

# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

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## RCH hosts 2023 Holiday Drive Thru Dinner 'Helping the community in more ways... is part of our strategic plan'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, Dec. 20, Rochelle Community Hospital hosted its annual Holiday Drive Thru Dinner for anyone in need in the community. The dinner was free and received just under 200 orders, RCH Marketing, Foundation & Organizational Development Manager Michelle LaPage said.

The menu included a choice of ham or turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, a vegetable medley, a dinner roll and cheesecake. The hospital's food and nutrition department, volunteers and the RCH Foundation made the dinner possible. The event is in its fourth year, LaPage said.

"We just wanted to do something to give back to the community," LaPage said. "That includes our seniors in need and anyone else that might need a holiday dinner. I know during Thanksgiving sometimes the VFW gives out meals and so we wanted to reach out and do one of our own."

The event's maximum



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Wednesday, Dec. 20, Rochelle Community Hospital hosted its annual Holiday Drive Thru Dinner for anyone in need in the community. The dinner was free and received just under 200 orders, RCH Marketing, Foundation & Organizational Development Manager Michelle LaPage said.

meal number was 200, and LaPage said the fact that that number was nearly met showed the need in the community. Several organizations put in large orders to the event for those they serve including Lincoln Manor, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Rescue Mission and the catholic church.

"The dietary staff puts all the labor into it and

then we have our volunteers upstairs handing out meals on the day we do it," LaPage said. "The dietary staff is down there with an assembly line putting together all the meals. They always do a really great job. It just falls in line with our mission and vision of supporting the community. All of our departments do that in some way or another."

Helping the community in more ways than just its health is part of RCH's strategic plan, LaPage said.

"Food insecurity is definitely something that's rising in this community," LaPage said. "There's a lot of need on our local food pantries and this is just another way to help out with that. The community is definitely appreciative."



## Operating ordinances approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On Tuesday, the Ogle County Board voted to rescind its previous commercial solar and wind energy facilities siting and operating ordinances and to replace them with new ordinances to meet a recent state senate bill (SB 1699) that included trailer bill language for the renewable energy project siting bill.

House Bill 4412 came into play near the start of 2023, and removed local control such as at the county level on whether or not wind and solar projects could be built. Back in early 2019, the Ogle County Board approved a solar resolution providing conditions for a special use permit for solar farms.

See COUNTY page 2

## KNOW IT TODAY



## Lions donate to Lincoln School

The Rochelle Lions Club recently donated clothes to Lincoln School in Rochelle. **Page 7**

## WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
56 47	53 49
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
51 41	41 35

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## OBITUARIES

• ROBERT 'HAL' BOB  
FELKER  
• WYNNIE EARLINE  
JOHNSON

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## INSERTS

NONE

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## Boy Scout Troop 64's Johnson earns Eagle Scout rank 'It was a culmination of all the work he's done since he joined'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

STEWART — A Court of Honor was held Sunday, Dec. 10 by Boy Scout Troop 64 of Stewart for Scout Caleb Johnson, recognizing his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout in August.

The receipt of the Eagle Scout rank was a culmination of Johnson's work since joining the troop back in 2016. Becoming an Eagle Scout requires earning six other ranks and 21 merit badges along the way. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout rank. The recognition also requires an Eagle Scout service project.

Johnson's project involved installing a sidewalk to the pavilion at a local park in Stewart. He got permission from the Stewart Village Board in April and worked with a contractor on the concrete installation and finished it in June, his father and Troop 64 Leader Jason Johnson said.

"He approached the village board in April with the idea and I think for a lot of people it was, 'Why didn't we think of



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A Court of Honor was held Sunday, Dec. 10 by Boy Scout Troop 64 of Stewart for Scout Caleb Johnson, recognizing his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout in August.

this sooner?" Jason said. "The village was excited about it. Caleb's grandfather is in a wheelchair due to a stroke and we use that pavilion occasionally as a

family and as a Boy Scout troop. Caleb knew it wasn't easy to push a wheelchair through grass to get to it. It's 60 feet from the main sidewalk. It was Caleb's

idea. It was something that could help people in the community. The pavilion is used by the church and older people in the community. It's been neat to

see the reactions from so many people that think it's a great thing. People have thanked Caleb."

See SCOUT page 3

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# LOCAL NEWS

## COUNTY: Ogle board approves new zoning board fee schedule

From page 1

That resolution was repealed in May to meet HB 4412 requirements.

Back in January, the board unanimously passed a resolution opposing HB 4412, due to its desire to keep local control. At its February meeting, the board heard comments from multiple county residents that were against more wind and solar power in the county, especially on a large scale near homes and farms. The Ogle County Board established an ad-hoc committee to work on the solar and wind issue to meet state statutes. Their work included establishing the county's first wind ordinance.

The board voted 22-2 on Tuesday in favor of the new wind siting and operation ordinance, and 19-5 in favor of the new solar siting and operating ordinance.

### Fee schedule

The board approved a new fee schedule for its planning and zoning department by a vote of 17-7 during the meeting.

The Ogle County graduated commercial fee structure for new business projects and developments is now a five percent fee on the commercial value of commercial industrial-classified projects (capped at \$250,000 maximum fee per project). Commercial industrial is defined as "industrial chemical, energy or batch processes requiring specialty/heightened inspections and oversight as well as ensuring regulatory requirements, safety inspec-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Tuesday, the Ogle County Board voted to rescind its previous commercial solar and wind energy facilities siting and operating ordinances and to replace them with new ordinances to meet a recent state senate bill (SB 1699) that included trailer bill language for the renewable energy project siting bill.**

tions, and environmental monitoring requirements met to ensure compliance during operation life as well as meeting end of life requirements of facility/business."

For commercial heavy/corporate, the fee is now three percent on the commercial value of the project (capped at \$150,000 maximum fee per project). Commercial heavy/corporate is defined as "new major corporate business exceeding \$4 million in commercial

value with large traffic/large volume impacts for the county."

For the commercial medium category, no changes were made. The fee is .5 percent on the commercial value of a project. Commercial medium is defined as "county local or existing county business exceeding \$2 million in commercial value with medium-scale traffic/volume impacts for the county."

For the commercial light category, no changes

were made. The minimum fee is \$500 or .25 percent on everything over \$200,000 in commercial value. Commercial light is defined as "Ogle County resident and small commercial or local business and less than \$2 million in commercial value."

Board Vice Chairwoman Pat Nordman (R, District 2, Oregon) said the smaller two categories did not change due to them encompassing the bulk of the businesses in the county.

"I feel that this is in the best interest of the majority of the people in the county to have something in writing so the cost doesn't get passed along," Board Member John "Skip" Kenney (R, District 4, Rochelle) said.

### ARPA

The board unanimously approved the use of federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds for three uses: Training for its zoning department (\$250), three years of

maintenance expenses for its buildings & grounds department (\$40,398) and parking lot work (\$1,039).

### Road & bridge

The board unanimously approved road & bridge appropriations for the coming year including \$1.707 million in motor fuel tax funds for county roadway maintenance and \$74,841 of motor fuel tax funds for its half of the county engineer's salary. The other half will be paid by federal funds for 2024.

# Alfano's

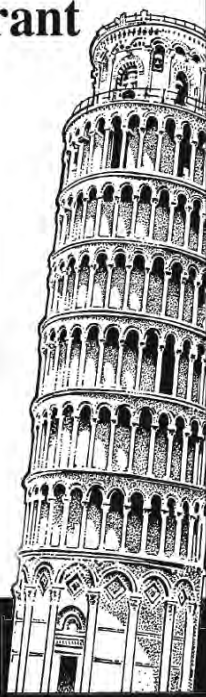
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### In Memory of Mom



Donna D. Kessen

January 20, 1938 – December 23, 1983

**All my Love, Connie**

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January 20, 1938 – December 23, 1983

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# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Distinguished alumni award winners from left to right: Benjamin Huber, Terry Camplain, Kristin Rademaker, Steven Kenneke, Drew Groezinger.**

## Davis Junction's Camplain honored by HCC Foundation as distinguished alumni

**FREEPORT** — On Nov. 16, the Highland Community College Foundation recognized five Distinguished Alumni at the Freeport Club.

This is the 27th year the foundation has recognized individuals who made their start at Highland Community College, have shown community leadership, and believe in the mission of higher education. To date, Highland has named more than 160 individuals as Distinguished Alumni.

"These distinguished alumni exemplify the inspiring power of education," said Dan Dick, Highland Community College Foundation executive director. "With unwav-

ering commitment and exceptional achievements, they have not only carved their own success stories but continue to inspire and elevate Highland Community College and Northwest Illinois. Starting at Highland, these outstanding individuals embody the spirit of innovation, leadership, and service."

Terry Camplain of Davis Junction was among those honored as distinguished alumni. He was nominated by Vicki Schulz.

Camplain began his path to his psychology career with an Associate Degree from Highland in 1986, going on to advanced education and a successful career as a school psychol-

ogist and for the past 19 years as principal of Chana Education Center, a therapeutic day school of the Ogle County Educational Cooperative. This program focuses on the social and emotional growth of students. Camplain has been recognized as the Illinois School Psychologist of the Year and Focus House Volunteer of the Year. He is also a member of the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council and a Certified Trainer for Trauma Informed School Approaches. Since 2008, he has been sharing his experience as a speaker for the Highland First Year Experience class and works with HCC education majors.

## ISP Troop 1 announces November activity

**STERLING** — Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette recently announced enforcement figures and activity for the month of November. Illinois State Police Troop 1 issued 1,502 citations, 1,573 written warn-

ings, and made 37 criminal arrests during the month of November. Troopers issued 595 citations for speeding, 78 citations for distracted driving violations and 128 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 54

traffic crashes, assisted 153 motorists, and conducted 400 commercial motor vehicle inspections, 50 of which were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 15 arrests made for driving under the influence.

## SCOUT: Steward Troop's Johnson receives Eagle Scout honor

*From page 1*

"I don't think he knew beforehand how many people would appreciate it."

Required merit badges to become an Eagle Scout range from citizenship to outdoor skills. Caleb earned badges in just about every topic, including metal work, robotics, photography and more.

Jason joined the troop as an assistant scoutmaster when Caleb joined as a youth. He was in boy scouts himself when he was young and earned the Eagle Scout rank, just as his son now has.

"To have him earn it was exciting for me," Jason said. "Helping him was the biggest part and seeing his growth was fun. It creates motivation for his younger brother, too, who's also in the troop. I like seeing the commitment of all of the boys to making a difference in their community. Because you don't see that all the time."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The receipt of the Eagle Scout rank was a culmination of Johnson's work since joining the troop back in 2016. Becoming an Eagle Scout requires earning six other ranks and 21 merit badges along the way.**

## RALPHIE & LULU'S



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Robert Hal ‘Bob’ Felker

**ROCKFORD**—Robert Hal “Bob” Felker, 71, was welcomed into the presence of his Lord and Savior on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, after a courageous six-year battle with CMML/AML. He was born September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1952, in Rockford, IL; son to Robert and Suzanne (Billig) Felker. He was united in marriage to Georgia Delores “Dee” Myers on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1979. They were married for 33 years with Dee preceding him in death on August 11, 2012. They lovingly raised three children. Bob married Barbara Lyford on October 12, 2014, and they shared nine years of marriage together.

Bob graduated in 1970 from Rochelle Township High School, Kishwaukee Community College and Pillsbury Baptist Bible College as his preparation for vocational ministry. Later, he graduated from Highland Community College to pursue his heart’s desire of caring for others through the vocation of nursing. He provided exemplary care to others through Swedish American Home Health Care. Bob spent his free time serving others through mercy ministries, prison ministry, nursing home visitations, and welcoming others into church on a Sunday morning with his contagious smile that will be greatly

missed. The uncommon and unconditional love Bob gave to many was experienced closest by his family. Whether through a daily phone call to his Mom, a handwritten note of encouragement to his children or a thoughtful gesture for his grandkids – Bob was intentional to show selfless love to everyone. Because he knew so closely Christ’s love for him, Bob’s legacy is the richest anyone can have – he deeply loved others and he was deeply loved by others.

Bob enjoyed cheering on his Green Bay Packers and spending leisure time at Oaklane Farm – a special place where his family has gathered for six generations. He loved God’s creation and savored his memories of the mountains of Utah where he spent much of his childhood as well as his family trips to the Caribbean, England, Florida, California, NYC, and Kansas City.

Bob is survived by his wife, Barb Felker of Rockford; children, Sam (Michelle Boxleitner) Felker of Mt. Morris, IL; Sarah (Jacob) Zaske of Olathe, KS; Suzie (Mark) Hester of Marengo, IL; step-son, Jared (Krista) Lyford of Rockton, IL; grandchildren, Caleb & Grace Zaske, Claire & Emma Hester and expectant grandson, Mother, Sue



Felker of Rochelle, IL; Sister, Barb (Ray) Reineck of Rochelle, IL; Brother, Bill (Janell) Felker of Minneapolis, MN; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceded in death by his wife, Dee Felker, and Father, Robert Felker, Sister-in-laws and Brother-in-laws, Una (Don) Doering and Josie (Rich) Schalin.

Visitation on December 27, 2023, from 10 am to 10:45 am at Forest City Church, 1280 S. Alpine Rd. Rockford; followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 11 am. Luncheon to follow. Interment in Oakwood Cemetery, Mt. Morris, IL. Son-in-law, Dr. Rev. Jacob Zaske will officiate. Live Stream of the service can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/robert-bob-felker> As Bob was a life-long learner, in lieu of flowers, memorials in his honor may be made payable to Edward Jones for a college scholarship fund for his grandchildren. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Share a memory or condolence at [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com).

### Wynnne Earline Johnson

**ROCHELLE**—Wynnne Earline Johnson, 73, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at her home in Rochelle. Earline was born on February 22, 1950 to Lloyd S. and Hazel I. (Pankey) Babb in Newport, Arkansas. In May of 1967, she married Ronnie Johnson. He preceded her in death on September 23, 1999.

Earline was a beautician and owned the Hair Pride Beauty Shop in Rochelle for many years.

## ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ROCHELLE** — On Dec. 15 at 9:31 a.m. Rafael Valencia, 23, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license revoked and cited for speeding 70 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone. He was released with a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 15 at 6:46 p.m. Kimberly D. Hintzsche, 40, of Oregon was arrested for retail theft. She was released on a notice to appear with a Jan. 5 Ogle County court date.

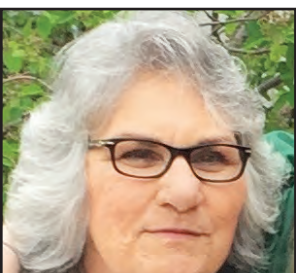
On Dec. 15 at 1:03 p.m. Pablo J. Persomo, 39, of Spring Valley was cited for speeding. He

signed a notice to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 15 at 8:20 p.m. Guillermina V. Palmino, 22, of Cicero was arrested for no valid driver’s license.

On Dec. 16 at 9:10 a.m. Jina L. Mulholland, 18, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 54 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 17 at 8:01 a.m. Viridiana Carlin Mendez, 41, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 54 miles per hour in a



26, 2013 and her sister, Ludean Peterson.

There will be a private family funeral service. Burial is at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 17 at 10:25 a.m. Kassie A. Burright, 38, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 48 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 18 at 10:05 p.m. Sohith Tandra, 26, of Moline was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

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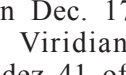
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(COURTESY PHOTO)

For its last trip in 2023 Dorothy’s Diamonds enjoyed a beautiful trip out west to Colorado.

## Dorothy’s Diamonds group makes trip to Colorado

**CRESTON** — For its last trip in 2023 Dorothy’s Diamonds enjoyed a beautiful trip out west to Colorado. We visited the spectacular red sandstone formations, a spiritual retreat of ancient peoples, in the Garden of the Gods, The Royal Gorge crossing over in the aerial tram and bridge. A simply breathtaking view. A tour was taken thru the United States Air Force Academy taking in displays and a movie. Another highlight of the trip was a guided tour of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center. It is mind blowing how they train under the same temps and conditions as the country they

will be competing in. We had the opportunity to watch some training as well as passing some of the team while on sight. It is such a beautiful state of the art campus.

Another part of the trip was a guided tour thru Colorado Springs, shopping, and tasting the spring waters at Manitou Springs. From our motel we could watch the beautiful sun setting over Pikes Peak!

While traveling we drove thru downtown Denver, seeing the mint, Broncos stadium, the stockyards and much more.

We had the opportunity to see the huge and beautiful Red Rock Stadium

and visit the Buffalo Bill Ranch Historical Park in North Platte, Nebraska. It was an awesome trip with great food, travel, and fellowship not to be disappointed by all. Dorothy’s Diamonds contributed to Bonnie Edward’s school building fund and Creston Booster’s auction from this trip.

If you want to have some great fun, site seeing, and fellowship join Dorothy’s Diamonds to St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida in March, Memphis, Tennessee in July, or the Smokey Mountains and Pigeon Forge in October 2024. You may contact Dorothy at 815-384-5325 for more info.

## Yager announces candidacy for 37<sup>th</sup> state senate district

**GENESEO** – On Nov. 29, Tim Yager, Geneseo farmer, Henry County Board member, and Henry County Farm Bureau Board member, officially announced his campaign for the Illinois State Senate. After filing nearly two times the required number of signatures needed for ballot access and forming his official campaign committee, Yager cited the need for leaders in Springfield who understand the issues facing the typical Illinoisian and leaders who know how to fight for the solutions necessary for the residents of the 37<sup>th</sup> District.

“We need leaders who lead,” Yager said. “We have legislators who go to Springfield looking for a better job, not to serve their constituents or Illinois taxpayers. That has to stop. We must elect legislators who go to Springfield to make good policy, stand for commonsense values, and who bring ideas and incentives that make our economy, and our lives, better, safer, and healthier.”

Farming continually since 1992, Yager is the sixth generation to farm in Henry County and his combined experience in agriculture and business represents decades of front-line leadership in the region.

Yager started a successful wireless company (iPCS Inc.) that grew rapidly and was publicly traded before eventually being acquired by Sprint Nextel. He continued on to successfully rebuild another financially distressed wireless company that was then also acquired. After completing the turnaround mission successfully, he began farming with his family full time in 2014.

Yager’s standing as a forward-looking and responsible conservative has already earned him significant early support with more coming every day as the campaign grows. “Illinois faces massive economic challenges but they can be solved if we have sensible leadership working on sensible solutions,” said former state Senator Todd Sieben. “Having a candidate of the caliber of Tim Yager, with the character and experience he brings with him, is a good thing for the 37th District and for Illinois. As the former Senator from the Illinois 37th and someone who has known Tim his entire life I couldn’t be happier that he is running to represent us.”

Yager’s record of service, from Henry County Board to Farm Bureau Board to Congressman Darin LaHood’s Agriculture Advisory Council, exemplifies a track record of public service leading to the call to seek higher public office. “I will be a voice for voters of the 37<sup>th</sup> District. We live in a great state that is abundant in natural resources and hard-working people. I am tired of friends and family leaving this state because of woke policies and high taxes. When people are paying significantly more than they were last year for a tank of gas or groceries, we know it hurts. When we look west to Iowa and see our neighbors paying significantly less than we pay in Illinois, we know it’s a self-inflicted problem that needs to be solved.”

Yager is pro-life. He is an avid supporter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. He believes schools should be controlled locally, representing the values of the communities they serve without State and Federal unfunded mandates. He supports law enforcement unequivocally and believes basic law and order are necessary for strong communities. Yager supports agriculture and the property rights of landowners. He believes in legal, merit-based immigration and simplification of the naturalization process for those who seek to be United States citizens but firmly believes illegal immigration must be stopped at the border by our Federal Government.

Tim and his wife of 35 years, Kelly (Anderson) Yager, are both deeply connected to the region through generations of family in Henry County. They live on their farm outside of Geneseo, where they enjoy spending time with their four adult children and five grandchildren. Tim’s faith and family are the cornerstones of his strong beliefs in building a legacy for future generations.

“My experience in the boardroom, on the farm, and as a husband and father prepared me to serve in the General Assembly,” said Yager. “People know the kind of Senator I’ll be for our region because of my proven track record, and I am asking for their prayers, support, and vote.”

The 37th District serves approximately 217,000 residents and includes all of Lee and Whiteside Counties and parts of Bureau, DeKalb, Henry, LaSalle, Marshall, Ogle, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, and Woodford counties. Incumbent Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) announced his retirement in August after two terms. The primary election is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and the general election follows on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Zekelman Industries honors teammates with new loyalty awards

**ROCHELLE** — Barry Zekelman, executive chairman and CEO of Zekelman Industries, recently announced a new Loyalty Awards program to celebrate the contributions, knowledge and experience of company teammates. Under the new Loyalty Awards, employees of all Zekelman Industries companies

will receive special payments when they complete their fifth, 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> years of employment without a break in service. More than 500 employees of Zekelman Industries will receive a Loyalty Award during the company's 2024 fiscal year. "Zekelman Industries

isn't just a company, we are a culture — a culture of compassion, caring, teamwork, excellence and recognition," Zekelman wrote in a letter to employees. "This is another tangible benefit of why Zekelman Industries is a great place to call your long-term home." Payments will be made

at celebratory events at each location in the calendar quarter of the year in which teammates complete their milestone anniversary. Payments will be grossed up to account for the employee's estimated income tax on the award to ensure they receive full award amount. For teammates with 30 years

of tenure, the net amount of the Loyalty Award will be \$10,000. Additionally, a special one-time award will be paid to all current teammates who reached 30 or more years of service prior to Oct. 1, 2023. Zekelman Industries offers excellent long-term career opportunities, compensation, and benefits. It

is a proud domestic manufacturer with 19 locations throughout North America producing steel pipe and tube products, and an integrated self-developer of multi-family housing communities. For more information about careers with Zekelman Industries, please visit <https://www.zekelman.com/careers/>.

## Stillman Bank's annual Christmas food drive collects 1,006 pounds of food

**ROCHELLE** – In the spirit of giving back this holiday season, Stillman Bank held a food drive to benefit area families this Christmas. 1,006 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected during the two-week event. Now in its 14th year, this annual food drive has collected over 14,000 pounds of food since its inception in 2008.

The Christmas Food Drive kicked off at all Stillman Bank locations on Friday, Nov. 24 and

continued through Friday, Dec. 8. Donations will be made just in time for Christmas to several area food pantries including: Bread of Life pantry in Stillman Valley, Lifeline Food & Self-Help Project in Oregon, Old Stone Church Food Pantry in Rockton, People Helping People in Byron, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry in Rochelle, and Rock River Valley Pantry in Rockford. Thank you to everyone who stopped by Stillman Bank to contribute to this

great cause. For more information on Stillman Bank or to find out more about Stillman's products and services, please contact visit [www.stillman-bank.com](http://www.stillman-bank.com).

Stillman Bank is an independently-owned community bank founded in 1882.

The bank has approximately \$580 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**In the spirit of giving back this holiday season, Stillman Bank held a food drive to benefit area families this Christmas. 1,006 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected during the two-week event.**

### 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](http://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](http://thebridgechurchrochelle.com) Email: [thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com) with questions or for more information. Also check us out at [www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church](https://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](http://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](https://facebook.com/crestonumcil) [facebook.com/stewardilumc](https://facebook.com/stewardilumc)

**Elim Reformed Church**, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com) Website [www.goelimchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.firstbaptistrochelle.org)


**First General Baptist Church**, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: [fgbcrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:fgbcrochelle@gmail.com). Website: [www.fgbcrochelle.org](http://www.fgbcrochelle.org). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle](https://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](mailto:info@placeforgrace.com). Sunday morning worship 9:00am and 10:30am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. [www.placeforgrace.com/](http://www.placeforgrace.com/) [www.facebook.com/placeforgrace](https://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](http://www.graceisforyou.com)

**Harvest Baptist Church** 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email [duane712@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 Bunker - 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](http://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](http://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](https://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](mailto: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: [stpatrickrochelle.com](http://stpatrickrochelle.com) Email: [stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org](mailto: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

## Ron Kern: Christmas memories

AS I write it is Christmas Day. Mine and my family's best to you and yours for a glorious Christmas and may the Good Lord bring you bountiful blessings as we celebrate the birth of his son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I grew up in a family that celebrated Christmas in a big way. There wasn't a shelf, tabletop, hook or inch of floor space that Mom didn't decorate, mostly with handmade crafts she meticulously made. Meals on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were spent with the entire family.

Aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. At least 30, if not more enjoying the feast. Fresh ham, scalloped potatoes, butter noodles, casseroles (too many to count) and of course cookies and peanut brittle, along with a pie, or two, or three, or four; you get the picture.

For me the highlight

was my grandma's oatmeal raisin cookies. I could eat a dozen at a time. Long after she passed my aunt tried replicating her recipe over the years, but it just never quite met the muster.

And every Christmas Eve the family would gather in the living room around the tree to sing Silent Night. It was my granny's favorite Christmas tune; still is mine today.

Sometimes we would embark on midnight mass, others we would make the 5:30 a.m. mass on Christmas Day. The church nativity was set out in all its glory, evergreen fronds hung from the beams and of course plenty of poinsettias to decorate the area around the altar. And yes, it was the one time I actually sang at church. Mostly because everyone else sang too so I had no fear they could pinpoint my off-key musings.

Those were days that

have passed me by.

Christmas for me now is spent at home with Ruth and Will, celebrating a much more quiet and less chaotic holiday. The tree is small, as there's not much room in our house for anything over three feet. A fire is usually burning in the wood stove adding warmth and atmosphere to a cold evening.

To her credit Ruth does decorate around the house, much like my mother used to do, only a little less of it. Our Christmas feast usually migrates towards Italian cuisine like lasagna, manicotti or stuffed shells. A few Christmas cookies cover platters in the kitchen, and I might add Ruth is a mighty fine baker, I just wish I could get her to attempt those oatmeal cookies I crave.

And of course, since there are just a few of us the gifts around the tree

rarely achieve heights greater than two to a pile.

This is the full circle of Christmas my life has taken me to date. Regardless of where I was at any time within that circle I always remember - It's Christmas; and is there any other time like it. So...enjoy!

### Peace on Earth

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct? His workers no longer would answer to "Elves", "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves. And labor conditions at the North Pole, were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety, released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.

The runners had

been removed from his beautiful sleigh, because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA.

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows, Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose. He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation, demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion that making a choice could cause such commotion. Nothing of leather, nothing of fur... Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.

No candy or sweets... they were bad for the tooth. Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.

No baseball, no football... someone might get hurt, besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt. Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe. and Nintendo would rot

your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed, he just couldn't figure out what to do next? He tried to be merry he tried to be gay, but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day. His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground, nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might, give to us all, without angering the left or the right. A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision, each group of people in every religion. Every race, every hue, everyone, everywhere... even you! So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth... "May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."

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



Ron Kern

## Fiber optics communication technology

COMMUNICATION technology is among the four main branches of technology that I discuss in this column. It has been some time since we explored it, so let's remind ourselves that communication technology is when humans use tools, machines, knowledge and resources to control the environment by sending and receiving messages. It can satisfy a basic human need to communicate with other humans, but it also satisfies the need for people and machines to communicate, and for machines to communicate with each other as well. Communication technology is essential to our way of life, providing the interconnectedness that we all enjoy and rely on to some degree or another.

All communication technology involves messages. These messages are composed of data or information, which are general terms used to describe the message content. Data are relatively small, individual, unorganized and nearly useless "bits" of messages, while information is larger

collections of data that have been organized. If we think of a message as a word, data may be thought of as the individual letters used to compose the word. By themselves, the letters mean nothing except to represent a sound or the ancient idea from which they evolved from, but when combined in an organized way to create words and sentences, data creates the information the written message contains.

A critical step in the communication process is transmitting (or moving) the data. Transmission can occur in many ways and typically involves using energy to encode the data into a form that can be transmitted. One example of transmission is electrical signals moved over copper wires. Another is radio waves transmitted using antennas and radios. Another way to encode and move messages is by using light energy. A very simple example of using light to transmit a message is the stop and go lights used on a traffic signal. Green means go, yellow means caution, and red means stop. The

light is used to encode those messages. But light messages from a traffic signal have many drawbacks. The message can't be seen from a great distance (of more than a mile or so), it can only handle very simple messages (go, caution, and stop), and it can only transmit one message at a time.

If light is to be used to send far more complex messages, over much longer distances, and at much faster rates, some other method of transmission is needed. This is when fiber optic cable can be used.

Fiber optics is the backbone of modern communication, and it uses light to transmit data through thin strands of glass or plastic. Internet communication relies heavily on fiber communication networks. If you were to look closely at a fiber optic cable, you would see hundreds, or even thousands, of extremely small diameter glass strands with a color-coded plastic cladding around each strand.

Imagine these glass strands as ultra-thin highways for light signals, where information is encoded and sent in the form of light pulses. The core of a fiber optic cable, through which light travels, is surrounded by a cladding material with a lower refractive index, ensuring that light remains trapped within the core and bounces off the walls, minimizing signal loss.

So, when a pulse of light is sent into a fiber optic strand, it travels along the inside of the strand at the speed of light, constantly reflecting along the inside of the strand until it reaches its destination. Because the glass strands are pure glass, the light has nothing to block it and can transmit the light pulses with near perfect accuracy.

To create the light pulses sent along fiber optic cables, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or laser diodes are used to generate the light signals. These signals, carrying vast amounts of data in the form of binary

code, are then transmitted through the core of the fiber optic cable. The choice between LEDs and laser diodes depends on the specific requirements of the application.

One of the most compelling aspects of fiber optics is its incredible data transmission speed, often measured in gigabits or even terabits per second. Traditional copper cables pale in comparison to the speed of fiber optics, making them the preferred choice for high-speed internet connections, telecommunications, and data centers. The speed of light itself is a limiting factor, and fiber optics come remarkably close to achieving this maximum velocity in transmitting data. The ability to transmit vast amounts of information with minimal delay has revolutionized the digital landscape, enabling seamless communication and data exchange on a global scale.

If you spent any time driving around Rochelle recently, you probably noticed the utility work that was being done along the

west side of Illinois Route 251. Workers were steadily digging holes along the right-of-way and installing fiber optic conduit and cables. Each time I drove past I noticed workers down in the holes with shovels, and it looked like back-breaking work. These workers are essential to providing the modern communication technology conveniences we all rely on because it is difficult and tedious work to route the delicate cables underground where there are so many obstacles. Hopefully having a basic understanding of communication technology, and the fiber optic cables that are part of it, will give you a better appreciation for the effort as well as the benefits we all enjoy from it.

Kurt Wolter has studied and taught technology - including production, transportation, energy and communication - for over 30 years. He enjoys trying to better understand technology and its past, present, and future while also attempting journalism. He can be reached at [tech-nohistory100@gmail.com](mailto:tech-nohistory100@gmail.com).



Kurt Wolter

### 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](mailto:news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

#### Rochelle City Council

*John Bearrows	<a href="mailto:jbearrows@rochelleil.us">jbearrows@rochelleil.us</a>
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	<a href="mailto:ksshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us">ksshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us</a>
Bil Hayes	<a href="mailto:bhayes@rochelleil.us">bhayes@rochelleil.us</a>
Rosaelia Arteaga	<a href="mailto:rarteaga@rochelleil.us">rarteaga@rochelleil.us</a>
Dan McDermott	<a href="mailto:dmcdermott@rochelleil.us">dmcdermott@rochelleil.us</a>
Tom McDermott	<a href="mailto:tmcdermott@rochelleil.us">tmcdermott@rochelleil.us</a>
Benjamin Valdivieso	<a href="mailto:bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us">bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us</a>

#### Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Trisha Vaughn	<a href="mailto:tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net">tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net</a>
Dave Casey	<a href="mailto:dcasey@d231.rochelle.net">dcasey@d231.rochelle.net</a>
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Jennifer Thompson	<a href="mailto:jthompson@d231.rochelle.net">jthompson@d231.rochelle.net</a>

#### Rochelle Township High School Board

*Tom Huddleston	<a href="mailto:tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org">tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org</a>
Bill Ravnaas	<a href="mailto:bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org">bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org</a>
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Bobby Chadwick	<a href="mailto:bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org">bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org</a>
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Joel Thompson	<a href="mailto:joel.thompson@rthsd212.org">joel.thompson@rthsd212.org</a>

#### Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Brent Carmichael	<a href="mailto:bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org">bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
John Dobbs	<a href="mailto:jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org">jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
Dale Wells	<a href="mailto:dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org">dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
*Tim Hayden	<a href="mailto:thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org">thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
Jodie Hart	<a href="mailto:jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org">jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
Joe Lenkaitis	<a href="mailto:jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org">jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
Kristi Gonzales	<a href="mailto:kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org">kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>

#### Ogle County Board Dist. 3

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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](mailto: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

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**Rochelle Lions Club donates winter clothing to Lincoln School**  
The Rochelle Lions Club recently donated new winter coats and snow pants to Lincoln Elementary School as part of its service to the community program. Accepting the donation was Counselor Erin Strouss of Lincoln Elementary School. Pictured from left to right are: Lion Rick Cogswell, Strouss and Lion Kevin Zilm. For information about the Rochelle Lions Club please contact Zilm at 815-761-1992.

## THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074

January 7 – NO SUNDAY BRUNCH

If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at [volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org](mailto:volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org)

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**

December 26 – (Tuesday) – CLOSED

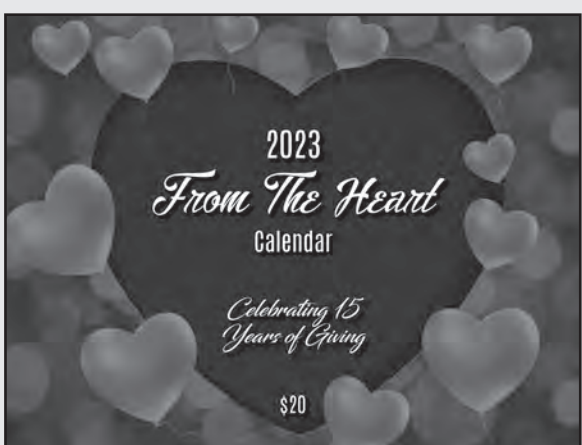
December 28 – (Thursday) – CLOSED

[www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 24 Luke Gilliam Tom Wyatt Tom & Nicole Wyatt (anniversary)	Dec. 27 Marge Charboneau	Jan. 1 Dave Jones
Dec. 25 Maribel Ortiz	Dec. 28 Chris Prosser	Jan. 3 Justin Sandoval
Dec. 26 Annette Sulser	Dec. 29 Kelsey Rogers	Jan. 5 Alaina Eubankz Grace Yates Sandra Ramirez
	Dec. 31 Jamey & Nicole King (anniversary) Ruth Allen Hayleigh Jones	Jan. 6 Carson Johnson Debbie Bonacquisti

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



Nov. 28 - Laurie (Mrs. Dennis), Chana, \$25

Nov. 29 - Tina Graber, Palatine, \$25

Nov. 30 - Nick Vilmin, Byron, \$25

Dec. 1 - Tim Postula

Dec. 2 - Erin Odle, Steward, \$25

Dec. 3 - Daniel and Niki Tobler, Davis Junction, \$50

Dec. 4 - Karen Cech, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 5 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25

Dec. 6 - Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, \$25

Dec. 7 - Heather Hensley, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 8 - Eric Van Hise, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 9 - Velimir Kuzmanovski, Rockford, \$25

Dec. 10 - Emily Harness, DeKalb, \$50

Dec. 11 - Tim Duval, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 12 - Sara Hall, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 13 - Clay and Becky Fraley, Kings, \$25

Dec. 14 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25

Dec. 15 - Liquor N Wine, \$25

Dec. 16 - Marge Charboneau, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 17 - Scott and Alana Hill, Thomson, \$50

Dec. 18 - Christian Neale, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 19 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

Dec. 20 - Gabriela Ortiz, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 21 - From the Heart, \$25

Dec. 22 - Vickie Eschenbaum, Spring Valley, \$25

Dec. 23 - Sherry Morris, Amboy, \$25

Dec. 24 - Rochelle Chamber, \$50



# Coffee Break

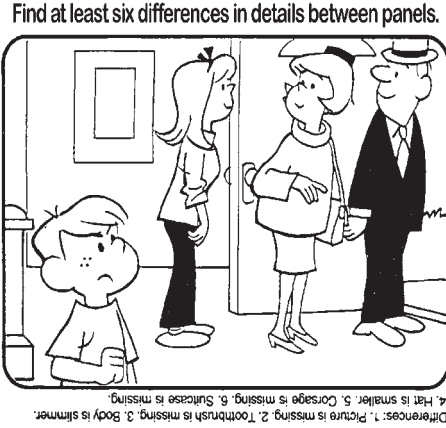
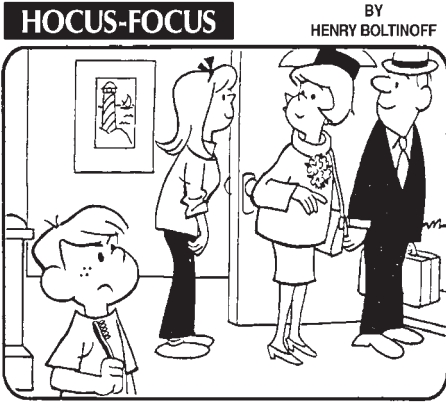
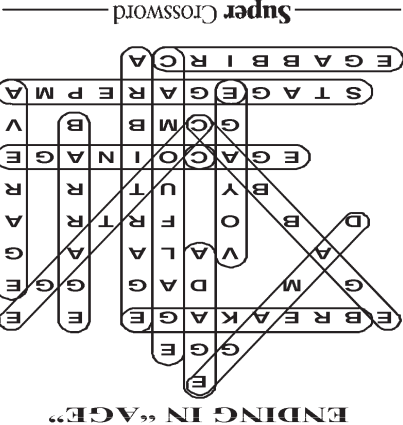
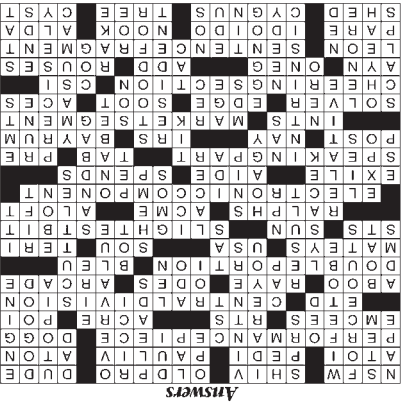
## MAGIC MAZE • ENDING IN "AGE"

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **A Liquid Suitable for Drinking**

Adage	Barrage	Camouflage	Damage
Amperage	Breakage	Coinage	Stage
Arbitrage	Cabbage	Cottage	Voyage
Average	Cage	Cribbage	

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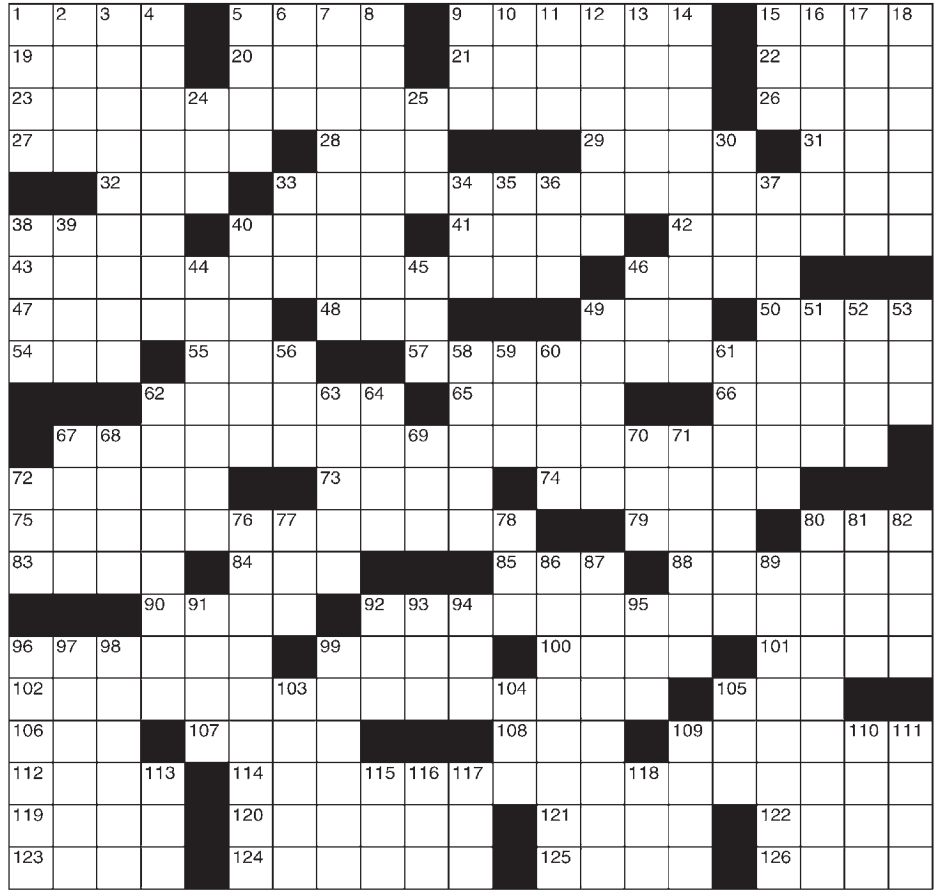
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Toothbrush is missing. 3. Body is slimmer. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Cabbage is missing. 6. Suitcase is missing.

## Super Crossword

### FORGET THE WHOLE THING

**ACROSS**  
1 Warning about a racy web pic  
5 "West Side Story" knife  
9 Seasoned vet  
15 Bro  
19 French for "yours"  
20 Treat for feet, for short  
21 Pope after Marcellus II  
22 Scads  
23 RFORM  
26 Rapper "Snoop"  
27 Variety show hosts, e.g.  
28 ACLU interests: Abbr.  
29 Farming unit  
31 Pasty luau food  
32 Flight takeoff abbr.  
33 NTR  
38 "Peek- —!"  
40 Classic comic Martha  
41 Uplifting poems  
42 Place full of video games  
43 UBL  
46 Chicken cordon —  
47 British chums  
48 Stars and Stripes' nation  
49 —"wester (certain storm)  
50 "Oh, God!" actress Garr  
54 Cousins of aves.  
55 Name of some newspapers  
57 GHTE  
62 Actors Fienness and Macchio  
65 Very top  
66 Flying  
67 TRONI  
72 Cast out of the country  
73 Official helper  
74 Pays out  
75 EAKI  
79 Diner check  
80 Start for existing  
83 Name of some newspapers  
84 Vetoer's vote  
85 U.S. tax org.  
88 Aromatic aftershave liquid  
90 QBs' blunders: Abbr.  
92 RKE  
96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.  
99 Outer limit  
100 Chimney grime  
101 Great serves  
102 HEER  
105 2000-15 CBS series  
106 Writer Rand  
107 Blood type, in brief  
108 Total  
109 Wakes up  
112 Writer Unis  
114 NTEN  
119 Peel, as fruit  
120 Excited  
121 Cozy corner  
122 Pierce player Alan  
123 Cast off hair  
124 Swan constellation  
125 Forest sight  
126 Sadtlike growth  
**DOWN**  
1 Neck back  
2 Mushroom feature  
3 Some plays on ground balls  
4 Fiancee  
5 Colo. — (city S. of Denver)  
6 Skirt line  
7 "Just go ahead and try!"  
8 Wine merchants  
9 Unlock, in poems  
10 Resting place for a napkin  
11 Drinker's hwy. offense  
12 Implores  
13 Christina of "Bel Ami"  
14 Put too high a price on  
15 Papa  
16 Perfect world  
17 Be charitable  
18 Gas guzzler  
24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon  
25 Chicago winter hrs.  
30 Blarney  
33 Mushroom feature  
34 King, in Lyon  
35 Hubbub  
36 Novelist Deighton  
37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps  
38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.  
39 Regatta entry  
40 Upshot  
44 Evan of figure skating  
45 Univ. helpers  
46 Web automaton  
49 Brother of Moe and Curly  
51 Deep black, in poems  
52 Break in friendship  
53 Hairy TV cousin  
56 "Science Friday" ailer  
58 Person tying shoes  
59 Onetime transportation agcy.  
60 Foods created by biotech  
61 Flood-prevention sack  
62 One sharing your blood  
63 Songwriter Carmichael  
64 Salon noise  
67 Large-scale public show  
68 Untrue tales  
69 Neighbor of Mont.  
70 Caress  
71 How money may be lost  
72 Sci-fi gift  
76 Belonging naturally  
77 "One Mic" rapper  
78 "— Tok" (#1 hit for Keshia)  
80 On the nose  
81 Viking letter  
82 Rescue crew VIPs  
86 Occupant  
87 Represented  
89 Peruvian singer with a wide range  
91 Notorious emperor  
92 OR workers  
93 Rust may be a sign of it  
94 DVR remote abbr.  
95 Cain, to Eve  
96 Hair-raising sites?  
97 "Is that so?"  
98 Poe's "radiant maiden"  
99 Yuletide quaff  
103 Destitute  
104 Tic- — -toe  
105 Gear tooth  
109 Yard tool  
110 Outer limits  
111 Sports datum  
113 TV neighbor of Homer  
115 Pewter, mostly  
116 Univ. website suffix  
117 Vetoers' votes  
118 Rival of Wade



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# WINTER SURVIVAL

## Simple maintenance strategies that can keep cars running longer

**T**HE last few years have not proven the most advantageous times for new car buyers. According to the Consumer Price Index Summary from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, buyers paid 12.2 percent more for new vehicles in January 2022 than they had in January 2021. Faced with such a significant increase in price, many drivers understandably want to keep their current cars longer than they might have initially planned.

Data released by S&P Global Mobility in early 2022 indicated that the average vehicle on the road is 12 years and two months old, which marked the highest number in the 20-plus years such information was tracked. A host of variables affect how long drivers keep their cars, but the rising cost of new vehicles has undoubtedly compelled many drivers to aspire to keep their cars for longer periods of time.

Aging cars may require a little more TLC than vehicles that are right off the dealership lot. But the following are three simple tips that can help drivers keep their cars running longer.

1. Become a more careful driver. A careful

approach when behind the wheel is safer than aggressive driving and beneficial for your vehicle. When starting, avoid revving the engine, which needlessly wears it down. When out on the road, avoid rapid accelerations, which also contributes to needless wear and tear. Even excessive idling can adversely affect the engine, so keep winter warm-ups to around 30 seconds to prevent damage to engine components.

2. Know when and how to fill up. Every driver has likely visited a filling station when an oil tanker is busily filling the tanks. That's traditionally been considered a less than ideal time to fill up, as the theory is that filling the tanks stirs up sediment that could then find its way into consumers' gas tanks, adversely affecting their vehicles. However, that's often dependent on the station itself and how much its owners prioritize maintenance of the tank and filtration systems. Drivers who trust their local station owners can likely fill up when the tankers are present without worry. In addition, avoid topping off once the nozzle clicks when filling up. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that topping off is harmful to



the planet and the vehicle, as gasoline needs room to expand. When you top off, the extra gas may damage the vapor collection system and cause the vehicle to run less efficiently.

3. Change oil more frequently as the vehicle ages. It's true that modern vehicles no longer require oil changes for every 3,000 miles driven. However, as vehicles age, drivers and their vehicles' engines may benefit from more frequent oil changes than the owner's manual

necessarily recommends. Oil changes remove dirt and metal particles from the engine, potentially contributing to a longer life expectancy. More frequent changes can be especially beneficial for vehicles that are routinely driven in stop-and-go traffic.

Rising vehicle costs have compelled many drivers to keep their cars longer than they initially planned. Some simple strategies can help drivers achieve that goal.

## Eight tips for winter safety

1. Winterize your home to keep interior temperatures comfortable and prevent weather-related damage. Winterizing includes insulating water lines that run along exterior walls, cleaning out gutters, installing weather stripping, and replenishing insulation.

2. Exercise in cold temperatures can put many people at risk of heart attack—especially those who are typically inactive. If you must exercise in cold weather, remember to stretch beforehand. Take breaks when shoveling or ask for help.

3. Check carbon monoxide alarms to see if they are working properly. Every year in the United States, more than 400 people die from and 50,000 are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. Exhaust from improperly vented heating appliances can contribute to car-

bon monoxide sickness.

4. Prepare a winter emergency kit and keep it in your car in case you are stranded in inclement weather. The kit can include food, water, blankets, first-aid supplies, flares, and booster cables, among other items.

5. Wear appropriate clothing for the temperature and precipitation. Layers can be added or removed as needed.

6. Sprinkle sand or cat litter on icy patches of walkways to improve traction. Sand or cat litter is easier on the environment than some chemical ice melt products.

7. Consider a whole-house generator as an emergency backup if the power goes out in winter. Generators can keep the heat running and the refrigerator humming along until power is

restored.

8. Exercise caution with space heaters and other supplemental heating devices. Turn them off when you leave the room, and do not leave them on overnight while you are sleeping.

From page 9

Black ice forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential.

Winter is a beautiful season. But it can be just as hazardous as it is awe-inspiring. Taking steps to stay safe in unpredictable conditions is a necessity each winter.



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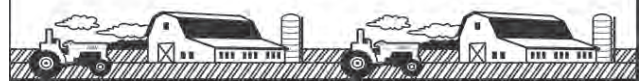
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# WINTER SURVIVAL

## How to prepare your car for winter

**S**UMMER and fall can stake their claim as road trip season, and even devoted drivers may admit that winter is generally a less desirable time to take to the open road. The elements factor heavily into that reputation, as fewer hours of daylight, snow and ice are just some of the variables that can make it less enjoyable, and potentially more dangerous, to drive in winter.

In anticipation of adverse driving conditions, vehicle owners can take various steps to prepare their cars and trucks for winter.

- Upgrade your wiper blades. Perhaps nothing is compromised more than visibility when driving in winter compared to other times of year. Snow makes it hard to see when driving, but fewer hours of daylight also can affect visibility. In fact, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that approximately half of all fatal crashes occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., even though the number of drivers on the road during those hours is considerably

lower than it is during the daytime. The difficulty of driving at night is even more significant when wiper blades are not up to the task of keeping rain and snow off drivers' windshields. Prior to winter, inspect wiper blades and upgrade them, if necessary. Streaks left on a windshield are a telltale sign that blades need to be replaced.

- Purchase winter tires. Winter tires may not be necessary in regions with relatively mild winters. However, drivers accustomed to winters marked by heavy snowfall and/or icy roads should consider replacing their existing tires with winter tires. Many newer vehicles are now equipped with all-season tires, which the tire experts at Bridgestone note provide great performance but are not designed to handle extreme winter conditions like snow and ice. Winter tires are specially designed to handle such conditions, making them a worthy investment for drivers who live in regions where it's not unusual to encounter snow and ice throughout the winter.



- Study up on your engine oil. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend different grades of oil depending on the range of temperatures a car or truck will be driven in. The owner's manual will likely indicate if the manufacturer recommends using a differ-

ent type of engine oil in especially cold temperatures. Even if the manual does not include such a suggestion, drivers can seek the advice of a local mechanic.

- Schedule a pre-winter tuneup. Even if a vehicle is not due for a tuneup, it can be wise to have it looked

over by a local mechanic before the arrival of harsh winter weather. A mechanic can check the radiator, hoses and other components that could be affected by especially cold weather in the months to come. If any issues are found, address them immediately. After

all, it's better to be proactive than leave yourself vulnerable to breakdowns or other issues once the mercury drops.

As fall gives way to winter, drivers can take steps to keep their cars running strong and safe in the months ahead.

## Four factors to consider to maintain winter safety

**M**ANY changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and sur-

faces. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Carsurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to

driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

### 1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and

mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It's important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.

### 2. Snow removal

Shoveling snow or us-

ing a snowblower are common wintertime activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.

### 3. Carbon monoxide poisoning

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable gen-

erators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.

### 4. Black ice

Black ice is a common winter foe.

See page 8

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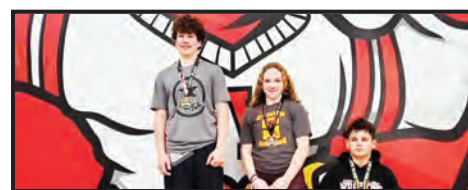
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SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## KIDS SHINE IN STILLMAN

The Rochelle Wrestling Club crowned seven champs in Stillman Valley.

See page 2 for more details

## RTHS Wrestling

# Hubs take down Blue Thunder

Rochelle enters winter break with 16-2 record after 54-21 win Thursday night

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Sophomore Keagan Albers kicked off the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team's dual match against Belvidere North with a dominant win in the 113-pound bout. Albers scored 11 first-period points, earning two 3-point near falls before pinning Belvidere North's Aiden Nebiu.

The win was one of seven that the Hubs recorded by fall on Thursday, when Rochelle cruised over the Blue Thunder 54-21 in a nonconference head-to-head match. The Hubs will head into winter break having won 15 of their last 16 dual matches. Rochelle (16-2, 3-0 Interstate 8) will return to the mat on Dec. 29 and 30, when the Hubs travel for the Flavin Invitational in DeKalb.

"We've had a really good season and our team is stepping it up this year," Albers said. "We're working hard in the room and it's showing out here. I did freestyle and greco-roman wrestling over the off-season and that's helped me a lot, but our coaches are always pushing us to do the best we can and that really helps. We listen really well and we've been



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Sophomore Keagan Albers attempts to turn over Belvidere North's Aiden Nebiu during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling meet with the Blue Thunder on Thursday. Albers won by fall as the Hubs defeated Belvidere North 54-21 to move to 16-2 overall.**

putting in the work."

Rochelle claimed the first five bouts of the match against Belvidere North on Thursday. After Albers defeated Nebiu in the 113-pound bout, senior Tommy Tourdot returned from an illness and made quick work of Piven Johnson in the 120-pound bout, winning with a first-period takedown and fall. Junior

Xavier Villalobos followed with a first-period takedown and fall over Bryson Tenuissen in the 126-pound bout, giving the Hubs an 18-0 lead in the match.

The first toss-up went to the Hubs, who won the 132-pound bout after sophomore Frank Nasca outlasted Geren Stapleton for a 6-4 sudden victory

in overtime. Nasca scored two takedowns, but conceded a 4-2 lead in the third period after allowing a stalling penalty and an escape. Pushing the pace, Nasca secured a third takedown early in overtime to win the bout.

Freshman Josh Lassiter kept the Hubs moving in the 138-pound bout, notching a first-period

takedown and fall over Keegan Thrall to put Rochelle ahead 27-0. Belvidere North avoided the shutout with victories in the 144-pound and 157-pound bouts, where Nicolas Alvarez and Andrew Bucci scored first-period falls over freshman Brandin Kirk and junior Matthew Lynn.

Sophomore Brenden

Voight turned a first-period takedown into a fall against Arturo Alvarez in the 150-pound bout. Junior Grant Gensler extended Rochelle's lead in the 165-pound bout, compiling five near falls, including four 3-point near falls, during his 16-0 technical fall over Ryan Zupon.

See **WRESTLING** p. 3

## RTHS Boys Basketball

# LaSalle-Peru rallies for narrow win over Rochelle

Freshman forward Bruns leads Hubs with 23 points in 76-69 loss on Tuesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A back-and-forth battle in the Interstate 8 Conference ensued on Tuesday, when the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team faced LaSalle-Peru seeking its third win in four games.

While the Hubs found success driving the ball inside and finishing around the rim, the Cavaliers were equally as potent offensively, creating open shots around the perimeter throughout the evening. Rochelle held a slim lead early in the fourth quarter, but crucial turnovers and defensive letdowns down the stretch allowed LaSalle-Peru to escape with a 76-69 victory. Rochelle (3-8, 0-5 Interstate 8) will face Richmond-Burton in the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic on Saturday.

"We should have been playing much faster offensively and defensively," head coach Tim Thompson said. "I felt like LaSalle-Peru was playing with a tempo like they were ready to get beat tonight, but we didn't capitalize on that. ... We couldn't reverse the ball tonight, we weren't setting screens and we weren't making the extra passes. Defensively, we let

the first guy drive right by us on the back end of our press and they had tons of guys open who made shots."

Senior Eli Luxton fueled the Rochelle offense in the first quarter, where an emphatic one-handed dunk from the 6-foot-5 guard capped off a seven-point opening quarter. Luxton filled the box score on Tuesday, finishing with 21 points on nine made field goals while adding a team-high eight assists. Luxton also totaled seven rebounds, two blocks and two steals in the game.

A 3-pointer from junior Elijah Harley helped the Hubs take a 16-12 lead into the second quarter, where freshman Brody Bruns sparked Rochelle with a 3-pointer of his own and a series of aggressive dribble-drives to the basket. Bruns recorded a team-high 23 points and seven rebounds for the Hubs, who remained ahead 40-36 at halftime despite a strong effort from LaSalle-Peru's Nicholas Olivero and Seth Adams, who combined for four second-quarter triples.

"Brody's making strides and we're working really hard to figure out how he can score around the lane," Thompson said. "He's attacking the rim and that's



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Eli Luxton drives toward LaSalle-Peru defender Brenden Boudreau during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Cavaliers on Tuesday.**

what we want him to do. We're still working with him around the 3-point line, but I think he needs

more touches around the rim."

Defensive mistakes hurt the Hubs in the third quar-

ter, where LaSalle-Peru drilled three triples and showed no issues pushing the ball down the floor

against Rochelle's pressure.

See **HOOPS** page 3





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Benjamin Morris was one of seven Rochelle Wrestling Club athletes who won titles during the Stillman Valley Holiday Tournament on Sunday.

## Junior Hubs scrap at Stillman Valley Holiday Tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STILLMAN VALLEY**—The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent 19 athletes to the 2023 Stillman Valley Holiday Tournament on Sunday. Seven Rochelle athletes brought home first-place finishes, while three more secured second-place finishes and three others earned third-place finishes.

Wells Millard finished first in the Bantam 51-53 Division with a 3-0 record. Millard scored back-to-back falls over Stillman Valley's Finn Marino and Sauk Valley Wrestling's Sloane Gabler before clinching the division title with a 17-0 technical fall over Belvidere's Knox Ferry.

Elias Andronic finished first in the Bantam 54-59 Division with a 3-0 record. Andronic recorded a 10-2 major decision over Belvidere's Tazeem Evans as well as a second-round fall over Stillman Valley's Owen Provancher and a third-round 4-3 decision against Sauk Valley's Easton Benyo. Nehemiah Andronic finished first in the Bantam 64-69 Division with a 3-0 record. Andronic notched a first-round fall over Dixon's Patrick Shaw before locking down the division title with a 4-0 decision over McHenry's Keegan Mullen and a 6-0 decision against Kaneland's Arlo Lake.

Elliot Huff finished first in the Bantam 65-70 Division with a 3-0 record. Huff edged Dakota's John Pieper for a 9-7 decision and outlasted Belvidere's Ava Barber for a 3-0 sudden victory. Huff sealed the division title with a third-round fall over Stillman Valley's Gavin Provancher.

Dominic Escatel finished first in the Intermediate 79-83 Division with a 3-0 record. Escatel scored a 12-4 major decision over Kaneland's Dylan Jarvis before recording a second-round fall over Sauk Valley's Aylan Galindo and a third-round 7-2 decision over

Oregon's Owen Martin.

Teddy Millard finished first in the Novice 71-77 Division with a 3-0 record. Millard secured a 14-0 major decision over The LAW's Quinn Peight as well as a second-round fall over Sauk Valley's Joseph Morse and a third-round 8-2 decision against Alber Athletics wrestler Joe Connors.

Benjamin Morris finished first in the Novice 135-144 Division with a 3-0 record. Morris earned a 5-0 decision over Stockton's Piper Sandell along with a second-round fall against Harvard's Colton Moreno and a third-round fall against Belvidere's Hayden Fant to win the division title.

Eoghan Good took second in the Bantam 47-48 Division with a 2-1 record, recording a second-round fall over Stillman Valley's Brycen Awe and a third-round 8-2 decision over Kaneland's Daniel Price. Colt Hensley took second in the Intermediate 107-114 Division with a 2-1 record, notching back-to-back falls over Huntley's Matt Cencula and Dixon's Brady Hipple.

Andrew Eyster took second in the Senior 145-146 Division with a 1-1 record, earning a first-round fall over Stockton's Sawyer McPeck. Kolten Andersen placed third in the Tot 38-41 Division with a 1-2 record, scoring a third-round fall over Stillman Valley's Dean Bunk. Amos Andronic placed third in the Tot 36-38 Division with an 0-2 record over two matches.

Ty Johnson placed third in the Tot 39-42 Division with a 1-2 record, earning a third-round fall over Harvard's Landon Bieniek. Rochelle's fourth-place finishers included Tate Bigelow (Intermediate 70-72 Division), Daniel Jensky (Intermediate 96-97 Division), Cole Albers (Intermediate 97-99 Division), Bentley Svela (Novice 82-86 Division), Brantley Koenig (Novice 87-95 Division) and Joshua Hernandez (Novice 100-103 Division).

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# SPORTS



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Kaiden Morris nearly pins Belvidere North's Zander Martinez during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling meet with the Blue Thunder on Thursday.

## WRESTLING: Rochelle earns nonconference win over Belvidere North

From page 1

Another toss-up went to the Blue Thunder in the 175-pound bout, where Juan Cervantes clinched a 9-6 decision over sophomore Roman Villalobos with a takedown in the third period.

Senior Brock Metzger

quickly took down and pinned Malachi Heath in the first period to win the 190-pound bout and give Rochelle a 44-15 lead. Junior Kaiden Morris recorded two takedowns and three near falls during his 14-1 major decision over Zander Martinez in the 215-pound bout.

Belvidere North's Manny Pizano received a forfeit in the 285-pound bout, but the Hubs closed the dual with a win, as sophomore Freddie Hernandez erased a 2-0 deficit with a first-period escape, takedown and fall against Brayden Culvey in the 106-pound bout.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Brenden Voight works against Belvidere North's Arturo Alvarez during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling meet on Thursday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Brody Bruns dribbles around LaSalle-Peru's Seth Adams during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Cavaliers on Tuesday.

## HOOPS: Hubs remain winless in Interstate 8 after loss to L-P

From page 1

With the Cavaliers converting open 3-pointers and beating the Hubs down the floor for layups, Rochelle fell behind after three quarters, with LaSalle-Peru earning a 57-52 advantage in the game.

Needing a spark, Rochelle turned to its senior guard Luxton, who put home a trio of shots around the basket and made key

passes underneath to help the Hubs retake the lead early in the fourth quarter. One of those assists went to the junior guard Harley, who flicked in a reverse layup to add to an overall performance of 14 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

LaSalle-Peru was unfazed, however, with 6-foot-6 forward Josh Senica hitting two 3-pointers down the stretch to

help the Cavaliers cling to a five-point lead with less than three minutes remaining. LaSalle-Peru iced the win from the free-throw line, where the Cavaliers went 6-for-8 during the fourth quarter. Despite a 50-30 advantage in points in the paint for the Hubs, Rochelle conceded 11 triples while making just two. The Hubs also committed 21 turnovers in the loss.

### RTHS Girls Bowling

## Lady Hubs fall at Ottawa Pirates defeat Rochelle 2,759-2,539

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

OTTAWA — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team conceded an Interstate 8 Confer-

ence loss against Ottawa on Wednesday. Sophomore Kylie McCullough rolled a team-high 484 series, while junior Cassidy Vincent added a 473 series as the Pirates

defeated Rochelle 2,759-2,539.

The Lady Hubs (4-4, 3-3 Interstate 8) will return to the lanes on Thursday, Jan. 4 with a road match against Streator.

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# SPORTS

NIU Football

## Huskies add 20 athletes for 2024 season

Diverse class includes six Illinois products, four defensive backs and offensive linemen

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** — Camellia Bowl festivities in Montgomery, Alabama did not stop Northern Illinois University head coach Thomas Hammock and the NIU coaching staff from signing a class of 19 freshmen and one junior for 2024, after an overnight addition of running back Telly Johnson Jr. from Augusta, Georgia.

The 2024 Class includes 10 players from either Illinois or Wisconsin while four Georgia natives will join the nine players from the state already on the NIU roster. There are four defensive backs and offensive linemen and three defensive linemen in the group, although every

position on offense and defense is represented.

"We are certainly excited about this class," said NIU head coach Thomas Hammock. "We were able to add some guys that we feel will be the foundation of our program for the long term. We've been on these players for 7-8-9 months and they know what we are about; we had many of these guys in camp."

"This class is really important, because we have 25 seniors next year. It was important to add high school players that we can have in the program and get developed. Normally it takes a good year to get into the college routine, the college system and understand what it takes

to play at this level."

The Huskies' signing class to date includes players from eight states. In addition to Illinois (6), Wisconsin (4) and Georgia (4), the Huskies signed a pair of players from Nebraska (2). Quarterback Kenny Lueth, one of two quarterbacks in the class, is a junior college product from California. He comes to NIU from the same junior college as current Huskie receiver Grayson Barnes.

The Huskies four offensive lineman hail from Nebraska (Ben Gustafson), Illinois (Lane Mahnesmith) and Wisconsin (Aiden Olsen, Grey Rumohr) and addressing players at that position was important,

Hammock said.

"Adding Lane and Ben gives us the ability to have five or six tackles for the long term," Hammock said. "Our program is built inside out, we believe in the foundation being on the offensive and defensive lines and we certainly addressed that this season."

The 20-man class is one of the first steps in building the 2024 roster as the 2023 season comes to an end on Saturday with the Huskies game versus Arkansas State in the Camellia Bowl. Hammock noted that recruiting truly does not end and more additions will continue to be announced in the coming months.

"With recruiting it's



constant," Hammock said. "You're recruiting high school student-athletes, you're recruiting junior college, you're recruiting the portal and you're constantly working on your roster."

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427 N. 10th Street,  
Rochelle, Ogle County,  
Illinois, and whose  
attorneys are Hewitt &  
Wagner, 1124 Lincoln  
Highway, Rochelle,  
Ogle County, Illinois,  
61068.

Claims against the  
estate may be filed in  
the Office of the Clerk  
of the Circuit Court of  
Ogle County, Oregon,  
Illinois, or with the  
representative, or both,  
no later than six (6)  
months from the date  
of the first publication  
of this claim notice and  
any claim not filed with-  
in that period is barred.  
Copies of a claim filed  
with the Clerk must be  
mailed or delivered to  
the representative and  
to the attorney within  
ten (10) days after it  
has been filed.  
Hewitt & Wagner  
Attorneys at Law  
For the Executor of  
the Estate of Ruth L.  
Bunger, deceased  
No. 1211  
(Dec. 10, 17 & 24,  
2023)

## NOTICE Used Bus Bid Announcement

Steward Elementary  
School District #220 is  
taking bids for the pur-  
chase of a used Blue-  
bird Type C 71 Passen-  
ger Capacity School  
Bus. 16,000 miles or  
lower; 2020 or newer.  
Must meet all E.P.A.  
standards. Ford 6.8 Li-  
ter Gasoline Engine (No  
Exceptions); Ford Auto-  
matic 6 Speed Trans-  
mission (No Excep-  
tions); 100 gallon fuel  
tank (no exceptions). If  
interested, seek other  
specifications by con-  
tacting Supt. Simpson  
at (815) 396-2413 be-  
tween 8:00 AM- 4:00  
PM through 12/21 or  
emailing ssimpson@  
stewardschool220.org  
prior to 12/27.

Bid opening will be held  
at 9 AM on Monday,  
January 8, 2024, at the  
District #220 Main Of-  
fice located at 602 Main  
St in Steward. Please  
mail bids to:  
Steward Elementary  
School District #220  
PO Box 76  
Steward, IL 60553  
No. 1219  
(Dec. 17, 20 and 24,  
2023)

## NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### 1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Notice to Bid-  
ders: Qualified bidders  
may submit bids for  
project as described in  
this Document. Submit  
bids according to the  
Instructions to Bidders.

1. Regulatory  
Requirements: Appli-  
cable laws and regu-  
lation of those having  
jurisdiction in the State  
of Illinois shall govern  
submittal, opening, and  
award of bids.

2. All Contracts  
for the Construction of  
Public Works are sub-  
ject to the Illinois Pre-  
vailing Wage Act (820  
ILCS 130/1-12).

B. Project Identifi-  
cation: 2024 SITE  
IMPROVEMENTS

1. Project Loca-  
tion:  
a. Rochelle  
Township High School,  
1401 Flagg Rd, Ro-

chelle, Illinois 61068.

b. Tilton Ele-  
mentary School, 1050  
North 9th Street, Ro-  
chelle, Illinois 61068.

2. Architect's  
Project Number: 0713-  
2023016.

C. Owner: Ro-  
chelle Township High  
School District 212.

1. Owner's  
Representative: Jason  
Harper, Superinten-  
dent.

D. Architect:  
GreenAssociates, Inc.,  
1437 Harmony Court,  
Itasca, Illinois 60143.

1. A r c h i -  
tect's Representative:  
George Prosilakos,  
AIA, 847-317-0852  
ext.154, gprosilakos@  
greenassociates.com.

A. The Work of  
Project is defined by the  
Contract Documents and  
consists of the fol-  
lowing:

1. Contract 01:  
Project Consists of the  
removal and replace-  
ment of asphalt, con-  
crete curb and gutter,  
storm structures, storm  
pipings, site grading for  
detention basin, con-  
crete sidewalk, pave-  
ment striping, mud  
jacking existing side-  
walk, site restoration,  
and associated work as  
identified here-in at **Rochelle Township High School.**

2. Contract 02:  
Project Consists of the  
removal and replace-  
ment of asphalt, con-  
crete curb and gutter,  
storm structures, storm  
pipings, site grading for  
detention basin, con-  
crete sidewalk, pave-  
ment striping, signage,  
site restoration, and as-  
sociated work as iden-  
tified here-in at **Tilton Elementary School.**

3. There is an  
option to bid both Con-  
tract 01 and Contract 02  
as a combined contract.

4. Type of Con-  
tract:  
a. Each Con-  
tract will be constructed  
under a single prime  
contract.

### 1.2 BID SUBMIT- TAL AND OPENING

A. Owner will  
receive lump sum bids  
until the bid time and  
date at the location given  
below. The sealed bid  
must be submitted on  
the Bid Form provided,  
Project Name, Date and  
Time of Bid clearly  
marked on the outside  
of the sealed envelope  
to prevent premature  
opening. Owner will  
consider bids prepared  
in compliance with the  
Instructions to Bidders,  
and delivered as fol-  
lows:

1. Bid Date: 04  
January 2024.

2. Bid Time:  
10:00 a.m., local time.

3. Location:  
1401 E Flagg Road,  
Rochelle, Illinois 61068.

a. Bidders shall  
enter door 2 of High  
School.

B. Bids will  
be thereafter publicly  
opened and read aloud.

C. Any bid sub-  
mitted unsealed, or  
unsigned, without bid  
bond or received sub-  
sequent to the afore-  
mentioned date and  
hour will be disqualified  
and returned to the bid-  
der.

D. Owner re-  
serves the right to reject  
any and all bids and to  
waive informalities and  
irregularities.

### 1.3 BID SECURI- TY

A. Bid Security  
is required in the form  
of a Bid Bond, AIA Docu-  
ment A310-2010 in an  
amount equal to not less  
than ten percent (10%)  
of the Base Bid and all  
Additive Alterna-

B. It is the Own-  
er's intent to issue a  
Notice of Award to the  
successful Bidder with-  
in thirty (30) calendar  
days of the Bid Date.

No bid shall be with-  
drawn for a period of  
sixty (60) calendar days  
after the opening of  
bids.

1.4 P R E B I D  
MEETING

A. Prebid Meet-  
ing: A prebid meeting  
for all bidders will be  
held at 1401 E Flagg  
Road, Rochelle, Illinois  
61068 on 20 December  
2023 at 3:30 p.m, local  
time. Prospective bid-  
ders are requested to  
attend.

B. Additional  
visits to Rochelle Town-  
ship High School may  
be arranged by con-  
tacting Mark C. Klouse,  
Director of Facility and  
Grounds for HSD212  
at 815-562-4161 Ext.  
7160 by phone at least  
one day prior to visit.

Additional visits to Tilton  
Elementary School may  
be arranged by con-  
tacting Seth Gittleson  
Director of Facility and  
Grounds for SD231 at  
815-508-6947 by phone  
at least one day prior to  
visit.

C. Bidders are  
encouraged to visit  
the site and familiarize  
themselves with the  
conditions under which  
the work is to be per-  
formed.

### 1.5 D O C U - MENTS

A. Bidding Docu-  
ments: Obtain access  
after 12 December  
2023, by going to BHFX  
website at: www.bh-  
fxplanroom.com/jobs/  
public and registering.

B. Bid forms  
are included in the bid-  
ding documents and  
can also be download-  
ed separately from the  
BHFX website.

C. Addenda will  
be made available, in  
digital format, to plan  
holders of record.

D. Bidding Docu-  
ments can be viewed  
at the Architect's office.

### 1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

A. Successful  
bidder shall begin the  
Work on receipt of the  
Notice of Award and  
shall complete the Work  
within the Contract  
Time. Work is subject to  
liquidated damages.

### 1.7 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must  
be properly licensed under  
the laws governing their  
respective trades and  
be able to obtain insur-  
ance and bonds required  
for the Work.

B. The suc-  
cessful bidder will be  
required to furnish a  
Performance Bond and  
a Payment Bond, in the  
amount of **one hundred percent (100%)**  
of the contract sum, on  
AIA Document A312-  
2010, as issued by the  
American Institute of  
Architects.  
No. 1231  
(December 24, 2023)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does  
not knowingly accept  
fraudulent or deceptive  
advertising. Readers are  
cautioned to thoroughly  
investigate all ads,  
especially those asking  
for money in advance.

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does  
not knowingly accept  
fraudulent or deceptive  
advertising. Readers are  
cautioned to thoroughly  
investigate all ads,  
especially those asking  
for money in advance."

## 113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee  
Loans or Credit Offers  
Companies that do  
business by phone  
can't ask you to pay for  
credit before you get it.  
For more information,  
call toll-free 1-877-FTC-  
HELP. A public service  
message from your  
hometown newspaper

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does  
not knowingly accept  
fraudulent or deceptive  
advertising. Readers are  
cautioned to thoroughly  
investigate all ads,  
especially those asking  
for money in advance."

## 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care  
and Tree Work. Mowing,  
bushes, spring clean  
up, weeding and much  
more. Call Jeremy  
Furman 815-761-  
9619. Please leave a  
message will return call  
ASAP. Fully insured, in  
business since 1999.  
Servicing Rochelle and  
surrounding areas.

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

## 203 HELP WANTED

Help Wanted, full time  
live in housekeeper to  
help with leaning,  
laundry, cooking and  
helping with my 54 year-  
old daughter. Room and  
board included with pay  
options. 779-251-0161  
(OCL 122523)

## 301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY:  
Vintage Metal and Wood  
Signs, Milk Bottles &  
Local Advertising, Oak  
Icebox, Iron Door Stop  
and Antique Lighting...  
Call Dick Harms at  
815-562-2928 or email  
dickharms@hotmail.com

ANTIQUES WANTED:  
I pay cash for antiques;

## 103 AUCTIONS

**VIRTUAL ONLINE**

**LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
LAND AUCTION**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 10:00 AM<sup>CT</sup>**

**328.75 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 3 TRACTS**

The Shultz farm is located just southeast of Harmon, IL or 10 miles southeast of Sterling/Rock Falls, IL. The land is further described as being located in Sections 14, 23 & 24, T20N-R8E, Harmon Township, Lee County, Illinois.

*Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a large acreage with quality soils, located close to excellent grain market outlets.*

**THE ROBERT H. SHULTZ JR. REVOCABLE TRUST  
ROBERT H. SHULTZ JR. - TRUSTEE  
MERRIAM SHULTZ HELMSING**

**Representing Attorney:** Timothy W. Kirk, Shareholder  
Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C. | (309) 677-9519  
300 Hamilton Boulevard, Peoria, Illinois 61601

**Auction Managers:** Isaac Taber (309) 335-8081  
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decoys. If it's antique,  
I'm interested in looking!  
Call 815-562-2928 or  
email dickharms@  
hotmail.com

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper  
-\$3 per Bundle. End  
Roll- Cost Depends on  
Weight of Roll. Available  
Monday-Friday 815-  
562-4171 (8AM-NOON  
ONLY) Rochelle News  
Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For  
Sale. Contact 779-251-  
0254

Grass Hay \$5 per Bale,  
Small Bales average 60  
lbs, 200 Available.  
Hay has been kept off of  
the ground & in a dry loft  
since cutting.  
Bruce 815-234-3099  
(RNL01032024)

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

**H.O.P.E**  
For Free Help  
or  
Information  
Call  
**815-562-8890**  
24 Hours

**All Calls Are  
Confidential.**

Support,  
Advocacy, Referral  
Services,  
Shelter for victims  
of domestic  
violence and their  
children.  
**HOPE**  
of Ogle County

P.O. Box 131  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Public Service  
Announcement

**AM I OKAY  
TO DRIVE?**

**BUZZED DRIVING  
IS DRUNK DRIVING**

**NHTSA** **ad  
COUNCIL**

**A Christmas Wish  
for Our Cherished Friends**  
Merry Christmas To All & To All a Great Year!

**GET  
HIRED**

**Full-Time & Part-Time  
Openings Available Now**  
Check out the Help Wanted  
section of the Classifieds

**Start earning now!**

*Merry Christmas, Good Cheer  
& Happy New Year*

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**NEW MILFORD  
REFRIGERATION**

**NEW, USED  
SCRATCH & DENT**  
• Refrigerators • Freezers  
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a  
large selection  
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appliances with a  
warranty.

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815-262-3900**

04092023



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\* Offer expires December 31, 2023



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beat this  
holiday  
gift deal!*