



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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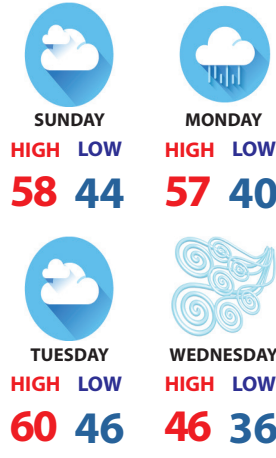
KNOW IT
TODAY



Anderson to retire from city

Jason Anderson will retire
as the economic
development director for
the City of Rochelle.
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WEATHER



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OBITUARIES

• DAVID DALE CROW

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• RUNNINGS
• MENARDS
• HOLIDAY WISHBOOK

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Bid for RMU building roof replacement approved City Council approves 2024 tax levy Tuesday evening

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an \$871,000 bid from McDermaid Roofing & Insulating for the roof replacement of its 1030 S. 7th St. building that houses Rochelle Municipal Utilities.

The McDermaid Roofing & Insulating bid was the lowest of five the city received. The approval Tuesday also allows for a 15 percent project variance that would allow City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to approve any unexpected costs during the duration of the project, making the potential total up to \$1,001,650.

The roof on the building has started leaking in multiple areas, causing increasing damage to its interior during each rainfall event. After several inspections of the roofing membrane, the city determined “the best course of action” would be to replace the roof in its entirety. Roof replacement will be done on all portions of the building.

The city paid \$1.3



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an \$871,000 bid from McDermaid Roofing & Insulating for the roof replacement of its 1030 S. 7th St. building that houses Rochelle Municipal Utilities.

million for the building in 2021 and recently completed a second phase of renovations to it. Engineering for the second phase of renovations cost \$158,500. The total budgeted amount for the project was \$900,000. The city council approved a \$251,984 change order for the renovation work in March.

City Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver said Tuesday that

the building was appraised at \$6.6 million in 2023.

“We continue to call it our forever home,” Toliver said. “I feel we’ve made great use of the space and it’s been a great addition to our buildings for the city.”

Levy

The council unanimously approved the city’s 2024 tax levy on Tuesday. The city’s levy rose three percent from last year for a total of

\$3,069,195 in collected property taxes. The city collected \$2,932,578 in property taxes last year.

The city’s equalized assessed value (EAV) has seen an increase from \$311,565,381 to a new estimation of \$322,256,037.

Based on the estimated EAV, the city’s tax rate would decrease .006612 per \$100 EAV for the coming year.

See CITY page 5



Board approves 2024 tax levy

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Tuesday evening, the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education unanimously approved its 2024 tax levy.

The district will be asking for \$11,344,063 with its property tax levy this year, a 4.6 percent increase on what it was extended last year (\$10,837,928). The levy did not require a truth in taxation hearing due to it being under a five percent increase.

The district’s equalized assessed value (EAV) was \$385,347,209 last year and a 4.69 percent increase is projected this year, to \$403,403,269.

See SCHOOL page 2

Hillcrest Board: Water main project wrapping up Village approves \$1 million investment into Illinois Funds on Wednesday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST — At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board discussed its Priority 1A water main project nearing completion.

Village Water Trustee Dan Potter said seeding has been done in the areas where water main was installed and hookups were done. The only issues that remain are finding a number of water shutoffs and being able to test water in more than one location.

The project’s contractor is Elliott & Wood, Inc. The project has a \$1.2 million total budget and replaced mains along the full length of Scott Avenue, parts of Errett Road and Erickson Road from Scott Avenue to Jeffrey Avenue, and parts of Jeffrey Avenue from Errett Road to Erickson Road. Those streets are in the southern and oldest part of the village. The project will be financed with an IEPA loan that will involve 50 percent loan forgiveness. The debt service on the project will be \$35,000 per year over



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board discussed its Priority 1A water main project nearing completion.

20 years.

Investment

The board unanimously approved an investment of \$1 million into Illinois Funds during the meeting. Village Finance Trustee Eileen Braski said at its current return rate, the investment will net \$50,000 a year for the village and the funds can be taken out

any time if needed, and additional funds can be invested.

Illinois Funds lets government agencies use the Illinois State Treasurer’s resources to safely invest their funds while using the economies of scale available from a \$19+ billion pooled fund investment portfolio.

The village previous-

ly considered investing more funds, but Village Treasurer Penny Payton advised against it due to recent expenditures such as the Priority 1A water main project.

Equipment

Village President Rick Rhoads said during the meeting that the village has taken delivery of re-

cent purchases including a \$61,404 Kubota tractor and new garage doors for its maintenance building (\$14,675).

The village purchased the tractor last month to use with various attachments it has to mow its pond and remove brush and tall grass in its pit.

See HILLCREST pg 3

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Kitchen Table will not be operating this winter and plans are to sell the building. Below is a press release detailing The Kitchen Table's plans to shut down.

The Kitchen Table will not operate this winter, plans to sell building ‘We’ve loved cooking and serving the community, but our society has shifted’

ROCHELLE — The Kitchen Table recently released a statement on the future of its operations. The press release is as follows:

“We would like to begin by expressing our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has ever shared their time with us. Your time is invaluable, and as life moves swiftly, we sincerely appreciate every moment you’ve dedicated to us. We also want to extend our thanks for the gen-

erous donations we’ve received over the years; they’ve kept us going. When we kicked off Kitchen Table Inc., our mission was to keep things running as long as we could cover our basic needs. But sadly, that’s not the case anymore. We can no longer pay the bills and get the food we need. The Kitchen Table Inc. was created to provide everyone with a seat at the table — a place for you and your family in times of need, where you could

enjoy a home-cooked meal on a pay-what-you-can basis. It was designed to be a reciprocal space, where volunteering could earn your food, fostering a sense of community. It was meant to be a place where dignity is afforded to all, bridging the gap when food or gas prices soared, allowing families to feed themselves. Our volunteers have been incredible throughout the years. Despite the ongoing struggle for assistance, our core team

has rallied to fill the gaps, even to the point of exhaustion. While finding help has always been a challenge, it has become even more difficult since COVID-19.

We’ve loved cooking and serving the community, but our society has shifted. These changes have led to a drop in donations, making it harder to cover our costs. So, our original vision just isn’t working anymore. In light of these considerations, we have decided

not to operate this winter. We will be selling our building to a new restaurant in need of a location. This new establishment will function as a for-profit entity, distinct from Kitchen Table Inc., and will have the autonomy to establish its own pricing structure. They are purchasing our building with a contingency to allow us to host a community dinner when we choose. Should we decide to organize such an event, we will provide advance notice

along with the requirements for receiving food. The non-profit proceeds will be donated to a local charity. We find peace in this decision, as it alleviates a significant amount of stress and work from our lives. We do apologize to those of you who genuinely rely on us, but we trust that there will always be a way to assist you. In the future it is our hope to still be able to seek out effective methods to assist those in need.”

SCHOOL: District receives grant for preschool program, may result in expansion

From page 1

Grant

District Superintendent Jason Harper and Stepping Stones Preschool Administrator Yazmin Nambo said during the meeting that the district recently was approved for a grant for its preschool program. Stipulations of the grant would require Step-

ping Stones Preschool to make changes to receive it, including all classes going to a five-day program for 2.5 hours a day. The school currently has two classrooms that go five days for 2.5 hours a day and four classrooms that go four days a week for three hours a day.

The grant is based on the preschool-for-all pro-

gram model. Nambo said the changes to the program in order to receive the grant could happen as soon as the spring semester. The grant has been awarded for two years (fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026).

Maintenance

During the meeting the board unanimously approved an application for

an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Maintenance Grant. Approval of the grant by the state would allow the district to use \$50,000 in matching funds to help pay for costs associated with Tilton Elementary School window replacement and repairs.

Tilton School is currently in the midst of a renovation project that has and will include parking lot expansion, security enhancements, and improvements to and expansion of the building, potentially including additional classrooms, multi-purpose room, gym, library and music room space, ADA accessibility, technology and climate control.

At its meeting in June, the board unanimously approved a resolution to issue a maximum of \$11,163,432 in general obligation school bonds for renovations at Tilton Elementary School and possible future work at its other schools.

The June approval was the culmination of a months-long process of securing funding for the Tilton work. The district

is currently in the process of \$14-16 million worth of needed renovations at Tilton School after finding in a health life safety evaluation that an estimated \$7.9 million worth of work is required at the school for those issues. Health life safety concerns the physical safety of the building for students and staff to occupy. Tilton School was built in 1949. Along with funding from bonds, the district is utilizing \$6-8 million from its reserves for other improvements involving security and spatial concerns including pick-up and drop-off areas. The work will be done in a three-year plan.

ESSA

District Assistant Superintendent Tony Doyle presented a report during the meeting on the district’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) summative designations.

Each district building is assigned a designation each year by the state based on last year’s scores. The four designations are exemplary, commendable, targeted and needs im-

provement/comprehensive. Doyle said Rochelle Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School and Tilton Elementary School were designated as commendable and Central School was designated as targeted. Designation comes from a series of differently-weighted scores and metrics such as proficiency in math and reading and truancy.

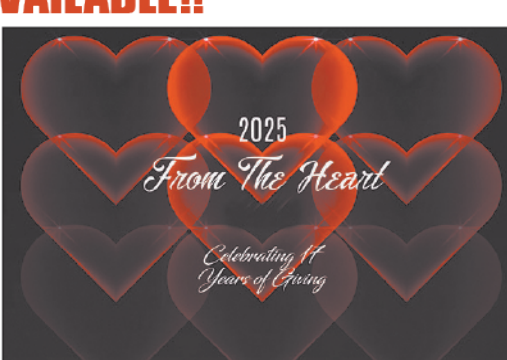
The district’s targeted designation at Central School came from its children with disabilities subgroup at that school. An action plan will be put into place at each district school to improve deficiencies.

Personnel

The board unanimously approved personnel changes including the resignation of support staff employees Garrett Burdin (assistant boys basketball coach), Mercedes Guzman (paraprofessional, Central School), Alondra Nazario (paraprofessional, Stepping Stones) and Yandier Rincon (paraprofessional, Rochelle Middle School).

The 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients:
Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Community Action Network, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of 365 DAILY WINNERS - TOTAL CASH PRIZES EQUAL \$18,250 PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

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- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
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Regional Transportation Committee Meeting is Nov. 22

SPRING VALLEY — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday, Nov. 22 - 10 a.m. at the Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living—1 Les-Buzz Way, Spring Valley, IL 61362. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation

are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time

frame, please contact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

Christmas in Creston craft show set for Dec. 7

CRESTON — A craft show will be held at Creston School on Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the Christmas in Creston festivities.

Vendors include Cre-

ative Creations by Geri: glass etching, Jennifer Payton Photography, KnE Designs, Rural Tranquility Photography, Laurie Bagg: Sleep sacks & diamond painting, Tim

LeClere: Vanilla products, Sue's Stuff: Sewn items and more, Rachel Sampson: Jewelry, Regan Helgeson Painting, and Sue O'Connell Smith: Knitted items.

LOCAL NEWS

City of Rochelle economic development director announces retirement

ROCHELLE — City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson has announced his upcoming retirement. Having served the Rochelle community for over 20 years, Anderson will be stepping down from the position at the end of December.

“Jason has made significant contributions to the growth and economic development of our city. His work, in partnership with the city council, city staff, business leaders, and community stakeholders, has played an essential role in shaping the economic landscape we see today,” Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said.

Over the 20 years Anderson served as the city’s economic development director, Rochelle added 15 new industries and helped to facilitate 24 plant expansions, all of which added more than 2,000 new jobs to the Hub City. In addition to his economic development duties, he was also tasked with overseeing City of Rochelle Railroad and Municipal Airport.

Rochelle’s short-line railroad is one of only a few municipally owned railroads in the country and it has been a major driver in expanding industrial development in the city for 40 years. Today 12 industries are

served directly by the city’s rail system along with numerous industries from across Lee & Ogle counties, who utilize the Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center. This operation allows many companies to gain access to rail services provided by both the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroads.

During Anderson’s tenure as the city’s economic development director, he was instrumental in the Rochelle Airport receiving more than \$10 million in funding to extend and resurface its runway, build a new taxiway, build a new community hangar and rebuild its ramp. He also played a role in the development of the Chicagoland Skydiving Center and Flight Deck restaurant at the airport.

Reflecting on the growth of the railroad, Anderson said, “When GREDCO started the City’s railroad 40 years ago, no one ever imagined the success it would bring, attracting a dozen industries to Rochelle that have created hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of new revenue to the city.”

“While the work was often demanding, it was always driven by a shared commitment to the city’s growth and prosperity. On behalf of the entire city, I thank Jason for his service



Jason Anderson

and wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in life,” Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said.

Tom Demmer, who served as the state representative for the 90th District from 2013-2023 and represented Rochelle in the General Assembly, will be overseeing the economic development duties for both the City of Rochelle and the Lee County Industrial Development Association. When asked how this new role will help facilitate economic development across the region he said, “Rochelle is truly the Hub City in northern Illinois and serves an important role in our regional economy. I look forward to working with the talented and experienced staff in the City of Rochelle to build on decades of progress and investment. It’s exciting to look ahead at the projects and opportunities that will positively impact our area.”

Public invited to NIU Neurodiversity Resource Fair and Temple Grandin Lecture Nov. 19

DEKALB — On Tuesday, Nov. 19, Temple Grandin will visit Northern Illinois University to give a free public lecture at 6:30 p.m. Prior to her talk, NIU STEAM will host a “Celebration of Neurodiversity Resource and Activity Fair.” Both events will take place at NIU’s Holmes Student Center. The events are free and open to the public, but space is limited, and registration is requested. Learn more and register at go.niu.edu/neurodiversity-fair.

Temple Grandin is a Distinguished Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, as well as a world-renowned author and speaker on autism and neurodiversity. Dr. Grandin will present a talk titled “Great Minds Are Not All the Same.”

Prior to Dr. Grandin’s talk, NIU STEAM will host a free resources and activity fair from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to celebrate and support the many kinds of neurodiversity in our community.

The fair will highlight the



Temple Grandin

many resources available to support NIU students and community members who are neurodivergent, and their families. Representatives from many different NIU departments and community organizations will be present, including the NIU Autism Caregivers Group, NIU Libraries and

RAMP Disability Resources & Services.

Activities will be available for all ages — from preschool through college — including hands-on art projects, sensory bins and books related to neurodiversity from the NIU Libraries and DeKalb Public Library.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right: Delphine Hernandez - HOPE counseling coordinator; Samantha Zaccaria - CHS, Mary Anne Louis - HOPE board of directors, Rebecca Laudati - HOPE executive director, Mark Zaccaria - CHS, and Tyler Angell - CHS.

CHS Rochelle donates \$20,000 to HOPE of Ogle County

ROCHELLE — Each year, CHS Rochelle chooses a local program to raise money for at its golf outing. At the 13th annual charity golf outing in September, CHS Rochelle raised \$20,000 for HOPE of Ogle County. The funds collected will be used to improve security infrastructure and expand communication capabilities by

adding more phone lines.

“It is gratifying to be able to provide financial assistance to this organization, which plays a vital role in supporting domestic abuse survivors in the Ogle County area,” CHS Senior Administrative Assistant Samantha Zaccaria said.

Apart from the golf outing, an additional

\$20,000 is also invested in Stewardship funds for various programs that help strengthen local communities and cultivate the next generation of ag leaders. CHS takes pride in being dedicated stewards in all the communities where we operate, ensuring safe and sustainable practices and contributing our time and resources.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Village President Rick Rhoads said during the meeting that a vote will be held at next month’s meeting to appoint Patty Garcia as a new village trustee.

HILLCREST: Vote to be held next month for new trustee appointment

From page 1

The village will consider purchasing additional attachments to use with the tractor in the future such as a snow plowing blade, a grader, and a brush.

The village’s previous garage doors had fallen into disrepair and the new garage doors include side-mounted openers

with battery backup to ensure the doors work during power outages. The doors are insulated with windows.

The village also approved the purchase of a Ford F-350 dump truck for \$98,190 at its meeting in September.

Appointment

Rhoads said during the meeting that a vote will be

held at next month’s meeting to appoint Patty Garcia as a new village trustee. Rhoads announced last month that Trustee Joe Thompson has resigned his position due to personal reasons. Thompson was appointed to his position in June 2023 and served as streets & grounds trustee. The village has 60 days to appoint a replacement after a resignation.

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OBITUARIES

David Dale Crow

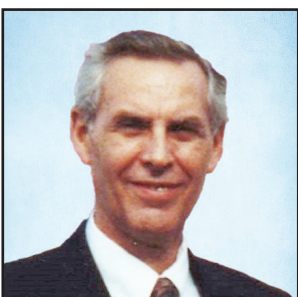
ROCHELLE — David Dale Crow, 81, of Rochelle, Illinois, passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at OSF Saint Anthony Hospital in Rockford, Illinois.

He was born June 21, 1943, in Mediapolis, Iowa, the son of Garrett and Dorothy (Burgus) Crow. Dale was a member of Lost Lake Community Church of the Nazarene in Dixon, Illinois.

He is survived by his wife Kathy; his children Sherry Crow and David Crow; his stepchildren Scott E. (Allison) Scott, Richard (Jill) Scott, Deb-

bie (Robert) Studebaker; Melissa (Jared) Bland; eleven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother of Doris (Crotty) Griffin, Danny (Melody) Crow, Dennis Crow, Denise Gram, Darla Smith; and his sister-in-law Katherine Crow; brother-in-law Jerry (Pat) Fleehtart and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Donny Crow and Garrett Dean Crow and his sister Donna Schrader. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers,



memorials can be made to the Lost Lake Community Church of the Nazarene in Dixon, Illinois or to the American Red Cross in memory of David Dale Crow.

For information, visit www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com or call 815-756-1022.

Local Extension offices welcome new SNAP-Ed educator

DEKALB — Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) partners with agencies, schools, and community organizations to provide SNAP-eligible families and individuals with obesity prevention and chronic disease reduction programming. SNAP-Ed programming is a vital community resource.

University of Illinois Extension serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties recently welcomed a new SNAP-Ed Educator, Michael Swedberg.

Swedberg comes to Extension with years of experience in public health. He worked as a food safety trainer in the private sector, as an outpatient dietitian for Denver Health Hospital Authority, and as a WIC dietitian at the Win-

nebago County Health Department.

“I look forward to being able to maintain and cultivate new community partnerships across Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties on behalf of Extension. My hope is that we can continue to improve health outcomes,” Swedberg said. “A significant component of health begins with access to food, followed by the empowerment to make wiser choices when possible. As we know, nutrition is a key element of overall health for the individual, but this can also have positive ripple effects on the entire community. Small changes can make big differences.”

Swedberg is native to DeKalb County. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Northern



Michael Swedberg

Illinois University and a Master of Science from Kansas State University.

Swedberg is happy to channel his passion for public health in his home community. He will be based in the DeKalb County Office at 1350 W Prairie Dr., in Sycamore, and can be reached at mcswed@illinois.edu.

More information about Illinois Extension serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties can be found online at extension.illinois.edu/bdo.

Illinois Extension invests in schools and new audiences, welcomes new educator

BELVIDERE — Illinois Extension welcomed Abigail Nelson as the 4-H youth development educator serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties in early June.

Nelson will provide leadership and programming in 4-H youth development, focusing on schools and new audiences. She is passionate about leadership development, emotional intelligence education, and helping others reach their full potential by gaining greater wonder and responsibility for the people and world around them.

“As a former 4-Her, I am so excited to step into the role of 4-H Educator and contribute to these communities in meaningful ways,” Nelson said. “My focus will be on empowering youth to develop skills and leadership qualities

that not only benefit them personally but also enrich their community.”

Nelson lives in Rockford and is a Boone County 4-H alumna, having participated actively in the program for 10 years. She earned an Associate of Arts from Rock Valley College, a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Administration from Southern Illinois University, and a Master of Business Administration, with distinction, from Rasmussen University.

Nelson will be based in the Boone County Office at 205 Cadillac Court, Suite 3 in Belvidere and can be reached at agnelson@illinois.edu.

More information about Illinois Extension serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties can be found online at extension.illinois.edu/bdo.



Abigail Nelson

With program staff serving all 102 counties in Illinois, Extension connects people with research-based knowledge to help communities thrive. 4-H impacts youth through inclusive programming that the whole family can enjoy, rooted in positive youth development principles. 4-H youth are five times more likely to say they will graduate from college, four times more likely to say they help their communities, and two times more likely to say they are active in school.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Nov. 12 at 11:05 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 72. Subsequent to the stop, William Hiatt, 60, of Rockford, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and given a citation for no insurance. Hiatt was released on a notice to appear at the scene.

On Nov. 12 at approximately 6:35 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Jata Drive and Mulford Road for a vehicle that had struck a pole. After investigation, deputies learned that a blue Hyundai Sonata was driven by Logan Huber, 28, of Rockford. Huber was traveling south on Mulford Road when his vehicle left the roadway, and struck a utility pole. Huber was placed under

arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Huber was also cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, operating an uninsured vehicle, and illegal transportation of alcohol. Huber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Monroe Center Fire and EMS.

On Nov. 13 at approximately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a black Volkswagen sedan at the intersection of West Illinois Route 72 and North Mt. Vernon Road. After a brief investigation, Alivia M. Schiedel, 28, of Chadwick, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Schiedel was taken into custody without incident and released on scene on a notice to

appear with a future court date set. Schiedel was also cited for having suspended registration.

On Nov. 13 at approximately 2:07 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 105 northbound for an equipment and moving violation. After an investigation, Americo Ocampo Corral, 33, Modesto, California, was arrested for no valid driver's license and possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) less than 15 grams. Ocampo Corral was also issued a citation for a defective windshield. Ocampo Corral was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On Nov. 12 at 2:11 a.m. Choson T. Scanlan, 24, of Ashton was cited for revoked registration and speeding 53 in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 11 at 7:15 p.m. Angela K. Rachas, 51, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 11 at 11:42 p.m. Cynthia S. Saldana Hernandez, 29, of Rockford was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 12 at 7:12 p.m. Nolberto I. Amador, 31,

of Rockford was arrested for an Ogle County warrant, and for driving while license suspended. Amador was also cited for no insurance. He was transferred.

On Nov. 13 at 9:51 a.m. Li Yen Tu, 28, of Woodbury, New York was cited for speeding 53 in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 13 at 1:25 p.m. a 15-year-old of Creston was arrested for possession of substance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 14 Ogle County court date.

On Nov. 13 at 10:12 p.m. Dechazelon Gray, 33, of Rockford was cited for disregarding a stop sign and speeding 73 in a 40 miles per hour zone. He

signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 14 at 1:23 a.m. Sivon N. Matthews, 23, of Columbia, South Carolina was arrested for retail theft. He was released on a notice to appear with a Dec. 20 Ogle County court date.

On Nov. 14 at 9:11 a.m. Joshua Johnson, 46, of Rochelle was arrested on a DeKalb County warrant. He was released on a notice to appear with a Dec. 2 DeKalb County court date.

On Nov. 14 at 6:24 a.m. Nurlan Aituvarov, 45, of Morrow, Ohio was cited for improper left turn. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rockford man sentenced to 9 years for unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon

OREGON — A Rockford man was sentenced to nine years in jail for unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon on Nov. 7, a Nov. 14 press release from Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock said.

Jesse Alar, 37, of Rockford, plead guilty to unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon and was sentenced to nine years in the Illinois Department of

Corrections by the Honorable Judge John B. Roe.

On March 8, 2024, the Illinois State Police responded to a complaint about a driver who pointed a handgun at a victim on Interstate 39 in Ogle County. The trooper located the suspect vehicle near the Baxter Road exit on Interstate 39 and the defendant was identified as the suspect. Troopers located a Taurus

9mm handgun inside of the defendant's vehicle during the investigation. The defendant had prior felony convictions from Winnebago County.

Unlawful possession of a weapon by a felony is a class-two felony with a sentencing range of 3-14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by 12 months of mandatory supervised release.

NIU names local summer 2024 graduates

DEKALB — More than 587 students received their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Northern Illinois University in August. Included among the graduates were the following students

from the area:

Rochelle: Nelson Baker, Master of Science in Education, Educational Administration. Kevin Cech, Master of Accountancy, Accountancy. Lauren Hauck, Doctor of

Philosophy, Psychology. Timothy Huber, Doctor of Philosophy, Chemistry. Amy Price, Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education with Preschool Special Education Approval.

Municipal Band Christmas Concert is Dec. 15

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Municipal Band will present a special Christmas Concert on

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. in the Rochelle Township High School Auditorium. The Municipal Band is made up of musicians in

the city and holds a number of concerts each year, namely at the Atwood Park band shell over the summers.

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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(815) 562-4171

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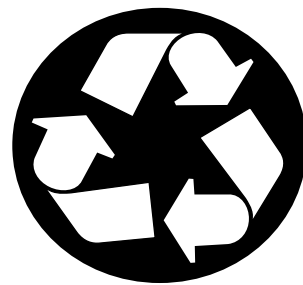
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Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception.

Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.



**Read and
Recycle**

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council approves expenditure to study potential railroad crossing closure

From page 1

The average homeowner will see a decrease to the city's portion of their property taxes. The 2024 levy includes funding the city's police and fire pension funds as recommended by the pension boards' actuarial studies.

Liquor license

The council voted 6-0, with Mayor John Bearrows abstaining, to approve an ordinance to delete a class R-3 liquor license for The Blackstone Bar & Restaurant at 406 Cherry Ave. The business is preparing for its sale at the end of December. The liquor license will remain valid until the closing of its sale.

Liquor licenses are not transferable, and the new owners would need to apply for their own liquor

license to legally serve alcohol.

RMU

The council unanimously approved two expenditures for the RMU electric department during the meeting.

The first was the purchase of Elster electric meters from Wesco Distribution for \$117,320. Several forms of electric meters will be purchased and used to update existing meters. Due to long lead times of over a year, the purchase was large in quantity to prepare for new installations and replacements over the next two years.

The second expenditure was for the \$64,100 purchase of 25 residential poles and fixtures for street lighting from Wesco Distribution to continue replacing deteriorating in-

frastructure. The lights will replace the "flying saucer" style lights on Brookside Drive and Springdale Drive.

Crossing

The council unanimously approved an \$275,000 expenditure for a study to potentially close a BNSF railroad crossing on Caron Road and locate up to two new interchange switches and eliminate one or possibly two rail crossings in the area.

The city's railroad currently interchanges with the BNSF mainline where two passively-protected railroad crossings are located on Caron Road and one passively-protected crossing is located on Steam Plant Road. 80 percent (\$220,000) of the study will be paid for by a grant. The study will determine the best relocation



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The council approved an \$275,000 expenditure for a study to potentially close a BNSF railroad crossing on Caron Road and locate up to two new interchange switches and eliminate one or possibly two rail crossings in the area.

of switches to eliminate BNSF traffic from crossing all three crossings when interchanging with the city's railroad. Fehr Graham and Transystems will conduct the study and their bid was the only one received.

Credits

The council unani-

mously approved the sale of renewable energy credits (RECs) generated at the methane gas plant at the Rochelle Landfill at a rate of \$35.25 per REC to Sol Systems, LLC. RECs can generate revenue by being sold to companies seeking to lower their emissions footprint. RECs generated

from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 will be sold under the agreement. The new contract is estimated to generate nearly three times the revenue of the city's expired contract for the RECs.

The revenue will fund RMU's income assistance program.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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 Children's 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

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

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

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

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

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

First Presbyterian Church - An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace- Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: info@placeforgrace.com. Sunday morning worship 9:00am and 10:30am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. www.placeforgrace.com/ www.facebook.com/placeforgrace

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

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

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

Living Water Community Church 405 N. Main St, Downtown Rochelle. Phone 815-561-6249, Website: www.lwccr.com, Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Mike Vogeler - Outreach and Seven C's Pastor, Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor and Doug Burger - 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.. [f](https://www.facebook.com/lwccr)

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

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

St. John's Lutheran Church, 126 E. South Street, Creston. Phone 815-384-3720, Email: StJohnsLutheran@aol.com, members of NALC/LCMC. Worship is led by **Pastor Terese Whitten** 231-878-4150. St. John's Lutheran Church is a part of God's Family, planting hope, nurturing faith and harvesting love. Worship time begins at 9 a.m. followed by fellowship at 10 a.m. Sunday school is conducted during worship service except during the summer.

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 Email: stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

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



LOCAL VIEWS

Apprenticeships offer debt-free options as education and the workforce change

NATIONAL Apprenticeship Week celebrates its 10th anniversary from Nov. 17-23, a week dedicated to sharing the life-changing impact that registered apprenticeships have for jobseekers and employers alike. U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeships offer a debt-free pathway to a middle-class career, while advancing racial and gender equity. Apprenticeships ensure that good jobs are not dependent on a college degree and strengthen our economy by developing a highly skilled workforce to meet the demands of changing industries. At a time when many Americans are questioning the value of a four-year college degree, economic outcomes for young adults without a degree are improving and apprenticeships are a key reason why. Apprenticeships are an arrangement in which a worker receives hands-on job training and technical

instruction to excel in their desired career, while still earning a paycheck. Apprentices earn to learn, and programs vary in length, with many lasting up to six years depending on the occupation. At the end of a registered program, apprentices graduate and receive a nationally recognized certificate of completion as proof of their skills.

As the cost of higher education increases, we are seeing a demand for young people seeking pathways to good, union jobs across industries without the burden of student debt. Hannah Hill, a 26-year-old painter and treasurer of Painters Local Union 90, went to college to pursue a career in nursing but quickly questioned if she was suited for the field. Hill, like many young people faced with the burden of college debt, instead turned toward jobs that

were not marketed to them in high school.

National Apprenticeship Week offers us an opportunity to see more pathways to economic security. Apprenticeships can serve as the great equalizer in our economy. The biggest employee benefit may be earning from day one, and for employers, they can help close the skills gap, reduce hiring costs and increase employee retention.

Illinois is poised for growth in apprenticeship programs across industries, with more than 400 registered apprenticeship programs spanning construction and building trades, hospitality and culinary arts, and mechanic and machinery fields. As the job market for those with four-year college degrees continues to tighten, more and more young people are looking for debt-free pathways into

a career.

The Illinois General Assembly first introduced the Apprenticeship Act in 1819, and in the past decade has reaffirmed its commitment to providing pathways for all workers. This past year, we saw an \$18 million investment for Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship programs across the state, and the launch of the Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship program to train underserved residents for careers in the clean energy sector. In the construction industry, we see an annual investment of \$136 million for worker skills development, and significant returns on every dollar invested.

Programs like these show us that there are many paths toward the American Dream, and increasingly, young workers are making the leap from

the college campus to the apprenticeship campus. In the construction workforce, workers receive 27% more training than curriculum hours when compared to a bachelor's degree, a model that can be built upon as employers consider expanding apprenticeships into other industries.

We have made significant strides over the past 10 years, and Illinois' investment in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs has led to its top ranking in workforce development. In fact, we rank number one in the Midwest.

The commitment to examine the future we are creating for young people entering the workforce is leading many of us to rethink college as the only path to good wages. Instead, we are reframing "success" as a diverse economy that works for all,

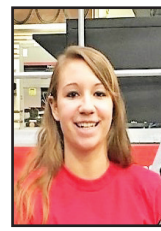
whether you have a college degree or graduated from a registered apprenticeship program. A family sustaining wage, secure retirement, health care and job safety are things that all workers deserve.

A college degree can pay off for the careers that truly need it, but it's not the only educational option that can lead to a rewarding career. Whether you are just entering the job market or are beginning a career transition, the apprenticeship model can offer something for everyone. When we invest in our entire education system, including apprenticeships, we are committing to the future of our communities and workforce.

Tim Drea is president of Illinois AFL-CIO. Danielle Sunley is a journey person level plumbing BIM/modeler and part-time apprenticeship instructor with United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters and HVACR, Local 137.



Tim Drea



Danielle Sunley

Budget prioritizes public safety and infrastructure

IT is my pleasure to submit to you the Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets for the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Municipal Utilities for the calendar year (CY) beginning Jan. 1, 2025. The numbers reflected in this column were part of the PowerPoint presentation for the Nov. 4 budget workshop. The entire City of Rochelle proposed CY 25 budget is \$133,500,472. Proposed General Fund Revenues for FY 25 are estimated to be \$14,864,471. Expenditures for the new fiscal year total approximately \$15,372,877. Staff is recommending the use of general fund reserves to cover onetime expenses of approximately \$508,000. These projects include work within city hall, the downtown project (70% grant funded), and road projects including reconstruction of the intersection at 20th Street and Flagg Road. Based on this information, our team estimates the general

fund cash balance will decrease to \$10,166,837. Projects funded by transfers from the Non-Home Rule Sales Tax, Utility Tax and Motor Fuel Tax are included in the Capital Improvement Fund and are not part of the general fund balance.

The utilities (electric, water, water reclamation, advanced communications & technology center, railroad, landfill, golf course and airport) proposed budgeted expenses are \$91,532,452 of which \$35,160,378 is for capital outlays & \$26,779,746 for power purchases. All other funds, including special, downstate police and fire pensions, internal service and CIP total \$26,595,143.

Staff believes the FY 25 budget represents the City of Rochelle's ongoing mission to provide a safe, connected, and innovative community with professional, personalized, and impartial services. The spending, specifically all capital expenditures, falls in line with the 2022 strategic

planning document that has been adopted by the full city council. Our team worked to ensure that all spending can be tied back to the six core areas approved by the city council.

It remains the intention of staff that this budget reflects the priorities of our elected officials. The key priorities that have guided efforts in developing the budget include the following:

Revenues have been estimated at realistic and conservative levels based on estimates due to inflationary pressures and other increased costs.

Basic services are financed at appropriate levels, with an emphasis on fully staffing the police department hiring three full-time firefighter/paramedics and creating the rank of captain within the fire/EMS department.

If staffing positions become vacant due to retirements or resignations the positions will

be refilled within PD, fire, public works, utilities and IT. All other positions will be reexamined on a case-by-case basis.

Investment in infrastructure continues to be a priority. This includes projects funded with utility rates, the non-home rule sales tax, utility taxes, motor fuel taxes, rail revenues, transfers from the landfill fund and the general fund cash balance.

Incentives to expand the local tax base to encourage growth include a property tax rebate program for new and redeveloped housing and the waiver

of building permits for small businesses. Other incentives include the Lee/Ogle Enterprise Zone, the city's four TIF districts, the opportunity zone, foreign trade zone #176, the downtown historic district & the façade improvement program. A continuation to improve the city's overall appearance is being supported

through renewed investments in all major corridors of the community.

Continued investments in the city's utility infrastructure including funding for the completion of major electric distribution upgrades, completing upgrades at the diesel generation plant, phase two of upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant, a new iron removal plant at well #8, lining within the sanitary sewer system and other equipment upgrades. These projects are being funded through alternate revenue bonds (electric), utility rates and several grants, including EDA and CDBG and the State Revolving Loan/Debt forgiveness program.

The EAV in all the three older TIF districts continues to increase with the most significant increases coming in the downtown TIF.

Rochelle has numerous priorities for the coming fiscal year. The city is utilizing general fund balances for building and infrastructure im-

provements. We are not utilizing fund balances to hire the additional police officers, public works staff and FF/Paramedics. The budget adequately funds the needs of the city and sets the appropriate spending policies of the elected officials.

This budget system allows the city to better prioritize spending based on policies and programs deemed most important by our mayor and city council. Staff will continue to bring ideas to our elected leaders that aid in stabilizing the city budget and growing our community long-term.

Finally, every department played a valuable role in the development of this budget blueprint. Staff has been very helpful and forthright in providing information and suggestions. The City of Rochelle should be proud of its dedicated employees who place a high value of service to our residents.

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, ICMA-CM, MPA is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.



Jeff Fiegenschuh

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY



Lincoln Manor veterans honored Nov. 11
Heartland Hospice sponsored a pinning ceremony at Lincoln Manor honoring its residents on Veterans Day Nov. 11. Each veteran was celebrated and thanked for their service, pinned, and given a certificate. Fellow residents came to support them. Military songs were played. Refreshments, fellowship, a few tears and prayers were enjoyed by all. Honored veterans included Clark Baum – Navy 74-76, John Kisner – Army 68-70, Curtis Preston – Navy 63-67, Mike Kreider – Navy 69-73, and Robert Ford – Army 70-76. (Courtesy photo)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 17 Tim South	Nov. 23 Seth House Kevin & Katie Sherburne (anniversary) Carolyn Bieck	Dec. 1 Josh Perkins Kennedy Smith Brooks Bridgeman
Nov. 18 Ethan Huff Jenna Jackson	Nov. 24 Brenda Jones	Dec. 2 Dylan Rosenbach
Nov. 20 Tony Fry	Nov. 27 Makayla Ludwig	Dec. 3 Annabelle Sexton Ty Vongsiri
Nov. 22 Tim Dougherty Roy & Ronda Threlkeld (44th anniversary)	Nov. 29 Sam South	Dec. 4 Teresa Dodillet
		Dec. 6 Kelly Smith

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



- Oct. 22 - Julie Danielowski, Byron, \$25
- Oct. 23 - Jesus Perez-Diaz, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 24 - Matt and Nicole Williams, Sycamore, \$25
- Oct. 25 - Fred Warning, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 26 - Focus House, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 27 - Rochelle Chamber, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 28 - Brenda Rainwater, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 29 - Norene Bunger, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 30 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
- Oct. 31 - Amy Springmire, Rochelle, \$250
- Nov. 1 - Sue Snyder, Phoenix, \$25
- Nov. 2 - Ryan Neuenkirchen, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 3 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 4 - Kimberly Lumzy, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 5 - Jeff Stevens, Excelsior, Minnesota, \$25
- Nov. 6 - Taylor Thomas, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 7 - Angela Dobson, Stillman Valley, \$25
- Nov. 8 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 9 - Willow Frye, Paw Paw, \$25
- Nov. 10 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$50
- Nov. 11 - Fred Warning, Rochelle, \$250
- Nov. 12 - Marcy Schnorr, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 13 - Jeffrey Mann, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 14 - Carol Nikolanci, Oregon, \$25
- Nov. 15 - RACF, \$25
- Nov. 16 - Araceli Carrillo, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 17 - RACF, \$50

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

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

Beard
Caruncle
Dewlap
Displaying

Flocks
Gobbler
Hens
Jakes

Jennys
Poult
Roost
Snood

Strutting
Tail
Wattle

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TURKEY TERMS

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Super Crossword

“TAKE THAT!”

ACROSS

1 Printed news sources

7 Rival of Nike

13 More potent, as liquor

20 Supposed evil repeller

21 Stephen King's “— Lot”

22 Grow bigger

23 “The Client List” actress

24 Result of vandalism

26 Match draw

27 “Them’s fightin’ words!”

28 Suffix with Canton

29 Right fielder

30 Officials at first or third

34 Inner self, to Jung

36 Quarterback Manning

37 Eight minus two

38 Nav. officer

40 Sweater with a pattern of raised bands

45 Ripens

47 Auto exhaust and such

52 River craft

54 Nav. officer

55 Rainbow, e.g.

56 Incentive

57 Cardiologist

62 Return to 000

63 Digital holiday greeting

64 Shipping box: Abbr.

65 Digital color inits.

67 Suffix with host

68 Kuwaiti royal

71 Peck upon parting

75 Italy’s Villa d’—

76 Prefix with partisan

77 Singer Des’

78 English lav

79 Have an — mystery

81 Peter out

83 Belief that people are noticing you more than they really are

90 Total up wrongly

92 Source of 24/7 \$20 bills

93 Hot tub site

94 More subtle, as a point

95 Presidential hopeful’s bid

100 Old Icelandic literary work

101 Dais stand

102 Suffix with cannon

103 “Oh, gross!”

105 President pro —

106 Fighting it out

108 Thor and Indra

113 Spanish for “hand”

117 Forbid

118 “Symposium” philosopher

119 Peter out

120 Personal psychosocial conflict

123 Subsidies

127 Pop flop of 1985

128 Catalog again

129 Manorial home

130 Whole number

131 Unlocked

132 What the starts of nine answers in this puzzle might be

DOWN

1 Lobby gp.

2 Comedian

3 Saloon

4 Upper crust

5 Holy artifacts

6 Canonized ninth-century pope

7 Savory jelly

8 — Vader

9 “You beat me this game”

10 Removal from office

11 Prayer ender

12 Russ. or Ukr., formerly

13 Prompt for the iPhone’s personal assistant

14 Nativeness to a certain region only

15 In the style of

16 Agatha Christie’s title

17 Tehran locale

18 Kellogg’s waffle

19 “Cheers” actor Roger

25 Eight plus two

30 Ocean liner?

31 Pond slime

32 Tuscan city

33 Wood splitter

34 Oto or Hopi

35 Sponge up

39 Give a poker hand, e.g.

41 Toy with a tail

42 Sounds

43 Build a financial portfolio

44 Fly of Africa

46 More miffed

48 Gives ear to

49 “Ltd.” cousin

50 15-season CBS series

51 They often work with DJs

53 List-limiting abbr.

58 “For heaven’s —!”

59 Snoops

60 Keep — head (stay calm)

61 “Have a bite”

66 Richard of “Primal Fear”

68 Nail coating

69 Item hanging above a crib

70 “Be there shortly”

72 Small racer in a groove

73 Grew irate

74 Religion in 17-Down

75 Escort in “The Hunger Games”

77 Brew colored from oxidation

80 Slightly amiss

82 Social skill

84 Pot’s partner

85 EarthLink or MSN

86 High no. for a valedictorian

87 “Is there no — this?!”

88 Handed over

89 Trolleys

91 All-terrain motorcycle

96 How Jesus walked, miraculously

97 Aetna alternative

98 What a H.S. dropout may earn

99 Syringe parts

104 Most crooked

107 At least one of one’s home

110 Of service above a crib

111 Snooped (around)

112 Arrive at

113 Skirt style

114 Yemen city

115 Pond wriggler

116 Previously

118 Job of some cooks

121 Dress fancily, with “out”

122 — Magnon of the old Giants

125 Adaptable truck, in brief

126 Corral

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Super Crossword

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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RTHS Football

Hubs to host Nazareth in quarterfinals

Rochelle (10-1) seeking first semifinal berth and first 11-win season since 2002

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Three consecutive victories over Chicago Catholic League schools have the Rochelle Hub varsity football team on a seven-game winning streak and into the quarterfinals of the state playoffs for the second time in three seasons. Rochelle's toughest test lies ahead, as the Hubs will need to dethrone a two-time defending state champion to keep their season alive.

Rochelle (10-1, 4-1 Interstate 8) will host Nazareth Academy on Saturday at 1 p.m. The Hubs have dominated Chicago Catholic League teams in back-to-back weeks, dispatching Marmion Academy 42-7 in the first round before beating Benet Academy 38-6 in the second round last week. But the Roadrunners (9-2, 2-1 CCL/ESCC Green) are a whole nother animal. Nazareth has won two straight state titles in Class 5A and will arrive as the No. 1 ranked team in 5A.

"They do everything really well," head coach Kyle Kissack said. "Offensively, they have so many weapons in so many different spots. Their quarterback is a four-year starter and they have very



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity football team will face Nazareth Academy in the quarterfinal round of the IHSA 5A Playoffs. Rochelle is seeking its first trip to the state semifinals since 2002.

dynamic and explosive players at the skill positions. As it relates to the scheme, they do a great job of putting their kids in positions to be successful and they can use their formations to get the defense into exactly what they want. Defensively, they're very physical and they're very fast. They don't make many mistakes and they're

a well coached team with great athletes."

Nazareth enters the quarterfinals after a 54-0 win over Chicago Payton in the first round and a 44-20 win over Woodstock North in the second round. The Roadrunners are led by a slew of CCL/ESCC All-Conference selections including senior quarterback Logan Malachuk

along with Stanford commit Gabe Kaminski (TE/LB) and Indiana commit Garrett Reese (WR/DB). Trenton Walker (WR/DB) is a junior who currently holds offers from Marshall and Western Illinois.

"They find themselves in these moments every year," Kissack said. "They have experience in big games and they certainly have all

of the pieces in place. For us, it comes down to being patient and controlling the clock offensively as well as finding ways to get off the field on defense. We have to play really well and I think our kids are really excited for the challenge in front of them. We've been building for this moment and it didn't just show up on our doorstep."

The Hubs, who enter as the No. 7 ranked team in 5A, have dominated Chicago Catholic League teams over the last three weeks. Rochelle forced three turnovers and generated three sacks on defense while rushing for 327 yards against Benet Academy last week.

See FOOTBALL pg 3

RTHS Boys Bowling



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team finished fourth in the Mendota Invitational at the Illinois Valley Super Bowl on Saturday. Above from left to right are Levi Waddle, Caleb Mortensen, Bryson Stewart, Logan Frye, Declan McGee and Luke Norris. Frye (right) earned high game and high series medals at the tournament.

Frye leads Hubs to fourth at Mendota Invitational

Rochelle senior earns two medals during tournament action on Saturday, Nov. 9

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MENDOTA—Senior Logan Frye found success working the inside part of the lanes on Saturday, when the two-time All-Interstate 8 honoree medaled in second place with a 942 series over four games to lead the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team at the Mendota Invitational.

Using a higher rev rate

and improved hand placement to his advantage, Frye was hitting his mark early and often, shooting consecutive scores of 216, 267, 216 and 243. Not only did Frye finish second in the series standings, but the senior earned a fourth-place medal for his high score of 267. Frye's success throughout the tournament fueled the Hubs, who entered the baker round in third place before walking away with

the fourth-place trophy after 10 baker games.

"It was a big confidence booster for me," Frye said. "I have a little more hand with my ball, so it rotates a lot more and I can play on the inside part of the lane... I played in the middle of the lane and threw the ball right where I wanted to. I can move around the lane a lot more now. My hand position behind the ball is a lot better and my spare

shooting has gotten a lot better. I'm hitting my target a lot more often and I'm not just going out there and throwing the ball."

The Mendota Invitational was the first meet of the 2024-25 season for the Hubs, who are aiming to improve on a 10-7 record and a runner-up finish in the Interstate 8 Conference last season. Rochelle won its first match of the season, defeating Rockford

Lutheran 3,189-2,410 on the road Monday evening. Frye, who's in his fourth varsity season, said his goals include leading the Hubs to a conference title and qualifying for sectionals, something he hasn't achieved yet.

"My personal goal is to get out of regionals and make it to sectionals and state, if possible," Frye said. "My goal for the team is to win the conference. I

think our team is a lot more positive than it was last year. We bowl with a positive attitude and we're always picking each other up when one of us falls over. We all have a good relationship with each other, which is good, and I think we can all bowl well enough to shoot good scores. We just have to improve our spare shooting."

See BOWLING pg 4



WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Vincent signs to bowl at Rock Valley College

"It's truly a feeling like no other. I've dreamt of this moment for so many years and now that it's finally coming true, I feel very relieved. I want to improve my skills and make new friends along the way. Continuing the team aspect of bowling will be so much fun."

Cassidy Vincent

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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Soccer

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards at team banquet

The Rochelle Hub soccer team held its season-ending awards banquet on Tuesday evening. Several student-athletes took home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference accolades. Interstate 8 All-Conference winners included Heilly Zepeda, Alberto Casillas, Fernando Diaz and Eliud Lombardia (Honorable Mention) (not pictured). Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference winners included Francisco Diaz and Bryan Garcia. RTHS award winners were Christopher Castellanos (Most Improved Player), Alberto Casillas (High Point) and Eliud Lombardia (Defensive MVP) (not pictured).

FOOTBALL: Hubs seeking first state semifinal berth since 2002

From page 1

The Hubs also notched three sacks and recovered two short kicks on special teams during their win over Marmion. Rochelle will look to continue the formula of explosive plays, turnovers and special teams highlights on Saturday. The Hubs are

eyeing their first state semifinal berth since 2002. “We build our program from the foundational principle of ‘Team Together’ and every single one of these kids will play as hard as they can for each other,” Kissack said. “The things we do well can shorten the game and put us in a position to be successful in the

end. We’ll certainly need to have a high level of execution and we’ll need to play with great pad level and physicality. Our backs will need to find a way to get 4 yards and defensively, it’ll be about getting 11 players on one to finish the play. The competitiveness of this group fuels their fire, effort and energy.”

The winner of Saturday’s quarterfinal game between the No. 2 seed Rochelle and the No. 3 seed Nazareth Academy will take on either the No. 1 seed Sycamore or the No. 4 seed Wheaton St. Francis in the semifinals. The Hubs made history last week, winning their 10th game in a season for the

first time since 2003, and they’re looking to make even more. “It doesn’t happen around here pretty often and it’s a credit to our kids and their development over the course of their careers,” Kissack said. “Our kids are well deserving of the chance to compete in the quarterfinals. Our kids are

mature and humble enough to recognize this moment and they understand that it’s less about our opponents and it’s more about us. The margin of error gets smaller and smaller, but we’ve competed as a group to get to this point.” See the Wednesday, Nov. 20 issue of the News-Leader for the game recap.

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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards during team banquet on Wednesday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hub volleyball team held its season-ending banquet on Wednesday evening. Several student-athletes took home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference honors. Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference winners included Ava Horner, Emma Kennay, Bryn Kissack, Emori Mickley, Rylie Thomas (front row), Jaydin Dickey, Kyrie Cragin, Ali Ohlinger, Taelynn Rodeghero, Meredith Bruns, Briel Metzger, Dempsey Atkinson (back row) and Audyn Kemp (not pictured). Four-year brick program winners included Bryn Kissack, Dempsey Atkinson, Taelynn Rodeghero, Ali Ohlinger and Emma Kennay. Additional varsity team awards went to Ali Ohlinger (Career & Single-Season Ace Records), Taelynn Rodeghero (Most Kills), Bryn Kissack, Meredith Bruns (Most Assists), Dempsey Atkinson (Most Digs & Most Aces) and Audyn Kemp (Most Blocks) (not pictured). Varsity award winners were Dempsey Atkinson (Most Valuable Player) and Briel Metzger (Most Improved Player). Sophomore award winners were Maggie Louis (Most Valuable Player) and Cali Zies (Most Improved Player). Freshman award winners were Morgan DeLille (Most Valuable Player) and Mackenzie Bybee (Most Improved Player).

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BOWLING: Hubs beat Rockford Lutheran on Monday evening

From page 1

Sophomore Bryson Stewart rolled a 739 series with a high game of 210 for the Hubs, who went into the baker round with a team total of 3,513 pins. Junior Levi Waddle totaled a 635 series and a high score of 169, while junior Declan McGee added a 583 series and a high score of 180. Rochelle recorded high scores of 231, 237 and 248 during the baker portion of the tournament.

Lutheran

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team picked up its first victory of the season Monday evening, when the purple and white faced Rockford Lutheran

in nonconference action. Junior Declan McGee fired a team-leading 637 series, while senior Logan Frye followed with a 599 series for the Hubs, who took all three games to beat the Crusaders 3,189-2,410 and open the season with a win. Junior Caleb Mortensen recorded a 534 series and sophomore Bryson Stewart added a 524 series for the Hubs, who will face Sterling on the road Thursday evening.

Rochelle (1-0, 0-0 Interstate 8) opened the match with a 1,068-794 win over the Crusaders in the first game, where

sophomore Luke Norris led the Hubs with a 201 and Mortensen landed two pins behind with a 199. The Hubs extended their lead with a 1,007-849 win in the second game, where McGee rolled a series-best 232 and Frye scored a 210 to lead the Rochelle side.

The Hubs clinched their sweep of the Crusaders with an 1,114-767 win in the third and final game of the series. Stewart fired a series-best 229 to lead Rochelle in the finale, while McGee added a 212 and Frye bowled a 197. Mortensen aided the Hubs with a 189 in the third game.



SPORTS

Youth Basketball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



St. Paul Lutheran School and Eswood Elementary School boys basketball teams square off on the hardwood

The St. Paul Lutheran School and Eswood Elementary School seventh/eighth and fifth/sixth grade boys basketball teams squared off this past week. The Crusader seventh and eighth-graders defeated the Lions 53-9 and the Crusader fifth and sixth-graders took down the Lions 54-8. Above, St. Paul's Joey Chadwick (left) shoots over two Eswood defenders and St. Paul's Vinny Tornabene (right) rises for a left-handed layup. Below, St. Paul's Riley Heal (left) prepares to shoot and St. Paul's Noah Osborne (right) goes for a mid-range shot.

Stranger Danger

School has started, and with all of activities going on, there is no better time to discuss the danger of strangers with your kids. Telling them not to talk to strangers is not enough. You want to make sure they know what a stranger is and how to deal with them.

Here are some safety tips to include in your discussion.



- Do not mistake a friendly face for someone you know. Anyone you do not know is a stranger, regardless how nice they seem or what they have to offer. Just because the person has a cute dog or tons of candy does not mean you can trust them. Ask for identification from anyone in uniform.
- Do not walk to school or play outside alone, if you can help it. Strangers are less likely to approach groups of kids.
- Do not go places where strangers could be lurking, such as empty playgrounds or abandoned buildings. Stay in busy areas.
- Do not let your guard down. Always be on the lookout for strangers.
- Do not make contact with strangers. Be quiet and take their questions and pleas for help to an adult you know and trust.
- Do not panic should a stranger approach. Run to a reliable adult and let them know what is going on, whether a teacher in the parking lot, a clerk in a store or a neighbor down the street. If possible, take down the stranger's license plate number. Should the stranger grab you, do whatever it takes to get away from them and attract the attention of any reliable adults that may be around.
- Do not keep any incidents with strangers to yourself. Let your parents know as soon as possible so they can contact the police.

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No. 1117
(November 17, 2024)

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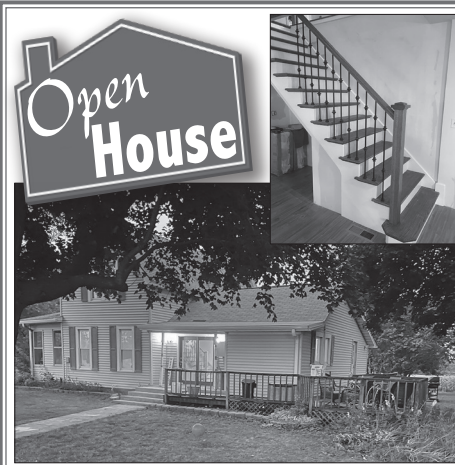
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AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

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WINTER SURVIVAL

Maintenance intervals drivers should know

VEHICLES are among the most costly expenses individuals have. According to data from Kelley Blue Book, the average price paid for a new vehicle in the United States in September 2022 was \$48,094. Canadian car buyers face an equally expensive reality in their country, where the average MSRP for a new car is more than \$45,000.

Since vehicles are such sizable investments, it behooves motorists to do as much as they can to keep their cars and trucks running smoothly. Vehicle owner's manuals typically recommend maintenance intervals and should be drivers' first resource for information regarding how to take care of their cars and trucks.

But the following are some standard maintenance intervals drivers can keep in mind.

3,000 miles

The 3,000-mile marker used to be the benchmark for changing oil, but modern vehicles can now go longer between oil changes. However, it's still a good idea to check other fluid levels every 3,000 miles. Windshield washer fluid, coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid, and power steering fluid should all be checked every 3,000 miles and topped off if levels are low.

It's wise for drivers to perform some additional maintenance checkups



every 3,000 miles. Check tire pressure, inspect hoses (which should not be leaking or bulging) and clean the interior of the vehicle every 3,000 miles.

5,000 miles

Many vehicle manufacturers now recommend oil changes every 5,000 miles. Tire rotations also can be part of service visits at this interval, and drivers can ask their mechanic to check their fuel filters and batteries every 5,000 miles as well. Many may

already do this as part of their comprehensive maintenance packages, but it's still good to confirm if they do and request they do so if it's not part of the plan.

Drivers also can request that cabin air filters are inspected at this point, though they can generally last a year before they need to be replaced.

Around the 5,000-mile mark, wiper blades also may begin to show signs of wear and tear, including streaking on the

windshield or scratching noises when in use. Each of those signs indicates the wipers need to be replaced. However, drivers should take note of these signs regardless of when they appear. Some may not make it 5,000 miles before they begin to wear down. In such instances, they should be replaced immediately regardless of how many miles it's been since they were installed.

10,000 miles

Some vehicles may only require oil chang-

es every 10,000 miles. That's not uncommon in vehicles that use synthetic oil, though drivers are urged to consult their owner's manuals.

Brake pads also may need to be replaced around this time, and one telltale sign of that is a squeaking noise whenever the brakes are applied.

Drivers can ask their mechanics to check the alignment of their vehicles around this interval as well. Though many vehicles won't develop

alignment issues, it's best to check for such issues every 10,000 miles or whenever a vehicle feels as though it's pulling in one specific direction.

Maintenance intervals are created to serve as a guideline for drivers. Any issues that arise should still be brought to the attention of a mechanic regardless of how many miles have been added to the odometer since the most recent trip to the garage.

How to protect your vehicle's paint job

DRIVERS go to great lengths to ensure what's under the hood of their vehicles is well taken care of. But it's equally beneficial to tend to the exterior of a vehicle, including its paint job. According to Popular Mechanics, oxidation can adversely affect iron-based metals. That can put vehicles in jeopardy and take significant time off their life expectancy. The good news is that rust and other issues that can affect a vehicle's paint job and appearance are typically avoidable. That should be music to the ears of new vehicle owners, who likely need no reminder of the sizable financial investment required to drive off the lot with a fresh set of wheels. Drivers who want their cars and trucks to maintain their looks over the long haul can consider these simple strategies to protect their paint jobs.

- Make car washes part of your vehicle maintenance routine. Seasoned drivers are undoubtedly familiar with the conventional wisdom surrounding oil change intervals, but those same motorists may not recognize the importance of routine car washes. Over time, contaminants such as pollen, dust and pollution can settle on a vehicle's exterior, potentially jeopardizing the paint job. Routine car washes can prevent such damage and help a car look like it was

just driven off the lot.

- Wax the exterior of the vehicle. The automotive experts at Carfax® report that waxing is a significant and simple way to protect vehicle paint. Carfax® notes that certain paste waxes contain mild abrasives that help remove fine scratches from painted surfaces. Wax also can protect paint jobs from fading related to exposure to ultraviolet rays. That's especially noteworthy for drivers who do not routinely park their cars in a garage.

- Use a car cover. Car covers may or may not be practical for cars drivers use every day, but they are an effective way to protect a paint job from the elements. Drivers who have a spare car they rarely drive or even those who do not drive their primary vehicle a lot each day can purchase a universal-fit car cover or a premium cover designed specifically for their vehicles. Car covers protect paint jobs from ultraviolet rays and the elements and may reduce the need for more frequent trips to the car wash.

- Park in the shade, but choose spots wisely. Parking in the shade may protect vehicles from the ultraviolet rays of the sun, but it's important that drivers pick the right shady spot to park their cars and trucks. A shade tree might seem like a great ally to vehicle owners, but if birds nest or rest in the tree, drivers could



be exposing their cars to bird droppings. That's no small threat, as bird droppings are high in uric acid, which quickly damage a vehicle's exterior. Parking directly beneath a tree also might expose the paint job to sap or fallen leaves or berries, each of which can adversely affect vehicle exteriors. If you plan to park in the

shade to protect the paint job, ideally choose a spot that is not directly beneath the tree.

A well-maintained paint job can improve the appearance and life expectancy of a vehicle, which is something drivers should keep in mind as they hope to get the most out of their automotive investment.

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WINTER SURVIVAL

3 simple maintenance strategies that can keep cars running longer

THE 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 main-



tenance 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.

What to do after an auto accident

CAE accidents occur every day. According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are more than five million car accidents in the United States every year. Forty-three percent of car accidents resulted in injuries in 2020.

No one wants to get into an automobile ac-

cident, which can be stressful and even fatal. Even accidents that do not result in any major injuries can be traumatizing. Knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of an accident may make such instances less stressful.

Assess the situation

The insurance experts at GEICO® advise individuals involved in an ac-



cident to first determine if any of the involved parties suffered an injury. If you are injured, stay put. If not, check on the condition of the other driver. At this point do not admit any fault or reveal any policy limits.

Next, make a call to emergency services to request assistance from the police and an ambu-

lance, if necessary.

Move your vehicle

If possible, pull the vehicle over to a safe, well-lit public location. This is especially important if you believe you were the victim of a staged accident, says the Insurance Information Institute. If the car will cause another road hazard, it is best to

move it over to the side and use flashers to alert oncoming traffic. It is important that you don't leave the scene, according to American Property Casualty Insurance Association.

Gather evidence

Have the police write up an accident report. You should take pictures of the damage to your ve-

hicle, the other vehicle, if possible, and the scene of the accident, including any skid marks, debris and/or property damage. If there are any witnesses to the accident, get their names and contact information. You'll need this information when filing an insurance claim.

Exchange information

Collect the names, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses of other drivers and vehicle occupants and exchange insurance information with all drivers involved. That includes the insurance company name, policy number and the name of the insured.

Notify a friend or family member

Even if the accident is not serious, you may want to call a friend or family member to provide emotional support. If you've been injured, a friend or family member can meet you at the hospital and/or arrange to have your vehicle towed or returned home while you get the care you need.

Automotive accidents can be nerve-wracking. Knowing the steps to take can alleviate some stress.

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hicle, the other vehicle, if possible, and the scene of the accident, including any skid marks, debris and/or property damage. If there are any witnesses to the accident, get their names and contact information. You'll need this information when filing an insurance claim.

Exchange information

Collect the names, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses of other drivers and vehicle occupants and exchange insurance information with all drivers involved. That includes the insurance company name, policy number and the name of the insured.

Notify a friend or family member

Even if the accident is not serious, you may want to call a friend or family member to provide emotional support. If you've been injured, a friend or family member can meet you at the hospital and/or arrange to have your vehicle towed or returned home while you get the care you need.

Automotive accidents can be nerve-wracking. Knowing the steps to take can alleviate some stress.