and is broadcast live on Facebook. Go to our website is at www.Calvarychurchlee.org and click on the link there. A Grief Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call or text (815) 824-2825 or email CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com with questions or for more information. Also check us out at www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church.

Rochelle Church of Christ, Keeping Christ at the center in the Hub City. We meet Sundays at 9:00am for Bible Study and 10:00am for worship. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00pm. 206 Erickson Rd, Rochelle, IL 61068. You can call us at (815) 562-6572 or visit us on the web at rochellechurch.com. We also have a radio program Sundays just after 8am on WRHL 1060AM. Minister Dominic Venuso.

Creston United Methodist Church and Steward United Methodist Church - Rev. Ilhan You, Creston: 126 West South Street, P.O. Box 209, Creston, Illinois 60113. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. Coffee fellowship at 10:15am. Steward: 507 Main Street, P.O. Box 80, Steward, IL 60553. Adult Sunday School, 10:00am. Sunday morning worship and Children’s Sunday School 11:00am. Contact the church office at 847-730-4370 for more information. facebook.com/crestonumcil facefacebook.com/stewardilumc

Elim Reformed Church, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email goelimchurch@gmail.com Website www.goelimchurch.org Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 Rev. Marv Jacobs

Faith Lutheran Church – (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) – “Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith.” In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at “Faith Lutheran Social” on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - ‘Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.’ You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at Pastor@faithlrochelle.org for more information. All are welcome to join us!

First Baptist Church of Rochelle, First Baptist Church of Rochelle invites you to experience our practical Bible services which have nurseries provided in every service along with a wide range of children’s and teen ministries. Sunday School is at 9:30 am with regular church services at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Wednesday Family Night starts at 6:30 pm with AWANA for the 5 yr. olds thru 6th grade. The Omega Teen Ministry also starts at 6:30 pm for 7th – 12th grades and the Adult Bible Study at 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church is located 6 blocks west of Hwy 251 at the corner of Woolf Ct. and 8th Ave. in Rochelle. Call 562-4168 for more information. Listen at 8:30 am Sunday mornings on WRHL 1060 AM for the Sunday morning “Bible Message.” www.firstbaptistrochelle.org


First General Baptist Church, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: fgbcrochelle@gmail.com. Website: www.fgbcrochelle.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle. Pastor: Rev. Angelo Bonacquisti. **Sunday worship services:** 8:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm. **Sunday school:** 10:00 am. We’d be honored to have you join us as we worship JESUS and continue to grow in truth and love for God and each other. A nursery, children’s church, youth group and small groups are available. If you need a ride please contact our church bus driver, John, at (815) 262-4275 by 8:30 am on Sunday. “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

First Presbyterian Church – An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace- Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: info@placeforgrace.com. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. www.placeforgrace.com/ www.facebook.com/placeforgrace

Grace Fellowship Church — Pastor Jeff Ardissonne, 2128 Il Route 38, Ashton, 815-453-7464. Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:45 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com

Harvest Baptist Church 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email duane712@hotmail.com, cell 815-757-3427. Visit us on Facebook! Service times: Sunday morning worship with Children’s Church at 10 am. Wednesday night worship at 7 pm.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock. Church Phone 393-4500. Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christian Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.

Living Water Community Church 405 N. Main St, Downtown Rochelle. Phone 815-561-6249, Website: www.lwccr.com, Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Mike Vogeler - Outreach and Seven C’s Pastor, Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor and Doug Bunger - Missions and Children’s Pastor. Sunday Worship Service- 10:00am. Nursery/Toddlers Ages 0-5 available during the service in the Splash building. Swim- Grades 1st-5th worship with the adults then break out for age appropriate teaching. Youth groups, Small groups, Life Groups and Workshops meet throughout the year for Bible teaching. 7C’s Mission- serves the community physically & spiritually each month from 1135 Lincoln Hwy, providing lightly used clothing, Hygiene items, a light lunch and Elder Prayer open the second Saturday from 10am-2pm and the 4th Thursday from 4pm to 7:00pm and by appointment.. 

New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN), 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m., (815)561-8400, www.NHFchurch.net Pastor: Dan Sergeant and Pastor Nick Tornabene. (Classes for children through age fifth grade during service.)

Rochelle United Methodist Church welcomes everyone to their worship service, and practices openness for all activities including communion. Worship is at 9:00 am. Sunday school for children begins around 9:15, following the Children’s Time in worship. A fellowship time with food and space for conversation occurs in Hicks Hall every week following the worship service. We celebrate communion with an open table on the first Sunday of every month, and on other appropriate occasions. Youth group is on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30. Our youth program includes service projects, discussion topics, Bible Study, and lots of fun and fellowship together. Some of our activities include packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, helping at Rochelle Christian Food Pantry and 7C’s, working with animals at Barn on Baseline, Mystery trips (Destination Unknown!), and Interactive experiences on Dating boundaries, refugees, and homelessness. Youth group is for grades 6-12 and friends are always welcome. Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at www.rochelleumc.com. Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/rochelleumc. **Our pastor is the Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley.** Our address is 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. Email is admin@rochelleumc.com. At Rochelle United Methodist Church, everyone is welcome and loved!

St. Patrick Catholic Church Rev. Jesus Dominguez; Deacon Fermin Garcia; Deacon George Schramm; 244 Kelley Dr. (Corner of Kelley & Caron Rd.), PO Box 329, Rochelle, IL 61068. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM- 4PM Monday-Thursday, Phone: 815-562-2370. **Mass times:** 8:00 AM Monday-Thursday, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM English, 7PM Spanish, Sunday Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish. **Confessions:** Monday 8:30AM & 6:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM, Saturday 8:30am & 4:00-4:45 PM Or by appointment. **Religious Education:** Deacon George Schramm, Director of Religious Education. 903 Caron Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 815-561-0079; Website: stpatricksrochelle.com Email: stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

St. Paul Lutheran Church “Building Relationships in Christ, Now and Forever!” Steven Hall, Principal, Parish Nurse-Marcia Schnorr. 1415 Tenth Ave., Rochelle. Church Office-562-2744. Worship times: 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Our service is broadcast over WRHL 1060AM at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School 10:15-11:15 a.m. Call 562-6323 for more information about the school.



LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

OCFB's Ron Kern: Looking at land prices

EVERY year I get dozens of calls from landowners asking me what is the selling price of farmland or the going rate of farm cash rents. While the dollars and cents part are the predominant thing they look for, there's more that goes into negotiating a viable sale price or cash rent. However, being a farm owner in Illinois with its rich soils has its advantages as both sales prices and cash rents tend to trend higher than other parts of the country. Thought we might look at land prices this week to see where they are trending; and hint – it ain't down.

Agricultural land values increased by \$280 an acre over 2022, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The NASS report released on Aug. 4, shows a 7.4 percent increase following 2022's record-breaking numeric increase of \$420 per acre (12 percent) over 2021. Cash rent values for cropland were up 4.7 percent to a record \$155 per acre and up 7.1 percent to \$15 per acre for pastureland. This annual report provides one of many indicators of the overall health of the agricultural economy and illustrates yet another heightened production cost and barrier to profitability faced by farmers and ranchers. The U.S. average farm real estate value, a measurement that includes the value of all land and buildings on farms, clocked in at a record

\$4,080 per acre. This 7.4 percent increase over last year is less than the 12-percent bump between 2021 and 2022, which was the largest change since 2006, when values increased 14 percent over 2005. Excluding last year, 2023 farm real estate values had the largest percentage increase since 2014. Looking at the dollar value of the change, the \$280 per acre increase over 2022 is the second-highest increase since the USDA began the survey in 1997.

These levels vary significantly throughout the country, with the highest real estate values concentrated in areas with larger volumes of high-value crops (think wine grapes and tree nuts in California), as well as areas experiencing upward pressure due to proximity to urban areas with little remaining developable land, like the small states of the Northeast. Much of the Midwest had higher real estate values, followed by the South and Pacific Northwest, and finally the Plains and Mountain states. Part of this increase can be linked to high 2021-2022 commodity prices that have translated to a higher farming value for land in row crop-heavy heartland states like Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas and Indiana. New government program incentives that provide financial compensation to landowners who voluntarily enroll and retire highly erodible and environmentally sensitive lands, such

as those added in 2021 to the CRP program, also contributed to increased competition for active cropland, increasing land prices. Other factors contributing to rising land values are competing land-use interests, which includes urban and suburban sprawl, and increased investments into hard assets, like land, for a safer return on investment during an extended period of inflation.

Like overall agricultural real estate values, average U.S. cropland values increased in 2023, rising to \$5,460 per acre. This increase came in as an 8.1-percent jump over 2022, which is marginally higher than the 7.8-percent increase in cropland values in 2021 but is below double-digit percentage increases between 2005-2007, 2011-2013 and in 2022. In dollar values, this year-over-year increase was \$410 per acre, the third highest behind 2022 and 2013. The distribution across the country follows a similar pattern as overall farmland value, with California and Northeastern states claiming the highest average cropland values. Following that top category is much of the Midwest. Similar to overall agricultural real estate values and cropland values, pastureland values posted strong gains from the previous year, coming in at \$1,760

per acre on average for the U.S. This is an increase of 6.7 percent over 2022, a drop from 2022's 11.5-percent increase from 2021 after seven years of little to no increases in value. However, the distribution of pastureland values across the country differs from cropland values and real estate values. Instead of the Midwest and California, some of the more valuable pastureland state averages are concentrated along the East Coast and in the mid-South, with the Midwest and the Plains toward the bottom of pastureland values. A very high percentage of grazeable land in the West is owned by the federal government a portion of which is leased to ranchers using grazing permits. These dynamics limit the role of real estate competition for pastureland in many Western states. States with higher pastureland values tend to be those with higher competition for open land.

NASS also released data on cash rents, with the increases in land values translating to increases in cash rent. Cash rent tends to be more of a lagging indicator, and likely will be reflected in future producer-landlord negotiations. Average U.S. cropland rent increased to \$155 per acre this year, a 4.7-percent rise over 2022. Irrigated cropland rents increased 4.4 percent to \$237

per acre, while non-irrigated cropland rents increased 5.2% to \$142 per acre. Cash rents for pastureland increased 7.7 percent this year, reaching \$15 per acre.

Washington and Georgia led the country in highest percent increases in cropland cash rental rates in 2023 of 10 percent each followed by Florida (nine percent). Decreases in cropland cash rental rates occurred in Oklahoma (down eight percent) and parts of the West like Wyoming (down five percent) and Nevada (down five percent). By value, the highest cropland rental rates were in California (\$344/acre), Arizona (\$347/acre) and Hawaii (\$295/acre), all states with high-value orchard and specialty crops often linked to the existence of water rights that contribute to more valuable contracts. Washington and heartland states of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana made up the next highest cropland rental rate category, linked to higher value specialty crops for the former and a high density of high-value commodity crops in the latter. Margins for many producers who rely on rented land are jeopardized by even minimal changes in rental rates. This can threaten annual production output. More broadly, those who lack equity from land ownership have reduced access to operating lines of credit needed to fund annual equipment and input purchases; and rising

land prices and rents often take away the benefits of high crop prices. USDA's land value report shows continued increases across the board in agricultural real estate values, cropland values and pastureland values. The average U.S. farm real estate value increased by \$280 per acre, or 7.4 percent over 2022, while the cropland value and pastureland value increased by 8.1 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively. Cash rents have also jumped, ranging from 4.4 percent to 7.1 percent increases across cropland, irrigated and non-irrigated, and pastureland. In a continued period of heightened input costs across the board further exacerbated by inflationary pressures, high rent and land costs are yet another hurdle for farmers and ranchers working to produce more crops and raise more livestock. Fortunately for producers who own land, their equity has increased, but for those just starting out or reliant on the acres they rent to make ends meet, these increases can become an unbreachable barrier to entry.

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds." -Thomas Jefferson

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

Flanagan: Fall programming at the library

FALL is coming and the temperatures are starting to get cooler. We are starting our fall programming this month at the library. Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date program information. Here are a few of our upcoming programs. Our Story Time program is for ages 0-7 years old and a caregiver. They are at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. The next date is on Sept. 27.

Books With Friends for ages 8-13 discusses all types of books from graphic novels to poetry. They also participate in fun activities. The next date for this group is on

Sept. 26 at 4 p.m.

Library Lego Club is the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. All ages are welcome to this program. We create Lego creations, have fun and eat snacks.

Family Game Night will be on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5-7 p.m. Come and enjoy board games and snacks.

We are having some Master Gardener workshops to focus on fall gardening. Be sure to check our Facebook page and the website for more information.

When you drive by the Library have you ever stopped to look at the windows? The original 1912

building has decorative glass windows, which form almost a continuous band around the room. In 1989, when the library addition was added they had to remove eight of those windows to add on the addition. Those windows were kept safe and were supposed to be added to the addition. I am happy to say that just last week those windows were put into the addition adding the old to the new. Come in and take a look!

Come to the front room of the library and see our Constitution Week Dis-

play. As part of the Rochelle Chapter NSDAR, we annually celebrate this important week in our nation's history. Rochelle's Mayor Bearrows signed the Constitution Week Proclamation on Sept. 11. It is on display at the library. This year marks the 236th anniversary.

"Constitution Week is the commemoration of America's most important document. It is celebrated annually during the week of September 17-23. The United States Constitution stands as a testament to

the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties, freedoms and inalienable rights.

This celebration of the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated to the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on Aug. 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The DAR has also erected a structure that is built in tribute to the Constitu-

tion of the United States. DAR Constitution Hall, which is a performing arts center, opened in 1929." (<https://www.dar.org/national-society/education/constitution-week>)

Banned Books week is Oct. 1-7. Come join the banned! Check out a banned book and look at our display. Come to the Library! We have many exciting programs and displays for you to see. Come in and visit us. Remember...don't forget your library card! See you soon.

Sarah Flanagan is the library director of the Flagg Rochelle Public Library District.

How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Darin LaHood
1424 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
20515
(202) 225-6201

IL Sen. Win Stoller
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0535

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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Reid Elliot	
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Rochelle News-Leader encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly

handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business will not be published. Political endorsements will be published,

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY



Ribbon cutting held for ScaleHouse Lounge & Slots

ScaleHouse Lounge & Slots celebrated its second anniversary and a ribbon cutting with the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Sept. 9. The two-year anniversary event included a parking lot party with drink specials, dancing and a performance by the band, Six Pack.

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074
If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org

September 26 – (Tuesday) – Chicken Pot Pie – Homemade
September 28 – (Thursday) – Corned Beef and Cabbage with Carrots and Potatoes, Cornbread

October 1 – (Sunday Brunch) – Bacon Egg and Cheese Muffins, Grits,

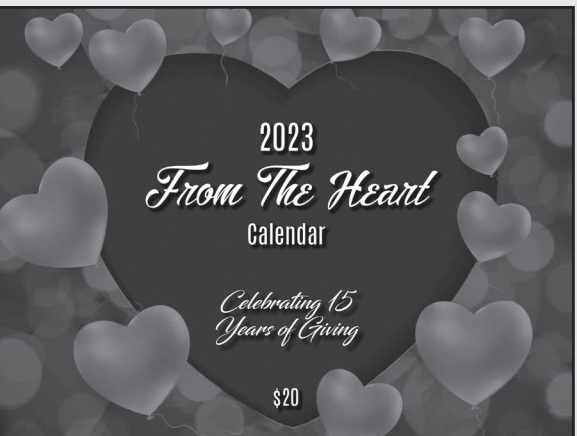
KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries
**All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074
www.KitchenTableRochelle.org

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 28
Ashley Bunger

Sept. 29
Josh Walker
Sarah Kulwicki
Lyndsey O'Brien

Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for birthdays and anniversaries



- Aug. 30 - Debbi Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 31 - Zekelman Employee, \$25
- Sept. 1 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation,
- Sept. 2 - Emily Lopez-Perez, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 3 - Mandi Morris, Rochelle, \$50
- Sept. 4 - Brittany Olszewski, Rochelle, \$1,000
- Sept. 5 - Ben Heck, Chana, \$25
- Sept. 6 - Mariah Wyrobek, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 7 - Linda Schreiber, Leaf River, \$25
- Sept. 8 - Jason Burdin, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 9 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 10 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
- Sept. 11 - Alexis Barbosa, Newark, \$25
- Sept. 12 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 14 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 15 - Katherine Slattengren, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 16 - David Bills, Port Byron, \$25
- Sept. 17 - Norna Seaworth, Lindenwood, \$50
- Sept. 18 - Therese Fenwick, Winchester, VA, \$25
- Sept. 19 - Elizabeth Bontz, Amboy, \$25
- Sept. 20 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 21 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 22 - Teresa Schlesinger, Compton, \$25
- Sept. 23 - Mark - Meyers Furniture, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 24- Thelma Geske, Steward, \$50
- Sept. 25 - Brenda Bickerman, McNabb, \$25



Coffee Break

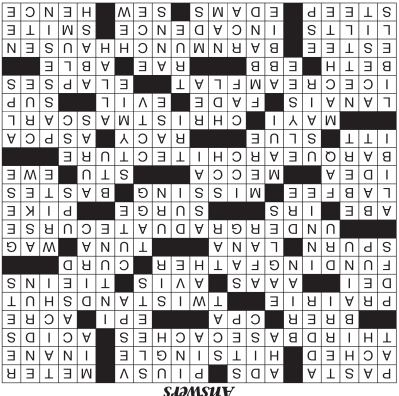
MAGIC MAZE • THINGS WE PEEL

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

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

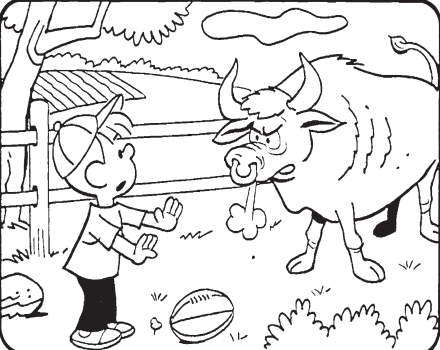
Avocado Ginger Onion Squash
Banana Lemon Papaya Tomato
Eggplant Lime Pineapple Watermelon
Garlic Mango Potato

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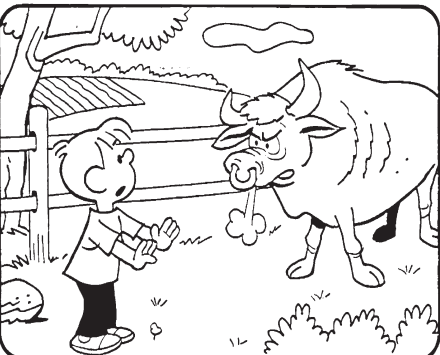


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

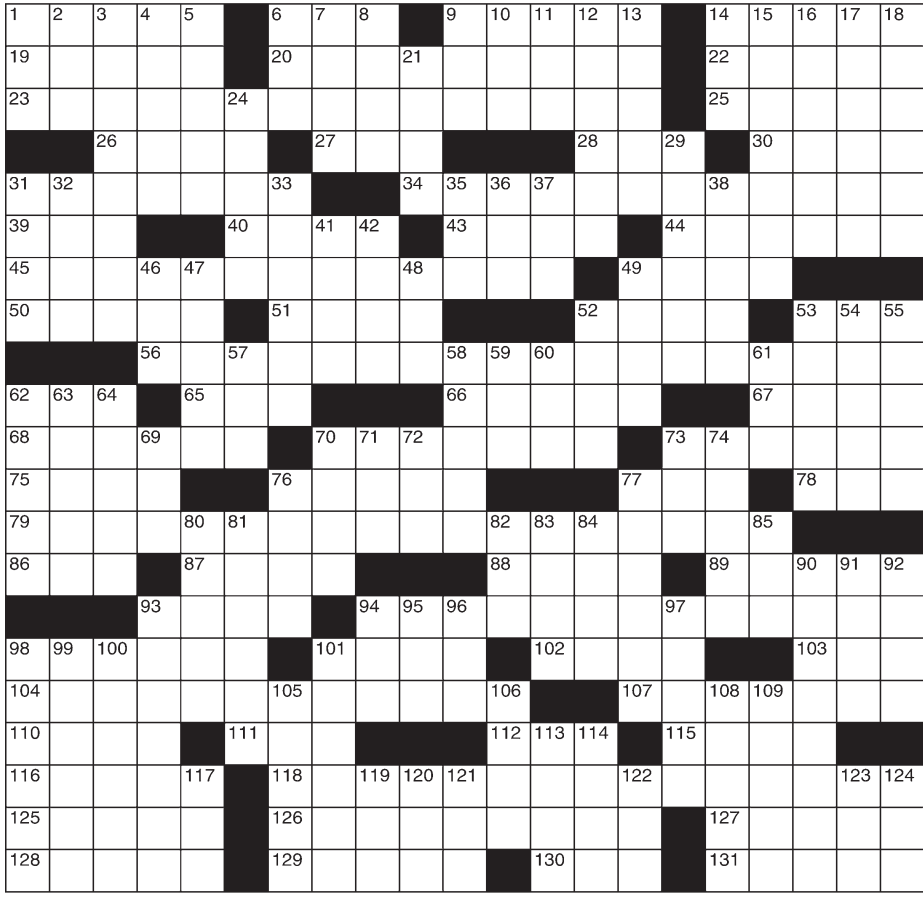


Differences: 1. Cow is missing. 2. Arm is missing. 3. Foot is missing. 4. Cloud is different. 5. Cow is smaller. 6. Bull's tail is missing.

Super Crossword

OH NO!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Vermicelli, e.g.
6 Commercial spots
9 16th-century pope
14 Olympic length unit
19 Had a dull, steady pain
20 Chart topper, often
22 Cockeyed
23 Hidden stockpiles of certain infield bags?
25 Low-pH liquids
26 Certain Southern sib
27 Tax doc. whiz
28 Lead-in to Pen
30 Ranch unit
31 Grassy tract
34 Instructions for securing a bottle with a screw cap?
39 Gods, in Italy
40 Some thin batteries
43 Owner of Zipcar
44 Promotional links
45 Dad providing the finances?
49 Cottage cheese piece
- 50 Reject, as a lover
51 Turner of "Betrayed"
52 Sashimi fish
53 Jesting type
56 Bane of not knowing which college major to choose?
62 Vigoda of old TV and film
65 Hirer of many 27-Acrosses, for short
66 Skyrocket
67 Toll highway
68 Chemistry class cost
70 Like the letter O in this puzzle's entire solution
73 Apples dripping to
75 Brain flash
76 Haiji city
77 "Palooka" actor Erwin
78 She's shearable
79 Design of a three-masted ship?
86 "The Addams Family" cousin
87 Swivel on an axis
88 Ribald
89 Org. against pet abuse
- 93 "Will you let me?"
94 Reiner or Sagan wearing a Santa suit?
98 Hawaiian porches
101 Diminish
102 Malevolent
103 Eat dinner
104 British apartment doubling as a malt shop?
107 Ticks by
110 Sister of Meg, Jo and Amy
111 Diminish
112 Comedic actress Issa
115 Fit for the job
116 Lauder of makeup
118 Famous German tale teller who lived in a farm building?
125 Rhythmic swings
126 Rhythmic way to march
127 Strike hard, biblical-style
128 Very inclined
129 Dutch cheeses
130 Stitch clothes
131 Consequently
- DOWN**
- 1 Butter square
2 Frau's "Alas!"
3 Small, agile Japanese dog breed
4 Irwin of "Crikey! It's the Irwins"
5 "Puff" snake
6 "I have it!"
7 Part of DVD
8 Stride
9 Actress Zadora
10 Business mag
11 "I hate it!"
12 Precipitates cold pellets
13 Italian motor scooter brand
14 Hamm of soccer
15 Boxed up
16 Slow-paced martial art
17 Footballer's sweep
18 "Start over" buttons
21 "Begone!"
24 Queen guitarist May
29 Not off-key
31 Alternatives to JPEGs
32 Sign on for another tour of duty
33 Hawk cousins
35 Toddler's cry
- 36 "— got a feeling ..."
37 Geraint's title
38 Theoretical physicist Paul
41 Way yonder
42 Did karaoke
46 Joanne of "Red River"
47 Bellybutton type
48 Driveway goo
49 Adorable
52 Eldest son of Mitt Romney
53 Be the author of
54 Cockeyed
55 Duce cousins
57 Rapping "Dr."
58 Very, in music scores
59 Hwy. crime
60 Banquet liquid holder
61 Rival of DHL and FedEx
62 Perp's story
63 Having no knack for
64 Roger of "At the Movies"
69 E-help page
70 No more than
71 Former U.S. RR regulator
72 Educ. facility
73 A/C meas.
74 Subtle glows
76 Kihel's island
77 Perplex
80 Pan Am rival
- 81 Paris palace
82 Bi- plus one
83 Make lighter
84 Video surveillance syst.
85 PC key abbr.
90 Submits, as a test paper
91 Mötley —
92 High peaks
93 Jungle knife
94 Half- (java option)
95 "Good" cholesterol, for short
96 Lulu Hogg player Peggy
97 Imam's God
98 Villies in print
99 Scores 100 on the test
100 Stinging plant
101 Certain radio frequency range
105 Yippee Hoffman
106 Not false
108 Discomit
109 Large feather
113 Raggedy — (some dolls)
114 Livy's "Lo!"
117 Seer's "gift"
119 Sanyo rival
120 '60s war site
121 ENTs, e.g.
122 Hack down
123 & so forth
124 Once called



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SPORTS



LADY HUBS HOST L-P
The Rochelle Lady Hub volleyball team faced LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday evening.
See page 5 for more details

RTHS Golf

Seniors take to the tees

Rochelle honors eight seniors during Tuesday match against LaSalle-Peru

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School golf team held its final home match of the 2023 season on Tuesday, when the purple and white celebrated their eight senior players after squaring off against LaSalle-Peru in an Interstate 8 Conference match at Fairways Golf Course.

Sophomore Ian Metzger earned medalist honors with a round of 40, while freshman Alex Dyer followed with a 42 as the Cavaliers edged the Hubs 170-173. Rochelle (2-10, 0-5 Interstate 8) honored eight seniors including Elise Horner and Haley Bozinovich along with Owen Messer, Chandler Cunningham, Obie Nava, Cale Workman, Parker Lenkaitis and Alexander McBride.

“It was great to see three first-year seniors in Owen, Chandler and Obie come out this year and play at the coach level,” head coach Glen Mehrings said. “They’ve all helped our varsity team at different times and even though they struggled at times, they also had success and each of them had great attitudes. Parker, Haley and Elise have been in our



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Township High School golf team honored its eight seniors during Tuesday’s Interstate 8 Conference match against LaSalle-Peru. Pictured above from left to right are Elise Horner, Obie Nava, Owen Messer, Chandler Cunningham, Haley Bozinovich, Cale Workman, Parker Lenkaitis and Alex McBride.

program for the last two years and they were each a nice injection of energy. Cale’s our only four-year varsity player and he’s helped our varsity team

over each of the last two years. It’ll be sad seeing our seniors go.”

Freshman Owen Carmichael fired a 44 for the Hubs on Tuesday, while

Cunningham carded a 47 to round out the top four varsity players in the match. Messer and Nava recorded rounds of 48 and 49 for the Hubs, who will travel for

the Sterling Invitational on Saturday before hitting the road for the Interstate 8 Conference Championship at Kishwaukee Country Club on Monday. Rochelle

will then compete in the IHSA 2A Rock Falls Regional at Deer Valley on Wednesday.

See GOLF page 3

RTHS Cross Country

Three Rochelle runners medal at Byron Invitational

Koziol takes third as Hernandez, McGee earn honors for Hubs on Wednesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BYRON — Sophomore runners Annaliese Koziol and Declan McGee are hitting their stride as the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams approach the end of the 2023 season.

Koziol and McGee each brought home medals during the Byron Invitational on Wednesday evening, where the sophomores recorded top-10 finishes to help lead their respective teams. Koziol medaled in third place out of 60 varsity runners for the Lady Hubs, clocking in with a time of 20:28.2 in the 2.87-mile race at Byron Forest Preserve. Sophomores Rose Luxton and Mary Chadwick took 31st and 32nd for the Lady Hubs, who finished fourth out of six varsity teams.

“It’s definitely a confidence builder for me moving forward,” Koziol said. “It encourages me to get more PRs and it gives me an idea of how I can run my races smarter and maintain my pace. I started my races a little too quickly last season and I’d run at full speed during the first mile. This season, I’m keeping my pace more

consistent throughout the race. I think I’ve done a lot better this season than I did last season because I have a much better idea of what I’m doing.”

McGee was one of two boys on the Rochelle side to medal in the race on Wednesday. Senior Luis Hernandez led the Hubs with a fourth-place finish, clocking in at 16:30 while McGee took seventh out of 66 varsity runners with a time of 17:27. Sophomore Elijah Mayen finished 21st with a time of 19:18.7 for the Hubs, who placed third out of seven varsity teams in the meet.

“It gave me a lot of confidence because I had been stuck around where my PR was last season,” McGee said. “I improved a lot in this race and that felt good. I think I’ve improved my consistency from last season. As a freshman, I would go out and run between 5:30 and 6 minutes over my first two miles and then I’d be really inconsistent in the third mile, which really affected my times. This season, I’ve been able to keep my pace a lot more even throughout.”

Senior Caleb Wyssbrod and sophomore Levi



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sophomores Annaliese Koziol (left) and Declan McGee (middle) as well as senior Luis Hernandez (right) earned medals for their performances during the Byron Invitational on Wednesday.

Waddle finished in 28th and 33rd place with respective times of 19:42 and 20:18.7. Junior Brisa Zepeda took 34th with a time of 24:45.2 for the Lady

Hubs, while freshman Vivian Worthington and junior Bridgett Ramirez placed 45th and 46th with times of 26:54.3 and 27:00.09. The Hub and Lady Hub

harriers will continue their season on Saturday, when Rochelle will travel for the annual Rock River Run in Sterling.

“I think our season has

gone really well and a lot of us are improving,” McGee said. “We’re gaining a lot of experience as runners and I think a lot of us are having a really good time.”

SPORTS

GOLF: Hubs score home win over Mendota on Monday

From page 1

“It was great to see our top players do well on Tuesday,” Mehrings said. “Ian and Alex have each had stretches where they’ve played really solid golf... Alex has been so consistent and he’s always hovering in the upper 30s to lower 40s, which is really consistent for a freshman. Owen’s had some good rounds in the mid-to-low 40s and our seniors have stepped up and shot in the upper 40s... We had some success at Rock Falls earlier this year and Ian medaled there, so I’m glad we’re going back there. Hopefully we can see someone get hot at the regional.”

Mendota

Freshmen Alex Dyer and Owen Carmichael stepped up for the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team during Monday evening’s nonconference home match against Mendota.

Sophomore Ian Metzger led the Hubs with an even-par 36 over nine holes, but the low scores from Dyer and Carmichael helped

Rochelle snap a three-match losing streak. Dyer fired a 4-over-par 40, while Carmichael followed with a 7-over-par 43 as the Hubs shot a season-low team score to defeat the Trojans 168-173.

“It felt good to get a team win and it shows the hard work has been paying off,” Dyer said. “I think our confidence has gotten better as the season has gone on. I’ve enjoyed playing at the varsity level and I’ve learned that I can compete at this level with hard work and dedication. My hard work and my ability to let a bad shot go and not let it affect me has helped me succeed.”

Senior Owen Messer carded a 49 to round out the top scoring varsity players for Rochelle Rochelle (2-9, 0-4 Interstate 8) on Monday evening. Seniors Obie Nava and Parker Lenkaitis each totaled 50 out of the No. 7 and No. 8 varsity slots, while seniors Chandler Cunningham and Cale Workman each scored 56 to complete the varsity lineup.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Owen Carmichael marks his ball during the Rochelle Hub varsity golf match against Mendota on Monday evening.

RTHS Boys Soccer

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Lombardia, Orozco score goals as Hubs fall against Sycamore on Monday evening

Sophomore Kevin Orozco and freshman Victor Lombardia each scored goals for the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team during Monday evening’s Interstate 8 Conference match against Sycamore. The Spartans overwhelmed the short-handed Hubs, who were without multiple starters due to injuries and illnesses, handing Rochelle an 11-2 defeat. Sophomore Emmanuel Nambo finished with 14 saves for the Hubs (3-7-2, 1-4 Interstate 8), who were without starting goalkeeper Antonio Hueramo along with starting defenders Bryan Garcia and Francisco Diaz as well as starting midfielder Alexis Nava. Seniors Diego Salazar and Alex Garcia each notched assists for the Hubs, who will host Ottawa on Monday evening. Above, junior Luis Milan (left) and freshman Eliud Lombardia (right) challenge for possession of the ball.

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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Junior Lauren Dyer passes the ball forward during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball match against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday.

Service errors hurt Lady Hubs against LaSalle-Peru

Rochelle handed road loss from Morris

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — First-set service errors proved troublesome for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team during Tuesday's Interstate 8 Conference match against LaSalle-Peru.

Rochelle finished with eight service errors in the match, with five coming in the first set as the Lady Hubs looked to keep pace with the Cavaliers, who were able to find the holes to put balls away throughout the match. LaSalle-Peru pulled away during the second half of each set, using a 9-3 run in the first set and a 6-1 run in the second set to hand Rochelle a 17-25, 21-25 loss. The Lady Hubs (11-8, 0-2 Interstate 8) will travel for a conference match at Morris on Thursday.

"When we're facing good teams who are scrappy and don't go away, we can't start the set by missing the first three serves," head coach Molly Sly said. "It's too hard to get the momentum back and it's too hard to find our groove when we start like that. I thought we came out with more fire during the second set, but we hit a few balls out and we became a little too relaxed."

Rochelle's struggles on the serve enabled LaSalle-Peru to command a 15-11 lead and force a timeout by the Lady Hubs midway through the first set. Rochelle's serve-receive

managed to create kill opportunities late in the set, but a hard-nosed effort from the Cavalier defense kept balls in the air and allowed LaSalle-Peru to spot the holes on Rochelle's side of the court.

The Cavaliers stretched their lead to 10 points near the end of the first set and a brief 3-1 run from Rochelle wasn't enough to escape from the hole. Eager to respond in the second set, the Lady Hubs funneled the ball to junior outside hitter Taelynn Rodeghero, who finished with a team-leading eight kills on 28 attempts. Despite a strong effort from Rodeghero, LaSalle-Peru continued finding the open areas of the floor, using tips and soft hits to build a 20-15 lead.

"Taelynn's playing all around the court for us," Sly said. "She has a fantastic serve and she puts the ball away. She's working really hard on her back-row play which is what our team needs."

Rochelle nearly extended the match into a third set, bringing the Cavaliers within two points and forcing LaSalle-Peru to spend a timeout with the Lady Hubs trailing 22-20 late in the second set. The Cavaliers finished the match with a pair of kills from outside hitter Addison Duttlinger, who capped off a 3-1 run on the LaSalle-Peru side to clinch the win. Junior setter Ali Ohlinger totaled 17 assists for the Lady Hubs, while senior middle hitter

Kennedy Adamski had three blocks.

"I thought we should have been able to read their hitters and dig some of their balls," Sly said. "They were putting the ball a little too far out of reach for us. I thought we started running down some of those balls late in the second set and playing with a little more fire, but it was too late."

Junior libero Dempsey Atkinson compiled a team-high 10 digs on defense for the Lady Hubs, while Rodeghero finished with seven digs. Senior outside hitter Alivia Henkel notched four kills.

Morris

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball fell just short of earning its first Interstate 8 Conference win of the season Thursday evening. Junior Ali Ohlinger dished out 15 assists, six digs and four aces, while junior Taelynn Rodeghero scored seven kills as the Lady Hubs conceded a 19-25, 23-25 loss to the Morris Redskins.

Senior Alivia Henkel recorded four kills, three aces and two digs in the loss to the Redskins. Juniors Dempsey Atkinson and Emma Kenney combined for seven digs, while Rodeghero added three digs and senior Kennedy Adamski finished with two blocks.

Rochelle (11-9, 0-3 Interstate 8) will return home for a conference match against Ottawa on Tuesday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Senior Makenzie Liezert prepares to serve during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball match against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday.

RTHS Girls Tennis

Singles success headlines home loss to LaSalle-Peru

Rochelle takes two points against Boylan

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Seniors Elin Zheng and Kara Martinez were once again victorious in singles play on Wednesday evening, when the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team hosted an Interstate 8 Conference match against LaSalle-Peru.

Zheng dropped only two games in her 6-0, 6-2 win over Grace Pecchio at No. 1 singles, while Martinez dug deep to pull out a three-set win against Eva Cervantes at No. 2 singles, emerging with a 2-6, 6-2, 10-7 victory. LaSalle-Peru swept all three doubles matches, however, allowing the Cavaliers to hand Rochelle a 3-2 defeat. Rochelle (3-7, 0-4 Interstate 8) will host the Lady Hub Invitational on Saturday.

Junior Riley Doyle and senior Macenzie Glosser took three games in a 1-6, 2-6 loss against Elena Leone and Kaylie Reese at No. 1 doubles, while seniors Allie Dickey and Annaleigh McKinney claimed two games in their 2-6, 0-6 loss at No. 2 doubles. Juniors Kendyl Darby and Kitty Williams found the most success, winning four games in a 1-6, 3-6 loss against Raleigh Leininger and Izzy Pecchio at No. 3 doubles.

Boylan

Seniors Elin Zheng and Kara Martinez each scored singles victories on Monday evening, when the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team traveled for a non-conference match against Boylan Catholic.

Zheng defeated Boylan's Jeeya Amin 6-1, 6-2 at No. 1 singles, while Martinez outlasted Addyson Montalbano for a 6-4, 4-6, 10-6 win at No. 2 singles. The Titans claimed all three doubles points, however, with the doubles sweep propelling Boylan Catholic over Rochelle 3-2.

Junior Riley Doyle and senior Macenzie Glosser fell 0-6, 0-6 against Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Isabelle Grisanzio at No. 1 doubles, while seniors Allie Dickey and Annaleigh McKinney took one game in a 1-6, 0-6 loss to Ava Lassandro and Evelyn Felauer at No. 2 doubles. Juniors Kitty Williams and Kendyl Darby claimed one game in a 0-6, 1-6 loss against Ainsley Bridge and Mary Cyrs at No. 3 doubles.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Junior Kitty Williams hits a forehand shot during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis match against LaSalle-Peru on Wednesday evening.

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AUCTION TIME: 1:00 PM

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IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC
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Darius S. Lewis, Designer & Managing Broker, License # 475-08861 | Joe G. Galt, Designer, Broker & Farm Auctioneer, 207-293-0332
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FALL HOME RENOVATION

The benefits of working with an interior designer

HOMES require an investment of time, energy and money. The payoff of those investments is substantial, and the benefits of home ownership are more profound than even longtime homeowners may recognize.

A 2016 report from the National Association of Realtors indicated that home ownership boosts kids' performance in the classroom, leads to greater participation in civic and volunteer activities and improves health care outcomes, among other benefits. With so much to gain from home ownership, it's no wonder so many people across the globe are willing to commit the time, energy and financial resources necessary to own their own homes.

Homes are undoubtedly a point of pride for millions of homeowners, and that sense of fulfillment is even greater when interiors are up-to-date and welcoming. Home trends come and go, and busy homeowners can be forgiven if they're not able to keep up with the latest interior design styles.

That's the job of a skilled interior designer. Working with such professionals when redoing a home's interior can make all the difference and increase the already profound sense of pride many homeowners have in their homes.

Interior designers can help narrow down the possibilities. A simple internet search prior to beginning a home renovation project will turn up millions of results. That can leave homeowners' heads spinning as they try to identify their own style and plan a project that coordinates with their preferences.



Experienced interior designers can help homeowners identify their style and offer practical insight as they work with clients to choose elements to incorporate into spaces they aspire to renovate.

Interior designers can ensure a room doesn't stick out like a sore thumb. Just

because a design looks good on the internet does not mean it will work well in every home, particularly if only one room is being renovated. Interior designers recognize that and can steer homeowners in the direction of designs that will fit the larger theme of the home while still offering a fresh look and feel.

Interior designers can save homeowners money and headaches. Renovation

projects can be pricey, and that price tag only goes up when mistakes are made. Interior designers advise clients on furnishings and other design components, and that advice can save homeowners money in the long run. Furnishings may be returnable, but such returns typically come with sizable fees. By directing clients toward furnishings and other components that fit the overall design

scheme, interior designers are saving homeowners the cost and headaches associated with fixable yet expensive mistakes.

Interior designs are up-to-date on the latest trends. Real estate and design trends come and go, and dated designs can adversely affect what homeowners recoup at resale. Homeowners who want to update their home interiors with the ultimate

goal of selling their homes can work with experienced interior designers who know which trends are in and which are out. That knowledge can make it easier and more lucrative to sell a home.

Homes are a significant investment, and investing in the services of an experienced interior designer can ensure homeowners maximize the value of their homes.

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FALL HOME RENOVATION

Eight steps to a more functional kitchen

A kitchen is often the most utilized room in a house. Meals may be prepared, cooked and often eaten in kitchens, and the room is often utilized as a homework spot or a makeshift place to pay bills and stay on top of household needs. By enhancing the organization and functionality of the kitchen, homeowners can enjoy these popular spaces even more.

Homeowners have increased their spending on home improvements in recent years. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies for Harvard University, project spending rose to \$472 billion in 2022 from \$328 billion in 2019. It's estimated consumers will have spent \$485 billion by the end of 2023. Kitchen renovations were the most popular upgrade and accounted for the highest budgets in 2021, according to Houzz. When the time comes to renovate a kitchen, homeowners can take steps to make these spaces more organized and therefore functional. Here are eight tips to creating a more functional kitchen.

1. Increase storage, and then invest in more. Make the most of corner cabinets and other potential dead spots in a kitchen. Various products can be used to organize awkwardly angled or shaped areas. Kitchen designers also can work with you to reconfigure cabinets and kitchen layouts.

2. Organize utensils and dishes around the



sink/dishwasher. Rather than traversing the kitchen to put clean dishes away, make loading and unloading the dishwasher that much easier by locating commonly used items next to and above it. Similarly, place frequently used saucepans, baking dishes and other items near the oven or food preparation area.

3. Utilize drawer and cabinet organizers. Make

a place for everything in the kitchen. Take out all items and see what you need and use all the time. Then coordinate storage around those items so everything fits perfectly. Pull-out shelves and Lazy Susans also can facilitate access.

4. Add shelves to cabinets. If you can afford to have a custom-built kitchen, by all means design cabinets according

to preference. If you're using standard cabinets, you may have to reconfigure shelves and spacing to fit the items you have. This also will help you maximize cabinet space.

5. Organize the garbage. Have a pull-out drawer or cabinet to store trash bins. Separate compost, trash and recycling needs.

6. Create continuity in the room. Many open concept homes will have

kitchens open up to another room in the home. Mirror the design scheme from elsewhere in the house, and make sure that the flow between spaces is not obstructed.

7. Create a beverage station. A beverage station can minimize the time needed to make a cup of tea or coffee or for the kids to grab juice or chocolate milk.

8. Have a workspace in

the kitchen. Whether paying bills, making a grocery list or leaving notes for the family, a dedicated workspace can add more function to the room. Be sure there is task lighting nearby and ample overhead lighting to ensure that all kitchen needs are illuminated properly.

A more functional kitchen can make this already popular space even more so.

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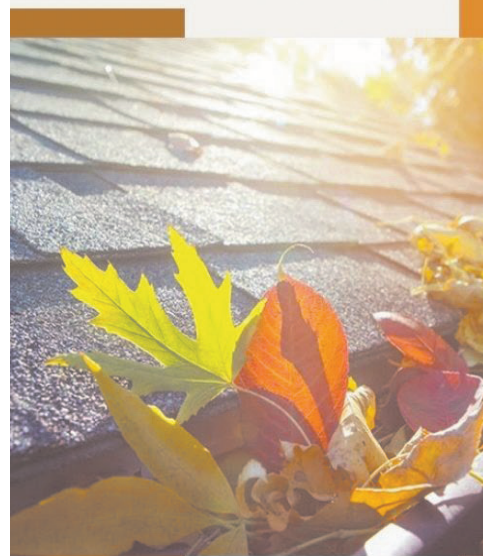
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