



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

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Resource officer

Rochelle City Council approves second Rochelle officer as school resource officer. See page 4

WEATHER

| WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | |
|-----------|-----|----------|-----|
| HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW |
| 80 | 65 | 73 | 56 |

| FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
|--------|-----|----------|-----|
| HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW |
| 71 | 49 | 69 | 46 |

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OBITUARIES

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- JUANITA BRINK

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Honoring the fallen soldier

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle VFW Post 3878 held its annual Memorial Day service at Lawnridge Cemetery Monday morning.

Although the ceremony was shorter this year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the message delivered remained the same as in years past — honoring fallen soldiers.

Cars lined the drive at the cemetery to hear the message, many guests choosing to stay in their vehicles, while some stood outside their vehicles while wearing masks or practicing social distancing.

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows spoke to the crowd about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

“Memorial Day is a day unlike any other. Since 1868 we have come together in our communities, cities and towns, to place flowers and flags on the graves of those who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country,” he said. “We have come here to remember and honor those who have done their duty, and never asked for



(PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows speaks during the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Lawnridge Cemetery Monday.

anything in return other than to be respected and remembered for doing their duty of protecting our freedom and our way of life. In doing so, millions of these soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice, their life, for our freedom.”

Commander of the Rochelle American Legion Post 1304, Chuck Roberts, also spoke during the service. The names of 25 fellow compatriots from VFW Post 3878 who have passed away during the past year were also read.

The shortened ceremony was concluded with a 21-gun salute by the Honor Guard.

Outdoor dining options

City, business owners working on reopening plans

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — As part of the Illinois Phase 3 reopening plan, City of Rochelle officials approved suspension of specific municipal codes to support reopening of local restaurants and bars.

The city has come up with a plan for businesses to use outdoor public spaces and the extension of liquor licenses under the limited capacity and social distancing guidelines of Governor Pritzker’s Restore Illinois Plan.

An outline of plans has been made by city officials who intend to meet with local business owners to discuss what

“We are going to meet with local restaurant and bar owners to find out what will work best for them. These are just guidelines.”

Jeff Fiegenschuh

will work for them, specifically.

“We are going to meet with local restaurant and bar owners to find out what will work best for them,” city manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “These are just guidelines.”

Opportunities

Beginning immediately, the following opportunities and regulations

will allow for local bars and restaurants to reopen:

Use of right-of-way and city streets for public pedestrian use from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a maximum use of 60 minutes.

Use of parking lots for outdoor seating from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a maximum of use 60 minutes.

See PLAN page 4

Tornado touchdown confirmed

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — The National Weather Service has determined an EF-1 tornado with 90 to 100 m.p.h. winds and an approximate width of 100 yards caused damage on Saturday afternoon near the intersection of Canfield Road and Rocky Hollow Road.

Trained weather spotters observed several funnel clouds and the tornado resulted in siren activation without weather warnings.

A severe storm warning was issued on Saturday at 1:33 p.m. for southwestern Ogle County by the National

Weather Service.

A tornado watch was also issued Saturday beginning at 12:33 p.m. and lasting until 8 p.m. for Ogle County as conditions were favorable for tornadoes in the area.

Three rounds of sirens were issued in Ogle County Saturday afternoon.

The outdoor warning siren system was updated in April. The outdoor warning sirens will be sounded in the event of a tornado warning (funnel cloud spotted or radar indicated) and/or in the event of a severe thunderstorm warning with 70 m.p.h. or more winds, whole trees downed by winds or golf ball sized hail.

Lawmakers pass budget package to close out special session

Republicans say budget balanced ‘only on a wing and a prayer’

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD — The Senate on early Sunday morning passed a budget package authorizing \$42.8 billion in general revenue spending next year, although much of that remains tentative depending on the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and potential congressional action that could send more financial aid to states. The House approved the budget bill late Saturday night.

The budget deal was worked out largely out of public view over the past two and a half months as lawmakers worked remotely in various informal “working groups,”

and it continued to undergo changes in recent days in advance of the House debate.

One key to making the budget work is a plan to borrow up to \$5 billion from the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility program. That program allows the central bank to purchase certain short-term debt from states to help them make up for the loss of revenue they’ve seen since the pandemic forced them to close large parts of their economy.

It also authorizes another \$1.5 billion in borrowing between the general revenue fund and various other state funds in order to maintain cash flow throughout the year.

House Majority Lead-



Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, gets an elbow bump from Rep. Justin Slaughter, D-Chicago, after the passing of SB 264, the state budget for the new fiscal year starting in July, with a vote of 68-44 during an extended session of the Illinois House of Representatives on Saturday night at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield. (Pool photo by Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register)

er Gregory Harris, D-Chicago, said that by borrowing from the Fed, Illinois will be able to

keep state spending for the fiscal year that begins July 1 largely at the same level as this year’s spending.

“If we’re going to balance the budget, I would rather not do it on the backs of people who would lose their jobs if we were to cut money to our schools, cut money to our first responders,” he said. “I don’t want thousands more people out of work.”

Lawmakers expect to pay back the Federal Reserve loan with federal funds they expect Congress to approve in the next stimulus package for states. But Congress has not yet authorized such a package and there is sharp disagreement between congressional Republicans and Democrats over what that plan should look like.

See FUNDING page 5

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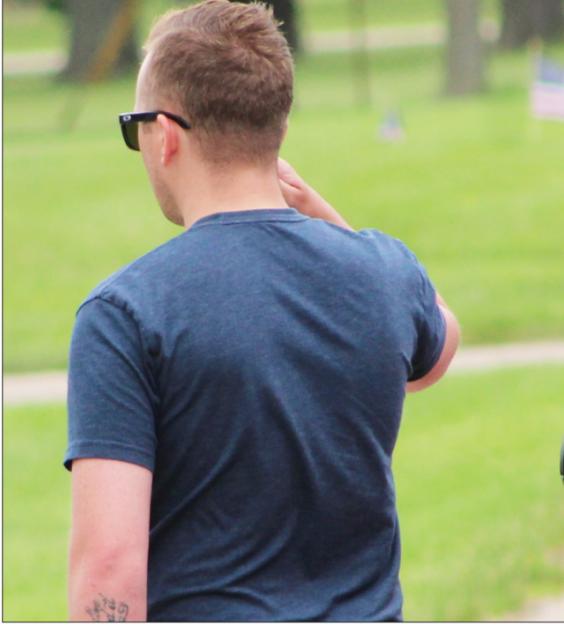
LOCAL NEWS

Memorial Day



The annual Memorial Day ceremony was held at Lawncridge Cemetary Monday morning. The ceremony was shortened this year to accommodate social distancing. Many still attended the ceremony.

(PHOTOS BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)



Discover how you can be free from fear

FEAR is an enemy that torments the soul and seeks to steal our life. Conquering it is not something that we do in one day, or even in 1,000 days. It is something that we achieve one day at a time with God's help.



Joyce Meyer

Fear can show up unexpectedly. One of our goals should be to recognize it so we can deal with it right away.

I remember a time when I was waking up at about 2 or 3 in the morning and then having difficulty going back to sleep. After two nights of that, I found myself going to bed with a vague sort of fear that it would happen again, and sure enough it did. After about three nights of the same thing, God reminded me that I could pray and resist Satan, the source of all fear. According to God's Word, the sleep of the righteous should be sweet (see Proverbs 3:24). I prayed immediately and went back to sleep and have not had any problems since then.

Being free from fear doesn't mean that we will never experience it or be confronted by it. It means that we are committed to not allowing it to rule our lives, and when necessary we will do what we need to do, even if we have to do it afraid.

Each time you feel fear and decide to "do it afraid," you will enjoy your new freedom so much that you will soon be totally unwilling to do without it. You will become determined to end your days of slavery to fear. That does not mean that you won't still need to confront your fears, but it does mean that you will be more and more willing to keep confronting them.

Galatians 5:1 (AMP) says, "It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [which you once removed]." This scripture is very clear that even though we have been completely liberated from a yoke of bondage, we will need to "keep standing firm" and not allow ourselves to be entrapped by it again.

Satan is very shrewd and he never completely gives up the hope of drawing us back into bondage. So we must live watchfully, ready to recognize and

immediately confront the things that steal our liberty in Christ.

The Bible says that the righteous man falls seven times and gets up again (see Proverbs 24:16). I love that scripture and am greatly encouraged by it. Even the most righteous person fails to do everything he knows to do all the time, but he is committed to not giving up.

If you have a weak moment, that doesn't mean you have lost your victory. But if we give up, we won't be in a position to get help from God, because we receive His help through faith, not through hopelessness. We need to stay positive, hopeful and filled with faith, and when we do, we can overcome anything with God's help. I often say that anyone can succeed if they refuse to give up!

Some fears are more deeply rooted in us than other ones, and for that reason, they may be ones we have to resist more aggressively. Mine is the fear of making people angry. My father was always angry, and I never really knew if I had done something to make him that way or not. I would like to be able to say that after all of these years of teaching others, I no longer have to deal with this fear, but that's not the case. However, now I recognize it and deal with it, so I still have the victory.

Recognizing the lies, deceit and strategies of the devil is so important. We should always be ready to resist him at the onset of his attacks, because the longer we let a fear remain, the more difficult it is to get rid of it. So make a decision to be a person of action. You have what it takes to win!

The Word of God says that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us (Romans 8:37). God has given us all that we could ever need to overcome our fears through Christ. He has blessed us with every blessing in the spiritual realm (Ephesians 1:3). He has given us power and authority over all the power the devil possesses (Luke 10:19). We have what it takes, but we must be active in our faith and never give up.

Possessing the full freedom that is yours in Christ is a progressive journey. It is something we gain and then maintain. I encourage you to focus on your progress instead of merely looking at how far you have to go.



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LOCAL NEWS

Kids celebrated with parade

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE – The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce’s Celebrate Our Little Hero’s Drive-Thru Parade was a big hit with kids and families in the community.

The parade took place on Friday, May 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Rochelle Commons parking lot. Vehicles entered the parking lot, received a bag and a number identifying the number of children in the vehicle and drove through the parking lot receiving gifts from multiple volunteer sharers.

Many families decorated their vehicles and waved out the windows as they drove by. One family even decorated its dog in a special costume for the event. In addition to families, the Rochelle Police Department and Rochelle Fire Department attended as well. The entire parade was a success and the chamber of commerce was very happy with the number of families that showed support.

“The parade went very well and we had roughly 150 kids that came out,” said Tricia Herrera, Rochelle Chamber of Commerce president. “We had beautiful weather and lots of kids went home with bags of goodies, it was just a really fun time.”

There were around 15



Some families driving through the Celebrate Our Little Heroes parade Friday decorated their vehicles with balloons.

“It was a great time, we had a lot of fun, spread a lot of smiles with the young kids and that was our whole goal.”

Tricia Herrera

different volunteer sharers at the event handing out goodies and while the kids enjoyed the gifts, many of the families said it was great just to see people again. The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everybody who came out to support the kids in the community who have been affected by the pandemic.

“We want to thank all of the sharers, the businesses, the Rochelle Police Department and the Rochelle Fire Department for coming out,” Herrera said. “It was a great time, we had a lot of fun, spread a lot of smiles with the young kids and that was our whole goal.”



Above, Rochelle Fire Lt. Jason Underwood speaks with one of the families who drove through during the parade Friday.

Officers issue citations for disobeying traffic control device

On May 16 at 2:49 p.m., Rochelle police cited Frank Draffkorn, 63, of Elgin, for disobeying a traffic control device. He posted a promise to comply.



On May 16 at 5:07 p.m., Rochelle police cited Andrea Stricker, 45, of Beloit, Wisconsin, for disobeying a traffic control device. She posted a promise to comply.

On May 17 at 2:54 p.m., Rochelle police cited Brittany Duncan, 31, of DeKalb, for speeding 59 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. She posted a promise to comply.

On May 17 at 10:13 a.m., Rochelle police cited Otto Dick, 83, of Oregon, for disobeying a traffic control device. He posted a promise to comply.

On May 19 at 8:09 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Angela Jones, 46, of Rochelle, for violation of stalking/no contact order. She posted an I-bond.

On May 20 at 9:08 a.m., Rochelle police cited Charity Van Raden, 26, of Franklin Grove, for operating a vehicle with no proof of insurance. She posted a

promise to comply.

On May 20 at 7:02 p.m., Rochelle police cited Madelyn Bunger, 19, of Kirkland, for speeding 55 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. She posted a promise to comply.

On May 21 at 1:59 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Nicole Lapage, 28, of Mount Morris, for driving while license revoked, failure to signal, disobeying a stop sign, four counts of possession of a controlled substance and obstructing identification. She was transported to jail.

Man flown to hospital following motorcycle accident

On May 25 at approximately 5:51 p.m., deputies responded to the intersection of Montague Road and Pecatonica Road for a single vehicle motorcycle accident. An investigation revealed a motorcycle driven by Terry Brannon, 53, of Leaf River, was traveling eastbound on Montague Road when it failed to negotiate the ramp onto Pecatonica Road. The motorcycle entered the median where it overturned multiple times. Brannon received serious injuries and was flown from the scene by REACT Helicopter. Pursuant to an investigation Brannon was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Byron and Leaf River EMS. The accident remains under investigation.

On May 23 at 7:54 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies observed a tan van disobey the stop sign at Illinois 251 and Illinois 72. A traffic stop resulted in the arrest of Rueben Dario Reyes-Allanco, 34, of Carpentersville. He was charged with DUI, no valid driver’s license, no vehicle insurance, and illegal transportation of open alcohol. He was taken to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On May 24 at approximately 2:40 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 103 1/2 northbound. After conducting an investigation

Joshua Carey, 32, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Carey was also issued a citation for no valid insurance. Carey was issued an I-bond with a return court date.

On May 24 at approximately 8 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies received a call of a hit and run at the intersection of Pershing and Rural Streets in the Village of Stillman Valley. A short time later, Christopher Rozakis, 35, of Stillman Valley, was located and charged with DUI drugs, leaving the scene of an accident and use of unsafe tires. He was released on an I-Bond at the Rochelle Community Hospital with a later court date in Oregon.

On May 25 at 4:54 p.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 79 eastbound. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Shantori Bell, 36, of Clinton, Iowa, for driving while license revoked. Bell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On May 25 at 4:21 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies initiated a traffic stop at Holcomb Road and Lindenwood Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Christian Elliott, 25, of Malta, for driving while license suspended. Elliott was released on an I-Bond and will appear in court on Aug. 19 at 9 a.m.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Sonia Villanueva Aviles

ROCHELLE — Sonia M. Villanueva Aviles, 54, died on Sunday, May 24, 2020 at OSF in Peoria. Arrangements are pending at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. Visit www.UngerHorner.com.

Juanita Brink

DEKALB — Juanita J. Brink, 92, died on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at Oak Crest Nursing Home in DeKalb. Arrangements are pending at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. Visit www.UngerHorner.com.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

Pavia named new resource officer for high school

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Police Officer Pete Pavia will be the new Rochelle Township High School Resource Officer following approval by city council Tuesday night.

An intergovernmental agreement was approved between the City of Rochelle and the Board of Education of RTHS district 212.

The proposed agreement mirrors the one that is in place for the Rochelle Elementary District. Sixty-six percent of the officer's total annual compensation including salary, overtime, benefits and pension benefits will be paid by the board of education.



Officer Pavia

The proposed agreement is for three years with additional one-year terms if both the city and the school board agree. The city will be responsible for the salary and benefits during the summer.

"Having officers from the same agency in

both the Rochelle Middle School and RTHS should make a more fluid transition for the students," Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said. "They will have an opportunity to interact with these officers as educators and role models."

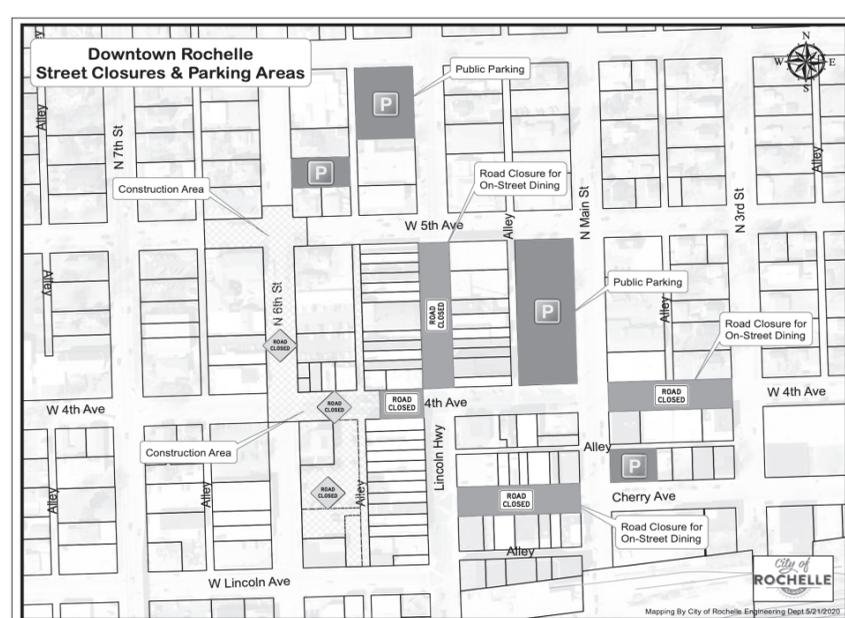
Officer Pavia has 23 years of law enforcement experience, has been to school resource officer training and is an A.L.I.C.E. instructor.

PLAN: City working with businesses on reopening plan

From page 1

Within the areas designated only, the city has provisionally waived prohibitions on the public consumption or possession of alcohol. This prohibition waiver is for the consumption of packaged alcoholic beverages purchased from adjacent licensed bars/restaurants only. After hours public consumption will be enforced along with public consumption outside of the designated areas.

Local and state laws and all guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health surrounding public gatherings and alcohol consumption will remain in full effect and enforcement by the Rochelle Police Department. This applies to public intoxication, disturbances, fights, noise complaints



Possible road closures for outdoor dining in downtown area.

and other statutory laws. "We are still waiting for final guidelines — we are currently under the assumption that we are following the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity guidelines," Fie-

"We want this to be fluid, we have a meeting with business owners on Wednesday to find out what their needs are."

Jeff Fiegenschuh

genschuh said during Tuesday night's council meeting. "We want this to be fluid, we have a meeting with business owners on Wednesday to find out what their needs are."

Partnership formed to service small businesses

MALTA — Kishwaukee College and the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Waubensee Community College created a formal partnership to service small businesses within the Kishwaukee College district. Services to support small business development in and around the City of Rochelle are currently available and more are planned for the future. Various local organizations have invested in the partnership.

"Kishwaukee College is committed to supporting local businesses," said college president Dr. Laurie Borowicz. "Thank you to the Illinois SBDC at Waubensee for partnering with us to make it possible for businesses in our district to continue to develop and grow."

The City of Rochelle approached Kishwaukee College to explore ways to support businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs in and around the surrounding area. Kishwaukee, in collaboration with the SBDC at Waubensee, formed a new partnership to help fulfill the City of Rochelle's needs.

"The SBDC is excited to be working closely with Kishwaukee College to serve entrepreneurs and small businesses," comments Harriet Parker, manager of the SBDC at Waubensee. "The SBDC offers a mix of one-on-one assistance and workshops to help business owners start, run and grow a successful business."

Initially, the partnership was designed to help people learn how to write business plans, understand financing options and learn other business development strategies. More recently, the partnership has been facilitating webinars to help the Rochelle business community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The partnership has done a tremendous job of getting valuable information to our business owners and helping them navigate the pandemic and apply for resources available to them," says Jeff Fiegenschuh, city manager of Rochelle. Because of the recent webinars, some Rochelle businesses have seen success with the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. "We want to make sure our businesses are ready to open when the state reopens," adds Fiegenschuh.

Local organizations have already invested funds in support of the new Kish and SBDC partnership. Central Bank Illinois in Rochelle, City of Rochelle and the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation have all contributed. The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce has also been supportive. In total, the partnership has raised over \$11,000.

Rochelle businesses who are interested in supporting the partnership, please contact Peggy Friday, commercial & retail development Coordinator at City of Rochelle, at pfriday@rochelleil.us.

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STATE NEWS

Business owners, public employees argue state owes lost revenue, wages

Property seizure violates U.S., Illinois constitutions

BY REBECCA ANZEL
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's executive orders shuttering non-essential businesses and workplaces indefinitely is unconstitutional, three business owners and two county officials claim in a lawsuit filed in federal court, because the state has not provided monetary compensation.

Both the U.S. and Illinois constitutions provide that private property cannot be confiscated for public use "without just compensation." Illinois' governing document adds that property also cannot be damaged.

"The governor and the state have seized without compensation the property and businesses and the livelihoods of individuals across the state, forcing indefinite closures and layoffs of thousands of people," according to the lawsuit.

They are asking a judge to order the state to pay all "similarly situated persons, companies and entities ... just compensation."

Pritzker issued orders closing businesses on March 20, April 1 and April 30. In the filing, the residents do not challenge the governor's authority to take those actions, as has been the case in lawsuits filed by two Republican lawmakers and others.

Two parties in the lawsuit are George Pearson, the Will County Republican Committee chairman, and Steve Balich, a member of the Will County Board. Both claim the state's restrictions "deprived" them of income.

Pearson claims he cannot perform his duties to



Gov. JB Pritzker addresses the media Friday during a news conference in his Capitol office in Springfield. (Pool photo by Justin L. Fowler/State Journal-Register of Springfield)

nominate candidates for the Nov. 3 general election ballot. Balich claims he cannot "effectively represent his constituents" or run for reelection.

And two business owners — Samantha Palya, proprietor of Absolutely Pawfect Pet Styling in Cook County, and Amanda Hamerman, owner of Color Envy in DuPage County — claim the closure of their shops caused lost revenue. Michael Judge, owner of Judge Automotive in Cook County, alleges the stay-at-home restriction caused fewer people to travel and thus need their cars repaired.

According to the filing, the state threatened them with fines and undefined criminal punishments if they did not comply with Pritzker's order.

"In the wake of a fast-moving disease outbreak, (those suing) stand on the precipice of economic collapse as a direct result of the actions taken," the lawsuit argues. "Despite issuing the

COVID-19 closure orders for a readily-apparent public purpose, the governor did not provide compensation for those who suffered substantial — and perhaps total — diminution of value in their property as a result."

Balich said in an email he hopes this lawsuit "will help open Illinois."

The lawsuit was filed May 13 by attorneys with Mokena-based Bruggeman, Hurst & Associates. The state has not yet responded to the residents' arguments and no hearings have been scheduled.

Rebecca Pallmeyer, chief judge of the Northern District Federal Court, is assigned to the case. She was the judge in a suit by the Libertarian and Green Parties of Illinois to loosen requirements for third-party candidates to be included on November ballots this election cycle and in one filed by a group claiming COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot.

FUNDING: Budget package consists of two bills

From page 1

Both chambers of the Illinois Legislature passed a separate bill authorizing that borrowing Friday night.

"What we've heard today is a budget that is balanced only on a wing and a prayer," said Republican Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon, the House GOP's chief budget negotiator.

During the Senate debate that began after midnight, Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon, said the Legislature is "gambling" with its budget plan.

The spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year is spelled out in Senate Bill 264. According to an analysis of the package that was circulating among lawmakers Saturday, it essentially calls for flat funding for most state programs, including K-12 schools, which will see no increase in their evidence-based funding over their current levels, although they will not see any decrease either.

Funding for state universities is also held flat at current-year levels, as is funding for the Monetary Aid Program, or MAP grants, and AIM HIGH grants.

A few state agencies are slated for increases in the new budget, including the Illinois Department of Public Health, the agency coordinating much of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its total budget, including federal funds, is slated to grow 144 percent, to more than \$1.6 billion.

Included in that figure is \$416 million in federal funds for testing and services provided by local health departments.

The Department on Aging, which would see an additional \$58 million in order to raise wages for adult care providers, transportation and homemaker service providers to \$14 per hour.

The Department of Children and Family Services is also slated for a 20-percent increase in general revenue funding, or about \$170 million, to provide rate increases for foster care providers, to hire 123 investigative staff and to address caseload growth.

During debate in both chambers, Republicans urged delaying any action on a budget until the state has a better estimate of how much revenue it will receive in the coming year, as well as how much federal aid will be available, but Democrats did not entertain that suggestion.

The 68-44 vote in the House to pass the budget bill appeared to fall largely along party lines, with Republicans ar-

guing it relied too heavily on borrowing and not enough on fiscal restraint.

It passed the Senate, 37-19.

CARES Act funding

The budget package actually consists of two bills — an appropriations bill, Senate Bill 264, which authorizes spending by various state agencies; and a "budget implementation" bill, or "BIMP," in legislative lingo, House Bill 64, that enables various agencies to carry out the budget.

The implementation bill sets up a number of new funds within state government that can receive and distribute money from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion federal relief program that Congress approved earlier this year.

The state expects to receive about \$3.3 billion through that program. Harris said that money is being earmarked for direct aid to the state's health care industry to help hospitals, nursing homes, mental health centers and other care providers absorb the cost they've incurred for dealing with the pandemic.

He said another \$1.8 billion is earmarked for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and it gives Gov. JB Pritzker authority to decide how it is spent.

That part especially infuriated Republicans who have complained about Pritzker governing by executive authority, and about the General Assembly not exercising its oversight role.

But Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, the Senate Democrats' lead negotiator, said in an interview Friday that the federal money comes with significant strings attached and that it can be spent only for specific purposes, and therefore Pritzker will be restrained by federal rules.

But the implementation bill also gives the governor additional discretionary authority over the spending of state funds throughout the budget. Normally governors are allowed to shift up to 2 percent of an appropriation from one purpose to another, but this year's bill expands that to 8 percent, something that angered many Republicans.

It also sets up a legislative oversight committee to monitor all executive spending in the budget as well as how CARES Act money distributed to local governments is spent.

The implementation bill passed the Senate, 33-19. It later passed the House, 62-47.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Entitlement

LAST week, two state Senate staffers were allegedly caught – gasp — drinking beer in the Capitol. The surprising thing is that both were arrested. While it is illegal to drink alcohol in the Capitol Building, I’ve never heard of the measure being enforced. Ever.



Scott Reeder

It can manifest itself in small ways, like carrying a case of beer into the statehouse past the building’s security, or in big ways such as approving a budget that is billions of dollars out of whack. Just as there is a state law prohibiting booze in the statehouse, there is a provision in the state constitution requiring a balanced budget. Admittedly, it is vaguely written and lacks any enforcement provision. But the rule is still there. And widely ignored.

The budget introduced by Gov. J.B. Pritzker and approved by the legislature this past week is held together by chewing gum and baling wire.

For example, it’s called “balanced” even though it relies on borrowing \$5 billion from the Federal Reserve and plans on spending \$1.1 billion from a tax hike that hasn’t even gone before the voters yet.

There is no guarantee voters will approve the progressive income tax in November. And even if they do, it is doubtful that during a recession it would generate the kind of dollars the budget depends on it for.

Unlike other states, Illinois lawmakers have avoided making tough decisions about spending cuts. That’s hardly a new phenomenon. Year after year, Illinois has spent more than it has taken in. Both Republican and Democratic administrations bear responsibility for making the state the fiscal basket case of the nation.

But even after all those decades of mismanagement, I’ve yet to see so egregious a spending plan as the one legislators passed this month.

Inevitably there will be some legal contortionists who will claim this budget that relies on borrowing and a tax that hasn’t even been approved constitutes a balanced budget.

To that I can only ask: “What have you been drinking?”

Letter to the Editor

Plenty of Reasons to vote for Kinzinger

Dear Editor,
It seems like a lifetime ago, but this past February I was in a packed room at the Dixon Elks for the Lee County Reagan Day Dinner.

I was fortunate enough to see Congressman Adam Kinzinger give an inspirational, uplifting, moving address that brought the crowd to their feet. A common phrase I heard from other attendees that night described his address as remarks from a Statesman. As a voter in the 16th District I

walked away that night with my belief that Congressman Kinzinger clearly represents the interests and values of the majority of voters in the district. As a voter in the 16th District I will be voting for Adam Kinzinger on Nov. 3.

During his time in Congress, Adam Kinzinger has fought back against propaganda and the unfair trade practices of the Chinese Communist Government. He’s had legislative victories that delivered much needed rural broadband ben-

efiting Lee County. Kinzinger has delivered much needed funding to fight the opioid crisis and treat those addicted. Congressman Kinzinger is a consistent supporter of Agriculture (the backbone of Lee County) and the family farm.

Most importantly – Adam Kinzinger is a leader who fights for this district and the country we love. And right now, we need proven leaders like Adam – and not the unproven – fighting for us in the U.S.

Lirim Mimini
Ashton



Thankful for Schwartz’ years at May School

Dear Editor,
I’m sure most of the community knows Jill Schwartz, whether you are her family, her friend, her past student, a parent, or a co-worker. I am fortunate to fit into three of those categories.

I first met Jill as a parent. My daughter and son were both lucky enough to have her as their second grade teacher at May School.

Jill doesn’t just teach math and reading, she teaches her students compassion and life lessons. She doesn’t just “tell” she teaches the “why.” She is funny and sarcastic yet serious and structured. From thunder brownies to the “sneaky E” (her students will know) she makes learning fun and creates a family in her classroom. Jill takes her students on adventures with the Boxcar Children, Tacky the Penguin, and all of Kevin Henkes’s characters. From her bubble blowing contests to teaching the kids what it feels like to be old by putting scotch tape on

their knuckles, she makes an impact. She has helped mold my children and so many others. I am forever grateful for the role she has played in my children’s lives.

I started working full time at May School when my son was in first grade as a one-on-one aide for a second grader. Jill Schwartz was his teacher and I was able to spend most of my day in her classroom. This is where I was really able to see what an extraordinary teacher she was. Before, I saw her from a parent’s perspective, now I was getting behind the scenes action. She was a perfect teacher to learn and grow from.

Jill is supportive without being condescending and is such a strong leader. I loved the way she was cool, calm and collected and this is when I started saying W.W.J.D. — What Would Jill do? I learned so much from her. Jill went from being my children’s

teacher, to my admired co-worker, and now the best of all, my friend.

Jill has a wonderful sense of humor and is so much fun to be around. She is sarcastic and loyal and such a genuine person. She is beautiful inside and out. I am going to miss seeing her every day at work. Her classroom will always hold the memories of her years at May. Thirty-three years at the same school is just remarkable.

I wish she could have had those last months teaching. I wish she could have had the goodbyes she deserved but nothing can take away from incredible career she has had and all the lives she has touched.

Cheers to you, Jill!
“Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops.”
~ Henry Brooks Adams

Jackleen Potts
Rochelle



VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

In entering Phase 3 of the state’s reopening plan, many salons will be re-opening after June 1. Will you be making an appointment right away with your stylist?

“No, though I’d love to get my hair cut, keeping myself and loved ones safe is more important. I’ll just have long hair for a while.”
Kimberly Ekes

“Yes, as soon as she can get me in.”
Deanna Hayward

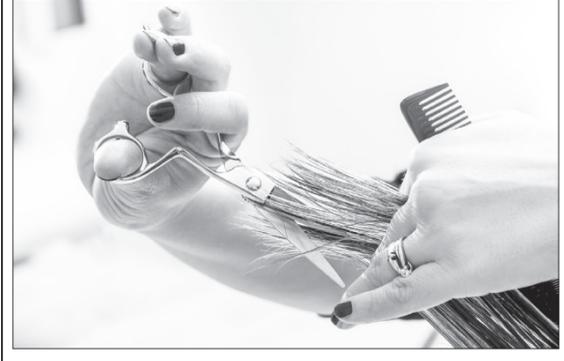
“Already have me appointment set.”
Sherry Bunger

“No, waiting for it to grow out some from the hatchet job I did on it.”
Tammy Miller

“No, I can use scissor and clippers at home. My wife will though.”
Eric Paul

“Nope, waiting at least a month to see how things go.”
Kristin Boynton

“Already made appointments for myself, hubby and both kids.”
Jenni Hardin



How to contact government officials

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Washington, D.C.
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(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart
M104A State House
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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.

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Estate of Mary Jo Backe
Kathryn Thompson
Kathryn Thompson
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Illinois Attorney General
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Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
No. 0515 (May 31)

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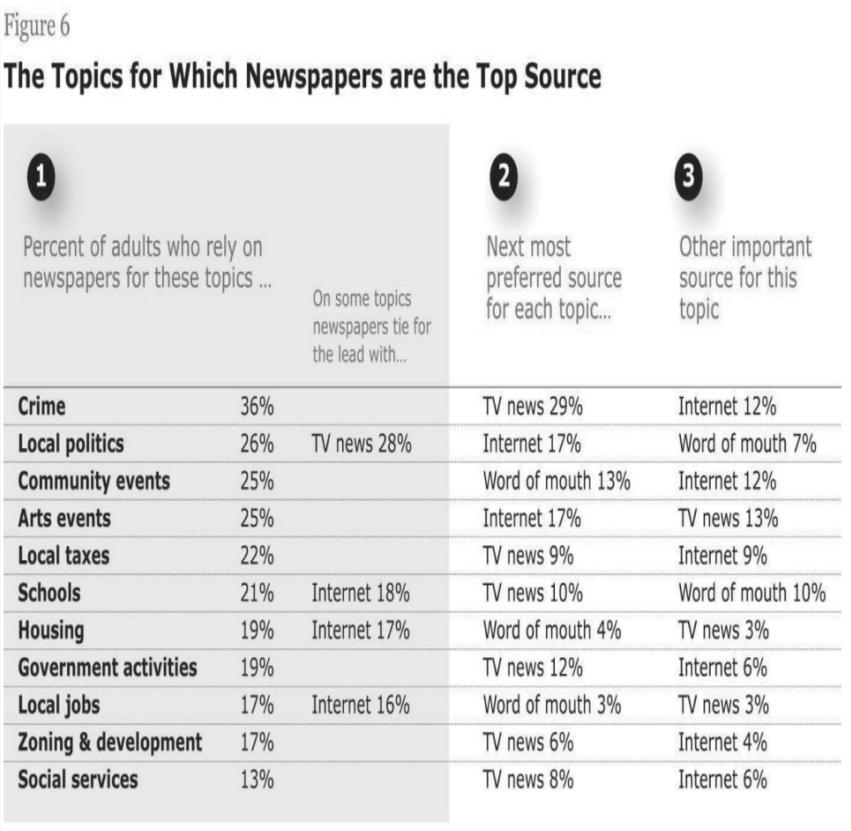
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Source: Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism and Internet & American Life Project in partnership with the Knight Foundation, January 12-25, 2011 Local Information Survey, N=2,251 adults age 18 and older. Conducted in English and Spanish and included 750 cell phone interviews.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Schabacker grows from small school to big role

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

WHEN Morgan Schabacker started cheering for the Rochelle Junior Tackle program in fifth grade, she was initially unsure of the welcome she would receive from her new teammates.

Schabacker grew up attending Kings School, where she first began cheerleading alongside a small group of students. She didn't know any of the other cheerleaders when she signed up for the RJT program, but it was then that Schabacker realized that cheerleading was her sport.

"Coming from a small class at Kings, I didn't know any of the other girls going into tryouts, but they were all so welcoming," Schabacker said. "I started cheering at Kings, but I really started to realize that cheerleading was a great fit for me when I became a part of the RJT program."

Since that time, Schabacker has grown immensely as a cheerleader and formed many fond memories throughout her career. The Rochelle Township High School senior was a part of the 2018 Northern Illinois Big 12 Conference Championship squad that advanced all the way to the IHSA State Championships. Schabacker received several honors for her performance this season including Interstate 8 All-Conference recognition and an RTHS Cheerleader of the Year Award.

"The RTHS cheerleading program has taught me to always put my best effort into everything I strive to accomplish, be the best version of myself and be passionate about everything I do," Schabacker said. "One of my favorite memories was being a part of the team that had the opportunity to compete at state in 2018. We all put so much work in throughout the season, and our work paid off when we performed our cleanest routine on the state mat."

Schabacker, who will be attending Iowa State University to study agri-



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Rochelle senior Morgan Schabacker has come far from starting her cheerleading career at Kings School in fifth grade.

cultural business and animal science, cheered for four years with both the fall and winter teams at RTHS. An Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference honoree this season as well, Schabacker entered high school as a main base before transitioning to a back-spotting role with the Lady Hubs. Outside cheerleading, Schabacker was active in FFA, spending four years with the RTHS FFA.

"I believe my stunting skills improved the most over my last four years," Schabacker said. "I enjoyed being someone who could step in and help a stunt group wherever I was needed, whether it was basing or in a backing position."

"The RTHS cheerleading program has taught me to always put my best effort into everything I strive to accomplish, be the best version of myself and be passionate about everything I do... I believe my stunting skills improved the most over my last four years. I enjoyed being someone who could step in and help a stunt group wherever I was needed, whether it was basing or in a backing position."

Morgan Schabacker

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 10

SPORTS



FINDING HER PLACE

RTHS senior Morgan Schabacker grows into leadership role with cheer team.

See page 9 for more details

RTHS Football

Passion and perseverance

Casey overcomes early-season adversity, becomes mentor for young players

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

QUINTON Casey had a difficult decision to make near the beginning of his senior football season with the Rochelle Hubs. While there were moments where Casey doubted his decision, he said that staying true to his passion was one of the best choices he's made in his life.

Casey had been gearing up for his fourth season with the Rochelle football program, but he was disappointed to find out early on that he would be starting his senior campaign on the JV team and not the varsity squad. Although Casey was upset, he didn't let the move discourage him from working hard on and off the field, and he wound up having the best season of his career.

"RTHS football taught me to stick with your passion no matter what," Casey said. "I stayed with the team after a bumpy start, but I stayed for the whole season, and as a

result, I felt I had my best season ever. I also took on a mentorship role for some of my younger teammates. If you truly want it, work hard and don't give up because the rewards can be endless."

Casey's perseverance led to several career highlights during his senior season including his first-ever interception, a fumble recovery and his first-ever rushing touchdown. Casey, who will be attending Northern Illinois University to study journalism, said he wouldn't have performed as well as he did as a senior without perseverance and the support of his teammates.

"I faced a lot of adversity, but I had my best season and I gained a lot of confidence in myself," Casey said. "I became a leader and my teammates trusted me to make plays... The thrill and support from my teammates and coaches is something I'll never forget. I eventually played more and more varsity snaps until I became a starter in the



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

RTHS head athletic trainer Mark Lovell attends to senior football player Quinton Casey during game action this past fall.

second-to-last week of the season. Without perseverance, I wouldn't have gotten as far as I did near the end of the season."

Casey's consistency was prevalent throughout

his many years playing football. He never missed a single season dating all the way back to when he first took up flag football as a kid. He said the grace of the sport was what fueled

his passion at an early age and continued as he grew older.

"My favorite part about playing for RTHS was the camaraderie and the thrill of playing in front of loud

stadiums," Casey said. "I'll forever have a passion for football and my love for the game has only grown stronger as I've grown older and become more involved in the game."

RTHS Volleyball

Duval's improvement leads to breakout season

Versatile senior helps Lady Hubs set new wins record in 2019

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

THE Rochelle Township High School volleyball team enjoyed its most successful campaign in program history this past season, and a major reason for the team's turnaround was the experience and versatility of its seniors including three-year varsity player Maggie Duval.

Duval entered RTHS in 2016 after playing volleyball for St. Paul Lutheran School, where she formed close bonds with several teammates she competed alongside for the Lady Hubs. She was elevated to the varsity squad her sophomore season and remained with the team through her senior season, spending time at both the setter and right-side positions.

"I first started playing volleyball in fifth grade," Duval said. "My older sister had played and my mom had grown up with the coach at St. Paul. I've loved volleyball since the day I went to my first practice... I really enjoyed the

relationships I formed with my coaches and teammates. We were all friends and we shared the best memories together on and off the court."

Duval and the Lady Hubs won a school-record 21 matches during the 2019 season including an enormous upset over eventual IHSA 3A Sectional finalist LaSalle-Peru. Duval's rise to her breakout senior season began during her junior season, when she totaled 81 kills from the right side. Her all-around talents were on display this past fall, as she compiled 224 assists, second-most on the team, while adding 156 digs, 119 kills and 22 aces for the varsity squad.

"I learned how to persevere and not give up after one bad play or loss," Duval said. "I learned how to always support my teammates and friends in life. Volleyball definitely became a safe place for me. Whenever I was playing, my stress from classes or life in general pretty much went away. I only focused on the game and improving myself for the team."

Duval's play her senior season warranted the Most Improved Player Award from the RTHS volleyball program. Duval, who has earned Academic All-Conference in each of the last two seasons, will be attending Wheaton College this fall to begin her academic studies. While she's currently undecided on a major, she said she aims to study minor in Spanish, and she said she hopes she can have a career that allows her to interact with others and bring out her social side.

"Breaking the single-season wins record was really exciting for us," Duval said. "The team dinners we had were also really fun. I loved going to our summer league matches, even when the temperatures were around 100 degrees inside. Those matches were always a lot of fun... I feel like I improved the most during my senior year. I had the chance to work on my passing more often, as well as my other skills, which were more applicable to higher levels of play."



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Rochelle senior Maggie Duval finished her high school volleyball career with the strongest season of her four-year stint with the Lady Hubs.



YOUR GUIDE TO
Summer
HOME & GARDEN
Care

The Rochelle News-Leader
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 • Section 2

HOME GUIDE

Secrets to making your home look like you hired a design pro

PHOTO spreads in home design magazines can be awe-inspiring. Quite often homeowners wish they could lift the looks right off the pages of magazines and transform their own homes into picture-perfect retreats.

It takes an eye for design to pull a room together — even with inspiration — and make it both functional and attractive. While hiring an interior designer is one way to go, homeowners can use some of the tricks and techniques the designers employ to do a remarkably good job of improving the interiors of their homes without such help.

Embrace texture

The colors used in a home can add impact, but designers often utilize various textures to create aesthetic appeal. A single color scheme can be enhanced by various fabrics. Consider a leather sofa made more cozy with chenille pillows next to a rustic side table. Figure out ways to incorporate a few different textures to add depth to the room.

Be careful with color

Many high-end homes showcase neutral shades that are enhanced by pops of color. If you like a rich, royal purple, leave room for other colors as well. Add touches of purple in vases, throw pillows and other accessories.

Also, many designers work in shades of three for room colors. There



may be one main color for walls, another color for larger accents, such as couches and chairs, and then a third color that pops in accesso-

ries such as flowers, pillows and collectibles. These can be any colors, but the most muted tends to be the more abundant shade.

Add a bit of bling

Glittery items and metallics can add a touch of luxury feel to any space. A shiny

table lamp, mirrors, a sparkling chandelier, and the like are easy ways to produce a high-end feel. Reflective surfaces also will cast light around

the room, giving the illusion of a larger space.

Choose a big statement piece

Many homeowners make the mistake of filling a room with several small pieces of furniture that only contribute to clutter. Instead, look for a statement piece, which can be a cabinet, armoire or chaise. Mix and match large and small elements for a sense of balance.

Accessorize

Finish the room with accessories and flowers. When placing and hanging knickknacks and wall art, odd-numbered groupings often look the most cohesive and interesting. Experiment with different scales and heights for even more dimension.

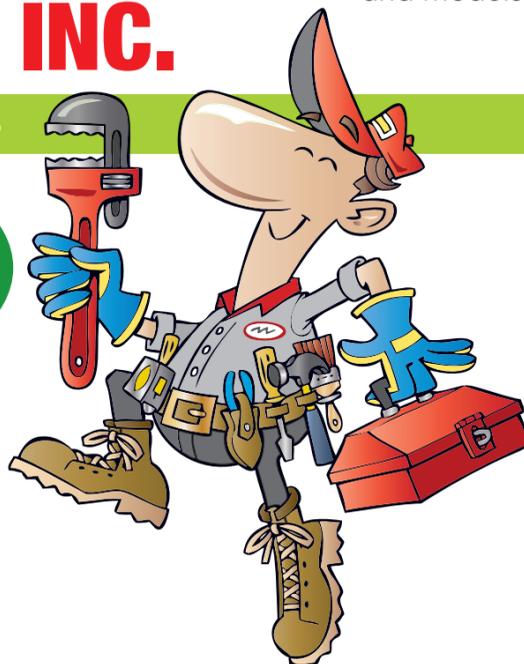
When inspiration hits, take some cues from interior design pros to make spaces look like they belong on the pages of your favorite magazines.

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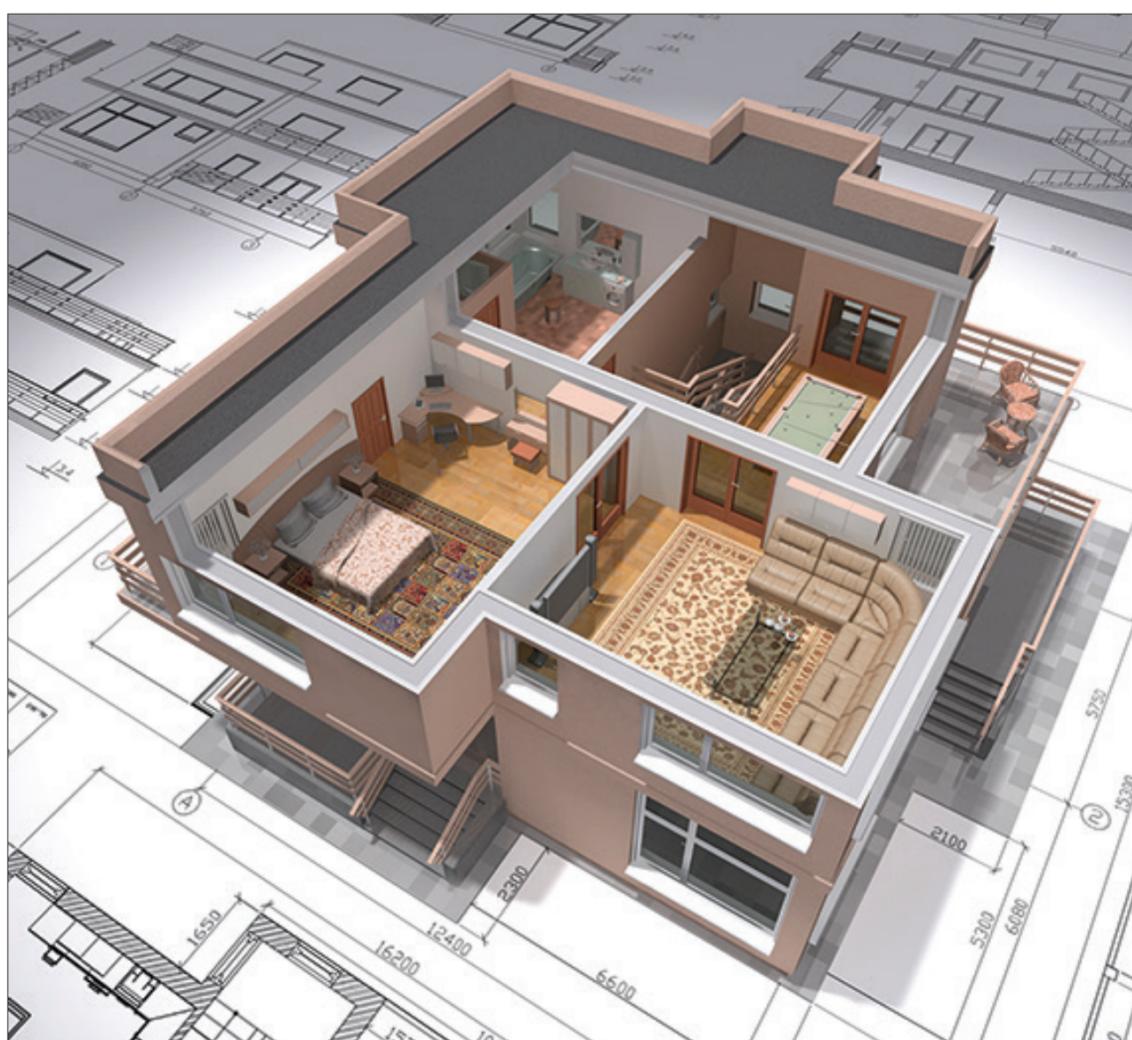
HOME GUIDE

Arrange furniture, design rooms more easily

REDESIGNING a room can involve several steps, from choosing a paint palette to taking down walls to buying new furniture. When it comes time to put the space back together, finding an appealing furniture arrangement or layout renovation that maximizes space efficiently can be challenging if it requires moving heavy pieces of furniture around. To make such tasks easier, homeowners can rely on a bevy of room-designing apps that enable one to manipulate a room in the digital realm.

Some people have great spatial reasoning and can work out designs in their head or by plotting items on graph paper. But many homeowners may need a little extra help. By figuring out a floor plan, anyone can start laying out their furniture and other design elements.

Room planners come in various forms, from free downloads available through popular furniture companies to pay-for-use, third-party software. The following are some of the more popular room planners home-



owners can utilize.

- **Amikasa:** This app enables users to create room layouts using furniture and more from real brands. It features a walk-through mode so you can take a virtual tour afterwards.

- **Autodesk Homestyler:** Brought to you by the company that produces professional design programs for architects and designers, like AutoCAD, Autodesk and Revit, this user-friendly technology allows you

to create 3D renderings and move around furniture, decorative items, appliances, and other elements right in the app.

- **Floor Plan Creator:** Start with the basics by plotting out precise and accu-

rate floor plans. This app enables you to create multiple floor rooms in 3D and get automatic figures for perimeters, walls and more.

- **Ikea Home Planner Tools:** The free, easy-to-use home

planner tool from the popular furniture giant enables you to see how items from the store can look in your space — before you bring it home. The Kitchen Planner from the company also makes it simple to enter Ikea components and see how much the proposed kitchen design may cost.

- **Magic Plan:** This is another popular feature-filled app for planning designs. The technology even allows you to take a picture of your existing room and create floor plans.

- **Planner 5D:** This is an extensive room-design tool that helps you design rooms down to the smallest architectural details. It also can be taken outdoors for landscaping and pools, utilizing 3D graphics.

- **Room Scan Pro:** This app draws floor plans simply by having you hold the phone up to a wall. The software will then scan the circumference and plot out the requisite measurements.

These are just a few of the room planners that can make it easier to see what a finished design product may one day look like.



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HOME GUIDE

Repair bare spots in the lawn

CARING for a lawn to keep it lush and green can require equal measures of patience and hard work. Various invaders can attack grass or contribute to its demise. One problem many homeowners face is bare spots.

Bare spots can occur for various reasons. Heavy foot traffic, grubs or other pests, fungi, pet urine, or too much or too little water can contribute to bare spots. The how-to resource The Spruce says that correcting the source of bare spots can prevent new issues, particularly if grubs or other pests are damaging the grass.

Then homeowners can address existing bare areas.

It is unlikely that bare spots will just fill back in on their own. Reseeding spots or using sod to fill in bare areas can help lawns look lush.

- Begin by raking and removing any dead grass and other debris from the lawn. Check to make sure that grubs or insects are not attacking the lawn. If they are, use targeted treatment options for those pests.

- Break up and aerate any soil that is compacted in the bare spot.

- Amend the soil in the bare area with loamy soil or compost to improve on the nutritional makeup and texture so that it is amenable to grass-growing. If you notice that the entire lawn is looking a little sparse, top-dressing the rest of the lawn at this point also can help improve its vitality.

- Sprinkle seeds in the bare spot (disperse seeds over the rest of the lawn if you want to over-seed and improve the thickness



of the lawn). If you prefer sod, cut a portion of the sod to fit the bare area and place on the amended soil.

- The Scotts company says to lightly water newly seeded or sodded areas daily for at least two weeks to keep the top inch of soil consistently moist but not soggy. Gradually water more as the seedlings develop and the grass begins to fill in. Deep water at least once or twice a week after the new grass reaches

mowing height.

- The grass should grow slightly longer than the rest of the lawn, and wait until the color of the patched area begins to blend in with the rest of the lawn before mowing. This could take a few weeks, and the area should be avoided until then.

Eventually, and with treatment, bare spots can be remedied and become indistinguishable from other areas of the lawn.

A lesson in building a backyard retaining wall

FLAT, even landscapes are often coveted in backyards. However, flat backyards are not always so easy to find. Fortunately, varied terrain does not mean that certain landscaping plans are entirely off limits, especially for homeowners willing to build retaining walls.

Retaining walls help turn steep slopes in a yard into terraced focal points. They also can reduce soil erosion in hilly areas and can be used for aesthetic purposes, like raised planters, or to create more usable space within the yard. When an inground pool or pond is cut into a backyard hill, a retaining wall helps keep the remaining portion of that hill from collapsing into the cut-away area.

When contemplating retaining wall projects, a lesson in physics and engineering may be needed. A sturdy and long-lasting retaining wall needs to be built in a way that will take into consideration the force of the soil and the point at which the soil will begin to slide away, advises the experts at The Family Handyman. If these calculations seem beyond the scope of your ability, installation of a retaining wall is a job best left to a professional. If you are ready to forge ahead, these tips can get you started. However, it's important to note the potential benefits of working with others who have already built a retaining wall.

- Safety first: Call to have underground utilities plotted and marked before beginning any excavation.

- Map out your trench and begin to dig. The trench should have a level, compacted base as it will be the foundation for which the retaining wall materials, be they blocks, bricks or wood, sit in. A crushed stone base will help anchor the courses and serve to promote drainage. The Family Handyman says to bury the first course of the retaining wall one-tenth the height of the wall to prevent soil behind it from pushing the bottom out.

- Check for level. When placing blocks or timbers, make sure they are even with the first and periodically check for level as you go, advises the home improvement retailer Lowes®.

- Stagger and set back. The next row of blocks or material should be positioned so that the joints are staggered for blocks, bricks or wood. A masonry blade will be needed to cut the harder materials; a circular saw will cut timber. Also, work against gravity by setting the second course slightly back from the first to help push back against the soil that is trying so hard to push forward. Repeat the process as each level is placed. Many retaining wall products are made with a lip to create this set back.

- Go with the grade. For especially steep slopes, a gradual step-up design may be more secure and more appealing than a very tall retaining wall. Each level of a stepped design should be done like the first.

- Backfill with stone for drainage. Using a layer of stone behind the retaining wall can help successfully direct water away so it will not increase the weight of the soil behind the wall and push against the retaining wall, advises The Home Depot.

Retaining walls serve different purposes in a yard. Building such a wall requires planning and careful execution to ensure the job is done correctly.

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House powerwashing tips

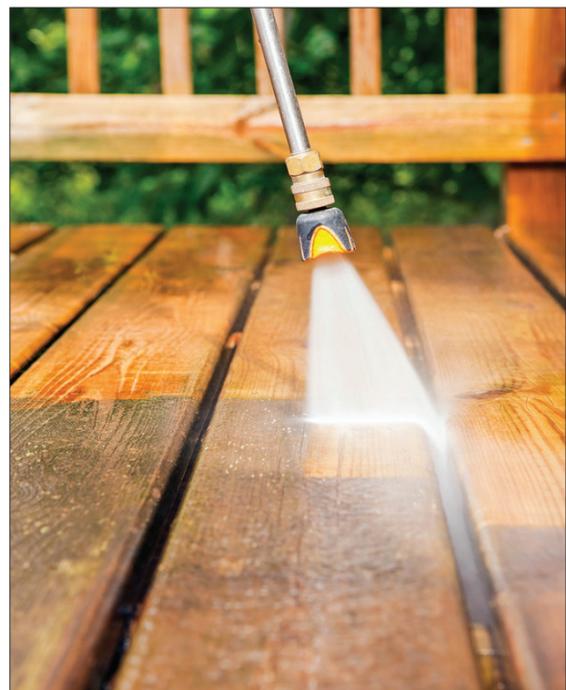
POWERWASHING, also known as pressure-washing, utilizes a high-velocity water spray to remove dirt and residue from the exterior surfaces of a home. It is frequently used on vinyl siding, concrete and sometimes wood decks to treat mildew and other growth that accumulates over time.

Powerwashing can be a great way to remove grime without having to scrub by hand. But it requires a delicate touch to get it right. Sometimes it is best to leave the job to professionals. But homeowners willing to give it a go can try powerwashing themselves, as various stores rent power washers.

The home improvement website ImproveNet says that, until very recently, pressure washers were almost exclusively commercial machines sold to professionals or rented to do-it-yourselfers. Lately manufacturers have targeted homeowners looking to buy with lightweight options. For those who see powerwashing as a routine venture, purchasing a unit may be worth the investment.

It is important to exercise caution when operating a powerwashing machine. The high-velocity spray can tear through skin. It is key to get a feel for the washer, and try less pressure first to get a handle on the magnitude of the tool.

Don safety gear prior to using a pressure washer. Gloves, eye protection and ear protection can be handy. Most units will connect to a standard



Powerwashing the exterior of the home can be an effective way to clean it in the spring and fall.

garden hose. Choose old clothing and expect to get wet. Never point a power-washer hose at anyone and do not attempt to rinse feet or hands in the spray.

The renovation resource The Family Handyman suggests starting with a wide-degree nozzle to test out the spray on the surface that needs to be cleaned. A 15- or 25-degree nozzle is usually the wand for general cleaning and paint stripping without damaging the surface of the home. Experiment with an optimal distance of the washer wand to get the desired cleaning effects without causing any damage. Work using a horizontal and slightly downward angle to avoid driving water up under the siding of a home.

Avoid spraying any electric wires or compo-

nents on the home. Also, try not to spray upward, and angle the spray away from doors, windows and vents.

Some washers have reservoirs that will hold a detergent solution. Choose the right detergent for the job. Keep in mind that cleansers containing bleach can damage surrounding plants, so they may need to be covered while the washing takes place.

Avoid the use of ladders when operating a powerwasher. The push-back from the wand can cause falls. Instead, opt for an extension wand to address the upper reaches of a home.

Powerwashing a home is an effective way to remove stubborn grime and refresh the look of a home's exterior.

HOME GUIDE

Decor ideas to give homes a fresh look this spring

SPRING is a season of rejuvenation, and that spirit of renewal can take hold inside a home.

Warm weather and longer hours of daylight make spring a perfect time to imagine a home's interior design in a new light. The following are a handful of decor ideas that may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

- **Wallpaper:** Wallpaper fell out of favor years ago, but new styles that aren't so heavily patterned can make for wonderful additions to any room. Large-scale prints can give a room a whole new feel without giving homeowners or their guests the impression that they have stepped back in time. A simple, mural-style floral wallpaper on the walls surrounding a table in a breakfast nook can bring nature inside.
- **Pastel colors:** Nothing embodies the spring quite like pastel colors. If colorful, bright flowers dot the garden in the backyard, homeowners can



bring those uplifting pastels inside by painting an accent wall or even adding some brightly colored accent furniture to rooms that could use a lift.

- **Declutter:** Clutter is often conquered during

spring cleaning sessions, but homeowners who want to create more free-flowing interior spaces can downsize their furniture and/or look for multipurpose features that make it hard for clutter to take over a room. Create more open space in entertaining areas by mounting the television and getting rid of a bulky entertainment center. Create even more space by replacing rarely used end tables with a storage ottoman where books and magazines can be stored to give a room a fresh, clean look.

- **Accent features:** Sometimes the smallest changes to an interior space make the biggest impression. Replace dated accents like vases and table lamps with newer items that reflect the latest styles and trends. Such adjustments won't break the bank, and they can give rooms a whole new feel.

Spring is a great time to reconsider home interiors. This spring homeowners can embrace various strategies, both big and small, to give their homes a whole new feel.

Tips when planting shade trees

BEAUTIFUL landscaping can add instant curb appeal to a property. But beauty isn't the only thing that makes idyllic landscaping attractive to homeowners. Some landscaping features, such as shade trees, save homeowners money while adding aesthetic appeal.

The U.S. Department of Energy notes that shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce solar heat gain in a home. Shading also cuts air conditioning costs, which tend to be expensive in areas with warm, humid climates. In fact, the DOE notes that well-planned landscapes can reduce unshaded homes' air conditioning costs by anywhere from 15 to 50 percent.

When planting shade trees, one of the first decisions homeowners will

need to make is which type of tree, deciduous or evergreen, they want to plant. Deciduous trees are those that seasonally shed their leaves, while evergreens are trees that keep their leaves throughout the year. Deciduous trees can help keep homes cool in the summer by blocking sun, and those same trees can be beneficial in winter after they shed their leaves by letting the sun in and keeping homes warm. But evergreens also can be beneficial in winter by blocking wind, potentially preventing cold air from making its way into a home through cracks in walls or around windows.

When planting shade trees, techniques vary depending on which type of tree homeowners ultimately choose to plant.

Planting

deciduous trees

The DOE says that deciduous trees that are between six and eight feet tall when planted will begin shading the windows of a home within a year of being planted. Depending on the species of the plant and the home, those same deciduous trees may begin shading the roof within five to 10 years of being planted. When planting deciduous trees, homeowners should keep these tips in mind.

- **Plant trees to the south of the home.** When planted to the south of the home, deciduous trees can screen between 70 and 90 percent of the summer sun while still allowing residents to feel summer breezes.
- **Consider sun angles.** Homeowners who want to shade their homes from low afternoon sun angles should plant trees with



crowns that are lower to the ground on the west side of their homes.

- **Cool air before it reaches your home.** Shrubs and groundcover plants can be planted to cool air before it reaches a home.

Evergreen trees

Planting evergreens to block wind is known as "windbreaking," which lowers the wind chill near

a home. Wind also can be used to cool a home in summer. But these benefits can only be realized when evergreens are strategically planted.

- **Location, location, location:** The DOE advises planting evergreen trees to the north and northwest of the home to stop wind. In addition, to get the most bang for your windbreaking buck, the distance between the

home and windbreak should be two to five times the height of the mature tree.

- **Plant trees on either side of the house.** Planting trees on either side of the house will direct cooling winds toward the home in the summer.

Shade trees can help homeowners reduce their energy bills, making them valuable and attractive additions to any landscape.



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