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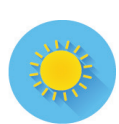
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**Cookie walk set for Dec. 14**

A cookie walk hosted by Malta United Methodist Church is set for Dec. 14. **Page 7**


WEATHER




SUNDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**25 12**



MONDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**27 13**



TUESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**33 16**



WEDNESDAY  
HIGH LOW  
**39 28**



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OBITUARIES

- HELEN ROSE STRAWBRIDGE
- LUAN B. WINE

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INSERTS

- MENARDS

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# The Kitchen Table selling building

‘It will be tough for me to hand over the keys to this place’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — When asked about what it will be like for her to hand over the keys to the building that houses The Kitchen Table upon the closing of its coming sale, Carolyn Brown, the Rochelle nonprofit's founder, got tears in her eyes.

“It’s going to be hard,” Brown said. “But I can’t back out now. I already committed. The buyers came about, and we looked at our numbers and made the decision. And we’ve dealt with the aggravation and lots of different factors.”

The donation and volunteer-based eatery/community pay-what-you-can café will not operate this winter after Nov. 21. The building will soon be sold to a for-profit restaurant in need of a location. The non-profit proceeds from the sale will be do-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The donation and volunteer-based eatery/community pay-what-you-can café will not operate this winter after Nov. 21. The building will soon be sold to a for-profit restaurant in need of a location.**

nated to a local charity. The Kitchen Table will remain as an organization, and plans to host community dinners at the soon-to-be-sold 7034 S. Klondike Road location on occasion and possibly at other venues likely starting

next May.

Brown and Kitchen Table Board Member Bob Alder said the organization came to the decision to sell due to a shortage of resources and volunteers, and overwhelming need. The nonprofit can no

longer pay its bills and get the food it needs. Volunteers have dwindled to a group of six people, who are often performing multiple duties at once.

See **KITCHEN TABLE** page 3



# Council approves 2025 budget

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its 2025 budget, and also unanimously approved its capital improvement plan for 2025.

“I think everybody did a great job on this this year,” Mayor John Bearrows said. “All the way through, from department heads trying to massage it into a palatable number that’s fair and I think it’s great to also see that our anticipated tax rate for this year is going down. That’s all good news.”

See **CITY** page 2

# Rank of captain established within RFD to ensure safety on fire calls

‘We’re still changing and evolving and growing. It’s very exciting’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Oct. 15, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance establishing the rank of captain in the Rochelle Fire Department. The change will officially take place in January 2025, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

The new rank comes in response to a recent expansion to RFD’s department that will see six total new firefighters hired. The final three new firefighters will be hired in the coming weeks. The new RFD model will see it utilize one captain, one lieutenant and four firefighters per shift that will all be overseen by Sawlsville.

RFD’s expansion, the newest three firefighters of which will be funded by a \$919,368 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant it recently received, came due to high call numbers in recent years and the new captain model seeks to have more safety during fire incidents and more specific professional development among RFD personnel.

RFD will now have a captain supervising fires



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Oct. 15, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance establishing the rank of captain in the Rochelle Fire Department. The change will officially take place in January 2025, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said.**

from the outside of structures, and a lieutenant inside the structures supervising and leading firefighters.

“Fires these days are hotter and faster than they’ve ever been,” Sawlsville said. “There needs to be somebody outside taking in the whole picture because

that fire is jumping floors or moving around the house. When you’re inside the building, you can’t see anything. The lieutenant’s job is to watch the back of the people who are putting the fire out. We need to guarantee there’s somebody on the sidewalk watching the backs of

the crews that are putting the fire out. We did some research and the National Fire Protection Association said that 71 percent of the time when a mayday is called and a firefighter is in trouble inside a building, it’s because the lieutenant opted to stay outside and watch the overall picture

instead of watching the crew that’s inside working. That was a pretty compelling number.”

RFD’s lieutenants will sit for a written test and interview before the city’s fire and police board and be sworn in in January.

See **RFD** page 5

# RMS students donate to RCH department



# Lady Hubs win three games at Oregon tourney



# LOCAL NEWS

## CITY: Installation of all-way stops on Southview Drive and Lake Lida Lane approved

From page 1

The final proposed 2025 General Fund revenues are budgeted at \$14,864,471, representing an increase of approximately six percent compared to the original approved 2024 budget. Budgeted expenses total \$15,372,877 which is approximately nine percent higher than the 2024 budget. This results in a budget deficit of \$508,406. The combination of the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, Trust and Agency Funds, and Capital Project Funds results in budgeted revenues of \$119,887,397 and budgeted expenses of \$133,500,472.

“When you look at the overall budget of \$133 million, I know for a town our size that seems like a lot of money, and

it is,” City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “Just remember that it will fluctuate every year based on capital projects and power purchases. Those are over 60 percent of our expenses.”

The capital improvement plan is tied into the budget and sets forth a 20-year program of expenditure planning, including projects in need of renovation, repair, and/or construction along with equipment or vehicle replacement. The plan relates needs to the finances that will support them along with their timeframe.

### Stop signs

The council unanimously approved an ordinance approving the installation of all-way stops on Southview Drive and Lake Lida Lane at the intersections of Randall Road, Cedar Brook and

Lakeland Drive.

Residents located on Southview Drive and Lake Lida Lane have expressed concerns of motorists avoiding the stop signs located along Willis Avenue resulting in additional traffic traveling on both Southview Drive and Lake Lida Lane, which necessitated the change, City Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley said.

Southview Drive and Lake Lida Lane are narrow roadways at 27 feet wide with parking permitted on both sides. Each block within these two roads are over 800 feet in length, twice as long as the average city block, with a combined overall length of nearly a half mile. Both roads are long and straight with no controlled stops increasing the likelihood of speeding, and the city has concerns of visibility with parking on each

side. Two new apartment complexes are near completion in the area as well, which will increase traffic.

“I’ve driven down there a lot, and with all of those houses, every one of them has to back out onto that street,” Bearrows said. “It’s a big safety concern, so I think it’s a very wise move.”

### Property

The council unanimously approved the purchase of property at 503 N. Main St, for \$65,000 plus closing costs. The home on the property will be demolished to create a parking lot for the Rochelle Fire Department.

Fiegenschuh said Monday that RFD will use the home for training in January and February before the demolition will take place in the spring. The city plans to look into coupling the work with a planned downtown proj-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its 2025 budget, and also unanimously approved its capital improvement plan for 2025.**

ect that will include the reconstruction of current parking lots and the addition of new parking lots, along with the construction of a stage, storage and bathrooms structure across the street from the fire station. The new structure will reduce parking immediately nearby the fire station.

“That new structure would put off-duty and volunteer responders coming in on the other side of it before they could park, so this new lot just gives them a lot closer, secure parking so they can get into the fire station and get out the door quicker,” City Councilman Tom McDermott said.



**Rochelle Middle School students donate blankets to RCH emergency department**

Rochelle Middle School students hand-made and delivered warm blankets to the Rochelle Community Hospital emergency department on Nov. 22. ED Manager Janis Astle accepted the blankets on the department’s behalf. (Courtesy photos)





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# LOCAL NEWS

## KITCHEN TABLE: Organization selling building due to volunteer and resource shortage, high need

From page 1

“That just isn’t enough,” Brown said. “On our most recent serving night, we served 144 meals in two hours. We’re lucky if we take in \$300 on a night like that. We have bills just like any other restaurant has. We’re taking in \$1,200-1,300 a month but our bills cost us around \$2,200 a month at a bare minimum. We’ve struggled for help since day one. We do have a nice core group, but we’re all doing double duty.”

The Kitchen Table’s building was purchased Feb. 19, 2013 and opened June 30, 2016 after renovations were done. It was created as a place where people could enjoy a home-cooked meal on a pay-what-you-can basis, and as a reciprocal space where volunteering could earn food, fostering a sense of community.

After the nonprofit saw lines out the door of people waiting for tables to open up, seating space was expanded after a visit from TTV’s Mike Rowe, who donated what is now the Rowe Pavilion at the location. That extra seating space hasn’t been needed

since the COVID-19 pandemic, with more pickup and delivery orders being requested since 2020. Brown and Alder believe a shift in society has made The Kitchen Table’s original mission harder to carry out.

The Kitchen Table saw a \$50,000 drop in donations from 2022 to 2023, and it started to have to utilize its reserve funds when it cut serving nights from two nights to one per week in 2024.

“We used to have so much fun when we started in 2016,” Brown said. “We enjoyed it. I looked forward to it. We had a blast making food and we were lucky if we served 30 people when we first opened. I always said if it ever became like work, we shouldn’t be doing it. And I said if it ever got to where it wasn’t supporting itself, we’d stop.”

The Kitchen Table’s leadership is looking forward to relieving itself of the building’s expenses to allow it to operate in the future, and possibly looking to find a better and more productive way to serve the community.

The nonprofit has served over 100,000 meals

since opening the location, sometimes as many as 18,000 meals a year.

“We know there’s still a need there and we can still help with that,” Brown said. “We can still do dinners here. We can still go to churches and do dinners. We can pick up and do a dinner anywhere. We just have to get back to where we enjoy it and everybody understands what the concept is behind it. We’re just trying to find a different way to be productive that’s less stressful. And even if we do a dinner a month, there’s always other ways to help people that need it. I feel recently it hasn’t been as productive as we intended it to be and what we were in the beginning.”

Rowe’s visit to The Kitchen Table is among Brown’s fondest memories since 2016. She often thinks about what path the nonprofit would be on if COVID-19 hadn’t occurred. Rowe was scheduled to make a second visit before the shutdowns took place in 2020.

Alder’s memories of The Kitchen Table stretch all the way back to the first night he came in for dinner after being new to town. He met new friends



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The Kitchen Table will remain as an organization, and plans to host community dinners at the soon-to-be-sold 7034 S. Klondike Road location on occasion and possibly at other venues likely starting next May.**

at sat and ate with them each Thursday. He recalls meeting Brown’s daughter, who had a newborn son who he would look after to give her some time to eat.

“Being able to help and community was what this was about,” Alder said. “Now I’m so busy on the nights when we work that I don’t get to talk to anybody anymore. I’m sad it’s closing and that we had to go down this road. Based on serving 100,000 meals, you can’t tell me there isn’t

someone in the community we’ve served that can’t come out and work one day a year. If every one of those worked just one day a year, we could be open seven days a week.”

Brown and Alder admitted that dealing with changes in societal dynamics and long hours of short-staffed work have caused them to lose some faith in their cause in recent years. They’re looking forward to a new, different endeavor for The

Kitchen Table.

“It’s not supposed to feel like work,” Brown said. “We thought feeding people would be good enough to get volunteers, but it’s not. And when you feel like you’re begging for help, that’s a problem. We can only stretch ourselves so far. I think it’s time to figure out a different way to do things and do them in a better fashion. We have to get back to the purpose of why we started this place.”

## IASB Member Boards vote at Annual Delegate Assembly

**CHICAGO**—The Illinois Association of School Boards held its annual Delegate Assembly on Nov. 23, in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago. Member boards of education voted on resolutions submitted by the membership. Adopted resolutions establish the advocacy priorities and legislative direction of the Association. 429 delegates were present to vote.

Representatives from IASB member school boards considered topics of dual language learning, charter school funding,

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) accountability, and more. The assembly also elected President Mark Harms (Flanagan-Cornell USD 74) and Vice President Tracie Sayre (Triopia CUSD 27) to their second terms in office.

Six resolutions were approved via delegate vote;

A measure that would support the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy as attainment of world language requirements passed.

A resolution that would support applying the standards of the Evidence-Based Funding for-

mula to state-authorized charter schools passed.

A measure that would advocate for TIF process reforms passed.

A proposal to support creation of a statewide database for the Employment History Review requirement of Faith’s Law passed.

A resolution that would support the option of a unified health plan for school districts to participate in, through the Illinois Department of Central Management Services passed.

An amendment to an existing position state-

ment on Election Day school closures, that school districts should not be mandated to close on Election Day if none of the buildings used by students within the district serve as polling places passed.

The Delegate Assembly voted to not reconsider three appealed proposals: One that would support legislation towards requiring a policy regarding the use of student-owned wireless communications devices; one supporting developing a state-funded Office of Inspector General to investigate

allegations of waste, fraud, or other, against local public schools; and another supporting a requirement that school board candidates have a criminal background check before they submit their petition.

An amendment to the IASB Constitution, clarifying parliamentary procedure, was adopted.

The Delegate Assembly also received the president’s report from Harms and a report to the membership by IASB Executive Director Kimberly Small, J.D. IASB

Treasurer Marc Tepper (Kildeer-Countryside CCSD 96) provided the Association’s financial report.

During the IASB Resolutions Process, each resolution is proposed from the membership and reviewed by a 21-member Resolutions Committee. Its recommendations are brought before the Delegate Assembly for discussion and vote. A FAQ on the process and the 2024 Resolutions Committee Report are available on the IASB Advocacy website.

## Kish College to offer six Fast-Track programs in Spring 2025

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College will offer six Fast-Track training programs during the Spring 2025 semester. Kish Fast-Track programs provide students with the expertise needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 8-15 weeks, allowing students to immediately start a career or build upon skills with additional training.

Spring 2025 classes are available online, in-person and in hybrid formats. Participants will need internet access to participate in programs with an online component. Some

programs include an externship/clinical.

The Fast-Track training programs offered in Spring 2025 are:

**Appliance Repair Technician: Jan. 23-April 16 (in-person)**

Appliance repair technicians are skilled professionals trained to assist clients with household appliance installation, troubleshooting and repairs. In-person instruction is from 5:30-9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Kishwaukee College.

**Dental Assistant: Jan. 13-April 18 (online lec-**

**ture/in-person practice)**

Dental assistants are health care professionals who work closely with dentists and dental hygienists to provide quality preventive and corrective dental care and administrative support in dental offices. In-person practice will be from 6-9 p.m. on four Tuesdays in a local dental office.

**Pharmacy Technician: Jan. 13-April 25 (online)**

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with dispensing prescription medication while performing various other

duties in a pharmacy setting. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding is available to those who qualify.

**Real Estate Broker Pre-License: Jan. 13-March 6 (online)**

Real estate brokers perform many duties in real estate transactions, including marketing homes, establishing escrow accounts, and working to ensure transactions are fair and legal. Online instruction is from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and

Thursdays.

**Sterile Processing Technician: Jan. 13-April 18 (online)**

Sterile processing technicians support patient services in a health care facility. Technicians help decontaminate, clean, process, assemble, sterilize, store and distribute medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format.

**Veterinary Assistant: Jan. 13-June 6 (online lecture/in-person practice)**

Veterinary assistants are trained to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians with animal medical procedures. Online lectures are from 7-10 p.m. on Tuesdays, and in-person labs are from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton. A clinical experience will be offered from May 12 to June 6 in a local animal hospital.

Spring 2025 registration is open. Learn more or register for Kishwaukee College Fast-Track programs at kish.edu/fasttrack.

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# OBITUARIES

## Helen Rose Strawbridge

**ROCHELLE**—Helen Rose Strawbridge, age 90, passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the Maple Crest Nursing Center in Belvidere, IL. She was born on March 2, 1934 in Cass County Missouri, the daughter of Mitchel and Ethel (Hamby) Watson. She graduated from Malta High School. Helen married Neil H. Strawbridge on November 29, 1953 at the Grove Street Baptist Church in DeKalb, IL, he preceded her in death on February 19, 2003. Prior to retiring, she worked as a secretary at Rochelle Printing. Helen loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and

great grandchildren. She enjoyed sewing, making ceramic pottery at home, family gatherings at the river front cabin, and loved creating those precious memories. Most important of all, was her faith in the Lord Jesus. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters: Doris Hoard and Beverly Bright.

Survived by her two sons: Neil (Pat) Strawbridge of Machesney Park, IL, and Craig (Nadine) Strawbridge of Monroe, TN; many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and her brother, Bob (Fay) Watson.

Funeral service will be at 12:00 Noon on Thurs-



day, December 5, 2024 at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N 6th St., Rochelle with Rev. Richard Woodruff officiating. Visitation will be from 11 AM - 12 noon prior to the funeral. Burial will follow at the Steward Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sanctuary Hospice. Guest book at UngerHorner.com.

## Luan B. Wine

**ROCHELLE**—Luan B. Wine, 97, passed away Monday, November 25, 2024 at Aperia Care in DeKalb. Services are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle.

## RTHS places 3rd in JV Speech Tournament

**ROCHELLE** — On Saturday, Nov. 23, the Rochelle Township High School Speech Team hosted the RTHS JV Speech Tournament. Rochelle placed third in the team standings and the following individuals earned finalist honors:

Isabella Biggs - Tournament Champion - Oratorical Declamation. Abby Losoya - Tournament Champion - Poetry Reading. Derek Swartz - Tournament Champion - Humorous Interpretation. Alex Soto - third place - Oratorical Declamation. Noah LeFevre - fourth place - Humorous Interpretation. Rafaela Canaan - fourth place - Special Occasion Speaking. Rafaela Canaan - fifth



(COURTESY PHOTO)

From left to right: Derek Swartz, Isabella Biggs and Abygail Losoya.

place - Extemporaneous Speaking. Derek Swartz/Theia Venuso - fifth place - Dramatic Duet Acting. Derek Swartz/Noah LeFevre - fifth place - Humorous Duet Acting. Lydia Von Haden - fifth place

- Dramatic Interpretation. Paola Guijosa - sixth place - Original Comedy.

Speaker of the week is Abby Losoya.

The team will be at DeKalb on Dec. 7 for their next competition.

## ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On Nov. 23 at 12:23 p.m. Abigail Ruter, 21, of Mt. Morris was cited for no seat belt. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 23 at 12:20 p.m. Trask B. O'Rourke, 30, of Rochelle was cited for

no seat belt. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 23 at 11:45 a.m. Ashley Vence, 22, of Sterling was cited for speeding 83 in a 70 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle

court date.

On Nov. 23 at Steven Delhotal, 60, of Rochelle was cited for electronic communication device use. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 23 at 10:04 a.m. Megan K. Norris, 47, of Rochelle was cited for electronic communication device use. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 22 at 10:36 a.m. Laila J. Anderson, 20, of Chana was cited for speeding 54 in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 20 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On Nov. 19 at approximately 12:31 p.m. deputies responded to the 1,500 block of North Mulford Road, Rochelle, in response to a personal injury accident. After an investigation, it was learned that a gray-colored Toyota driven by Jesse Morales, 34, of Cherry Valley, attempted to overtake a blue-colored Chevrolet hauling a farm implement driven by Scott H Bohne, 34, of Sycamore. The Toyota struck the Chevrolet as the Chevrolet attempted to enter a private drive. Morales was transported to the area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Morales was cited for improper passing. Bohne was cited for no slow-moving vehicle placard. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Rochelle Fire and EMS.

On Nov. 20 at 10:35 a.m. the Ogle County Special Operations unit conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 westbound at mile marker 75. After an investigation, the driver, Steven Rockwood, 72, of Dixon, was arrested on a Lee County warrant for delivery of methamphetamine. The passenger, John Lance, 58, of Dixon, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia. Rockwood was released from the scene with a future court date in Lee County. Lance was transported to the Ogle County jail to be processed and was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 20 at approximately 9:56 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Brayton Avenue and Reynolds Road in Mt. Morris. As a result, deputies arrested Brenna M. Gapinski, 31, of Dixon on an outstanding Lee County warrant for contempt of court. Gapinski was transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond. Gapinski was

issued a verbal warning for improper lane usage.

On Nov. 21 at 9:29 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 400 block of Wayne Road (Hillcrest) for a report of a domestic problem. As a result, deputies arrested Melanie E. Marr, 35, of Rochelle for domestic battery. Marr was transported to the Ogle County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 22 at approximately 1:35 a.m. deputies initiate a traffic stop near the intersection of Washington Street and Third Street in Oregon. After further investigation Chelsey Weems, 23, of Polo, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Weems was also cited for loud exhaust and illegal transportation of alcohol. Weems was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear.

On Nov. 22 at approximately 3:32 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 9000 block of North Blaine Road in reference to a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, deputies arrested Brian Ostrihonsky, 71, of Leaf River, for domestic battery. Ostrihonsky was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he will be held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 22 at approximately 12:45 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of Azalea Avenue, Davis Junction, for a domestic altercation. After a brief investigation, Jessie. M. Cardenas, 23, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for domestic battery, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of controlled substance. Paul W. Turner III, 34, of Texas, was placed under arrest for felony criminal damage to property, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance and an outstanding DeKalb County warrant. Cardenas and Turner

were transported to Ogle County Jail. Cardenas remains in jail pending an appearance before a judge. Turner was held on the DeKalb County warrant. Turner was given a notice to appear for the felony criminal damage to property, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of controlled substance.

On Nov. 23 at approximately 1:37 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of Lowell Park Road. After further investigation, Eric Bryer, 48, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Bryer was also charged with unlawful use of weapon, aggravated unlawful use of weapon, unlawful use of weapon by a felon, possession of a firearm without a FOID, possession of ammunition without a FOID, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Bryer was transported to the Ogle County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 24 at 6:35 pm. deputies conducted a warrant service in the 100 block of Transit Street, Creston. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Christian Stanbery, 22, of Rochelle, for two outstanding Ogle County warrants, failure to appear aggravated driving under the influence and driving under the influence. Stanbery was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Nov. 24 at approximately 11 p.m. deputies responded to the 800 block of Walnut Avenue in Forreston. After a brief investigation deputies arrested Michael A. Magdziak, 47, of Forreston for battery and criminal damage to property. Magdziak was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was given a notice to appear for a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Local organizations receive CFNIL grants

**ROCKFORD** — The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) is feeling extra thankful as we announce the recipients of Community Grants for the 2024 program cycle: \$1.73 million granted to 88 organizations in support of projects, programs, and events benefiting the people of Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties.

The grants were awarded in eight focus areas: Arts & Humanities; Basic Needs & Compassionate Support; Career Pathways; Complementary Education; Equity, Dignity, & Respect; Health;

Sustainable Communities; and Youth & Families. From the stage to the classroom, from the doctor's office to the riverfront, and at all points in between, the projects funded by Community Grants help build a more vibrant region.

The full report on 2024 Community Grants Program grantmaking can be found online at <https://canva.cfnil.org/cgr2024>. This report details each of the 95 awards made this cycle and the work that each grantee will undertake as a result.

Local recipients included: Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois - Girls Health and Wellness Project - Health - \$9,775.00.

Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County - Ensuring Volunteer Job Safety: Phase II - Sustainable Communities - \$3,100.00.

Northern Illinois University - Strengthening Regional Work-Based Learning and Launching an Education Research Collaborative - Career Pathways - \$55,000.00.

Oregon CUSD 220 - Summer Elementary Math Camp - Complementary Education - \$46,000.00

Serenity Hospice and Home - Music Therapy for Terminally Ill Patients - Basic Needs & Compassionate Support - \$15,000.00.

The Arc of Winnebago, Boone & Ogle Counties - Project Art - Arts & Humanities - \$7,235.32.

United Way of Northwest Illinois - Dolly Parton Imagination Library book mailing program - Complementary Education - \$17,388.00.

Village of Mt. Morris - 2025 Mt. Morris Jamboree Free Concerts - Arts & Humanities - \$5,750.00.

"The people of Northern Illinois are exceptionally generous and committed to ensuring future generations will have every opportunity to live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives," said Dan Ross, CFNIL president. "We are inspired by our nonprofit partners whose work makes that vision possible, not just in the future, but today.

This work and its growing, ongoing impact would not be possible without the generosity of thousands of donors, the commitment of hundreds of volunteers, and the exceptional efforts of these grantees."

The 2024 Community Grants Program cycle continues CFNIL's 71-year commitment to investment in Northern Illinois through grantmaking. Learn more about Community Grants and other grantmaking programs of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois at <http://cfnil.org/grants>.

**Jeannette Newberry & Richard Young**

were married at the Methodist church in Augusta, IL on December 4, 1964 thus becoming Jan & Dick forever.

*Youngs Celebrate 60th Anniversary*

**They have 4 children: Greg (deceased), Brian (deceased), Scott (Tonya) of Rochelle & Angela of Rhode Island, 2 grandchildren: Nikki (Kyle) Maxwell of Davis & Zack (Virginia Lynn) of North Carolina and 3 great-grandchildren: Kendall, Easton & Maci Maxwell. Their family moved to Creston in 1974 & the couple still live in the same wonderful house today. Cards may be sent to:**

**Dick & Jan Young**  
PO Box 188  
Creston IL 60113

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068  
(815) 562-4171

USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)  
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$139.99 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$149.99 per year. The circulation department is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For subscription information, contact Kelly White at 562-4171.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## RFD: Ordinance establishing rank of captain approved at City Council meeting

From page 1

State law says captains have to be promoted from the lieutenant rank. RFD's current lieutenants are Jason Underwood, Zach Prewett and Jeremy Good. Sawlsville, who has been with RFD since 1980, said the change is exciting to see. He doesn't recall a time when the department hired this new firefighters and established a new rank structure all at the same time. "It's growth," Sawlsville said. "And our call numbers keep going up. You can't keep beating those same people up. You have to spread that work around. Even though we're adding people, we're also adding calls. The average firefighter is not going to see much of a let up. They're still going to keep going on calls. For

the boots on the ground it will look the same. It will just be more people doing more work." Sawlsville and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh believe the new rank can also act as a retention tool, as firefighters will have more possible positions to advance to. The RFD chief said that earlier in his years with the department, most personnel on the department would start and retire as a firefighter. He's also seen firefighters leaving departments for other jobs become more common, as firefighters have become more in demand due to shortages and job offers elsewhere have become more lucrative. Fiegenschuh said the city has seen less applicants for its open firefighter positions in recent years. He believes reten-

tion of current personnel is paramount. "Having the ability to vertically move within the department is a good thing," Fiegenschuh said. "This will provide better opportunities for firefighters who choose to go into leadership. They can test and move into the lieutenant's role and then if a vacancy opens at the captain ranks, lieutenants can apply for that role. And a qualified captain would be considered for the chief role if that comes open. It definitely offers more opportunity for vertical movement within the department and organization." The three new firefighters funded by the SAFER grant will be hired as soon as possible. Sawlsville said Nov. 20 that RFD has extended three conditional offers that have all been



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The new rank comes in response to a recent expansion to RFD's department that will see six total new firefighters hired. The final three new firefighters will be hired in the coming weeks.**

accepted and the hires are working through the prerequisite process. The RFD thanked Underwood and Firefighter Ben Johnson for their work on the grant application process, which was outside of their job description. The grant's

amount represents a third of RFD's budget. Sawlsville said the department's new captain model makes him feel more comfortable about the safety of fire crews when operating at structure fires. "It's comforting to

know that no matter what the future brings, there will be somebody watching the firefighters' backs inside and somebody watching the structure from the outside," Sawlsville said. "That's reassuring and it's necessary. You can't have enough accountability."

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

**Faith Lutheran Church** – (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) – “Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith.” In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at “Faith Lutheran Social” on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - ‘Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.’ You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at [Pastor@faithlchrochelle.org](mailto: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](mailto:fgbcrochelle@gmail.com). Website: [www.fgbcrochelle.org](http://www.fgbcrochelle.org). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle](http://www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle). Pastor: Rev. Angelo Bonacquisti. **Sunday worship services:** 8:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm. **Sunday school:** 10:00 am. We'd be honored to have you join us as we worship JESUS and continue to grow in truth and love for God and each other. A nursery, children's church, youth group and small groups are available. If you need a ride please contact our church bus driver, John, at (815) 262-4275 by 8:30 am on Sunday. “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church**, 126 E. South Street, Creston. Phone 815-384-3720, Email: [StJohnsLutheran@aol.com](mailto: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](http://stpatrickrochelle.com) Email: [stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org) Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

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





# LOCAL VIEWS

## Challenges for the new administration

THE new administration faces many challenges to repair the damage to the country caused by the policies of the past administration. It is easy to spill milk, but it takes time to clean it up.

The first priority is for all cabinet appointees and others requiring consent from the Senate to be approved. The president-elect's choices appear to share his philosophy of significant change to the government bureaucracy (the deep state). The left-leaning media have immediately jumped on the fear-mongering train in an attempt to stop these appointments before any hearings are even convened. The media's

scrutiny, soon to be performed on these nominees, will far exceed that given to Biden Administration nominees. It should be remembered that these appointees reflect the desires of the American people who voted for sweeping change.

The next priority is to unleash the energy industry by reducing regulation and increasing permits, increasing fossil fuel availability, and promoting energy independence. It is easy to shut down the energy industry, but it takes time to ramp it up. Trained people must be hired, equipment must be brought in, repairs must be made, and supply chains must be reestablished. This may take several

years. The ban on natural gas exports should be immediately lifted, allowing Europeans and others to purchase natural gas from a source other than the Russians, who the ban has enriched. Lifting the ban will also deprive the aggressors of funds to support their wars in Ukraine and Israel.

An equal priority is to close the border and deport illegal aliens. Deporting criminal illegal aliens will help reduce the crime rate. The next step will be to deport those without the proper paperwork to return for a hearing. There is already pushback from mayors

of sanctuary cities and leaders of sanctuary states (Pritzker of Illinois) cranking out hatred and pledges of noncooperation. Some say it will be very costly to deport all the illegal aliens. Providing housing, food, transportation, medical services, and education for illegal

aliens has already been shown to be very expensive. It will be even more expensive to continue to provide these services for all illegal aliens to remain in the country. Unless they have a work permit, illegal aliens are not allowed to work, and it is a violation of federal law to hire and house illegal aliens (8 U.S.

Code § 1324).

The next priority is to eliminate many unproductive regulations that add difficulty to operating a business or living in the United States. Regulations such as requirements for more electric vehicles, mandates for severe emission standards for gas-powered vehicles, diversity equity inclusion (DEI) requirements, climate change programs (Green New Deal), coal-fired power plant requirements, home & multifamily dwelling construction restrictions, etc., have contributed to the current inflation and shortages.

These are just a few critical changes the new administration should

address upon inauguration. There are only two years until the next Congressional election, where the party in power often loses control of Congress, so that any delay would be detrimental to accomplishing the president-elect's agenda. The Democrats always march in lockstep as ordered by their leaders. The Republicans, not so much. Infighting and other disagreements tend to hamper the passing of vitally-needed legislation in a timely manner, even when they control both houses. With the mandate bestowed upon the president-elect, many hope the Republican-led Congress will be united like the Democrats. Don't bet on it.

## Ron Kern: Strike's impact on farmers

MOST folks when they think of agriculture see crops growing in a field or cows grazing in a pasture. But the industry is much more complex and represents economic effects that we don't tend to see. Once the grain or the livestock leave the farm there is a tapestry of industries including transportation, processing, wholesale, retail, shipping etc. that are woven together to eventually put food on folks' tables.

The current East Coast port strike has been averted for now but not settled. If a strike were to occur let's look at how that part of the agriculture chain affects farmers.

An U.S. East Coast port strike would have severe consequences for food and many other farm products shipped from American farm and ranch families to international buyers as the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) cannot come to an agreement.

The ILA is the largest union of maritime workers in North America, representing nearly 85,000 longshoremen across the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Great Lakes, major U.S. rivers, Puerto Rico, Eastern Canada and the Bahamas. Their members load and unload cargo at ocean

port terminals, particularly in container and roll-on/roll-off operations. On the employer side, USMX represents approximately 40 ocean carriers and terminal operators where ILA members work. The union is reportedly seeking wage increases exceeding the 32% won last year by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which represents many West Coast port workers. Additional demands include a higher starting wage for new employees, enhanced health care benefits, increased employer contributions to retirement plans and keeping provisions that prohibit automation to prevent job losses.

In 2023, over 143 million metric tons of agricultural products, worth over \$122 billion were transported through ocean ports. This represented just over 70% of U.S. agricultural exports value and 75% of volume. On the import side, U.S. ports received over 39.4 million metric tons in agricultural products, worth over \$110 billion and accounting for 56% of imports by value. These figures highlight how crucial ocean ports are to U.S. agricultural trade.

The most significant disruptions would be felt in containerized agricultural exports, which compose just over 30% of U.S. waterborne agricultural

exports by volume. The remaining 70% are raw, unprocessed commodities like grains, oilseeds, pulses, rice and animal feed, which are typically transported on specialized bulk carriers that are loaded and unloaded at dedicated facilities that often operate with non-ILA unions or independent workforces. About 46% of containerized agricultural exports depart from East Coast ports. In total, approximately 14% of all U.S. waterborne agricultural exports, by volume, would be at risk.

On the import side, containerized products play a much more significant role, representing 73% of all waterborne agricultural imports. The East Coast is crucial for these imports, handling 72% of containerized agricultural imports. The top ports for these imports include New York, Philadelphia and Houston, with 11 ports accounting for nearly 90% of all containerized agricultural imports. In total, 53% of U.S. waterborne agricultural imports, by volume, are affected by an ILA strike, leading to a potential economic impact of over \$1.1 billion per week. Collectively, the value of containerized agricultural products passing through ILA-controlled

ports, including both imports and exports, exceeds \$1.4 billion per week.

While the bulk nature of grain shipping shields most grain exports from the ILA-related disruption, there are exceptions. Notably, 2.67 million metric tons of soybeans were exported through East Coast ports in containers in 2023, representing 6% of U.S. waterborne soybean exports.

The most immediate economic consequence for producers facing logistical bottlenecks is a sharp decline in basis. Basis represents the difference between the local cash price of a commodity which a producer receives and its corresponding futures price.

When producers are unable to move crops to market, the local supply builds up. This excess supply, coupled with limited demand due to export disruptions, widens the negative basis. Other commodities would feel an even greater impact than soybeans. Nearly 80% of waterborne poultry exports would be jeopardized, lowering prices for poultry producers as they lose vital market access. Additionally, impacts to poultry production would create upstream effects for feed suppliers, especially those producing

corn and soy meal, which are essential feed ingredients for broiler operations.

In 2023, the U.S. exported 1.91 million metric tons of containerized agricultural goods to China. We also shipped 1.3 million metric tons to Indonesia, and 1.08 million metric tons to Vietnam. These nations ranked as the first, eighth, and 10th largest trading partners by volume for U.S. agricultural exports in 2023, respectively.

Consumers also are at risk as more than 3.8 million metric tons of bananas arrive at ILA-handled ports, supplying over 75% of the nation's bananas. Beyond bananas, delays and shortages would occur for a wide array of everyday items. Price increases are a possibility as well. Nearly 90% of imported cherries, 85% of canned foodstuffs, 82% of hot peppers, and 80% of chocolate that arrive via waterborne vessels are offloaded from containers at these ports. The situation is similarly significant for beverages transported by vessel, with 80% of imported beer, wine, whiskey, and scotch, as well as 60% of rum, arriving in containers at East and Gulf Coast ports.

Redirecting exports through unaffected West Coast ports can provide relief to both producers and consumers. This strategy is particularly effective for the many products destined

for Asia.

The critical challenge will be how effectively the domestic and global supply chains adapt to the shifting container movements, and whether certain regions might be left vulnerable, lacking access to efficient and cost-effective transportation options. Additionally, all ports face infrastructural limitations in how many containers they can process, meaning only a fraction of exports can realistically be rerouted.

With more than \$1.4 billion in containerized agricultural goods passing through East and Gulf coast ports each week, the strike creates backlogs of exports, denying farmers access to a higher price in the world market, leading to a domestic oversupply, driving down prices for key commodities including meat and poultry, cotton, soybeans and specialty crops and further eroding farm profitability. On the import side, shortages and delays would raise costs for consumers — particularly for perishable goods.

"If the present Congress errs in too much talking, how can it be otherwise in a body to which the people send 150 lawyers, whose trade it is to question everything, yield nothing, and talk by the hour?" — Thomas Jefferson

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

### How to contact government officials

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20515  
(202) 225-6201

**IL Sen. Win Stoller**  
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**IL Rep. Bradley Fritts**  
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to [news@rochelle-news-leader.com](mailto:news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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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](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com)). The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.



# COMMUNITY

## Chana UMC Candlelight Christmas event is Dec. 7

**CHANA**—The annual Candlelight Christmas Event at the Chana United Methodist Church will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Chana UMC. This year the event will be held at 4 p.m. Please note the time of change. The program will feature singer and songwriter, Dan Holmes. Dan has performed in over 150 churches in seven states and has done several European tours. His music will be both Christian and seasonal in nature bringing a gentle Christian message of hope.

Following the program a dessert/snack buffet will be held in the candlelit social hall.

There is no admission charge - a love offering will be taken for the presenter. A door prize drawing will be held at the close of the program and table favors will be available for all in the dining room.

All are welcome to attend. Please call the church office at 815-732-7683, Carole Sutton at 815-595-4559, or Pat Kloepping at 815-453-2345 by Dec. 4 if you plan to attend and have not been previously contacted.

## CAN Winter Clothing Drive ongoing through Dec. 11

**ROCHELLE** — The Community Action Network's Annual Hat, Coat & Mitten Drive is ongoing through Thursday, Dec. 11. New/clean/slightly-used children's and adult coats can be dropped off to

any Rochelle elementary school, the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Central Bank, First State Bank, Holcomb Bank or Stillman Bank. The drive is sponsored by CAN and the Rochelle Kiwanis Club.



## Read and Recycle



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Malta United Methodist Church, 201 E. Sprague St., at the corner of South Third Street and Sprague, is hosting its annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.**

## Malta UMC to host cookie walk Dec. 14

**MALTA** — Malta United Methodist Church, 201 E. Sprague St., at the corner of South Third Street and Sprague, is hosting its annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec.

14 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Guests will be able to choose from our huge variety of homemade cookies and candy. The price will be \$8 per pound.

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 1  
Josh Perkins  
Kennedy Smith  
Brooks Bridgeman

Dec. 2  
Dylan Rosenbach

Dec. 3  
Annabelle Sexton  
Ty Vongsiri

Dec. 4  
Teresa Dodillet

Dec. 6  
Kelly Smith

Dec. 7  
Pat Primrose

Dec. 9  
Russell & Marlys Bennett  
(69 years)

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



- 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  
Nov. 18 - Focus House, \$25  
Nov. 19 - Megan Goy, Oregon, \$25  
Nov. 20 - RACF, \$25  
Nov. 21 - Bradley Fritz, Dixon, \$25  
Nov. 22 - Brigitte Beckman, Rochelle, \$25  
Nov. 23 - Tracy Pointer, Rochelle, \$25  
Nov. 24 - Jason O'Neil, Dixon, \$50  
Nov. 25 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25  
Nov. 26 - Dylan Etes, Rochelle, \$25  
Nov. 27 - Kenneth Dougherty, Rochelle, \$25  
Nov. 28 - Sandra Wittenauer, Amboy, \$500  
Nov. 29 - RACF, \$25  
Nov. 30 - Arely Hickey, Rochelle, \$25  
Dec. 1 - Marshall Basler, Rochelle, \$50

## QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

**NO DRAWING THIS WEEK**  
**CURRENT WEEKLY PRIZE: \$250**  
**CURRENT JACKPOT: \$14,765**

## Coffee Break

### MAGIC MAZE • — HEADED

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

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

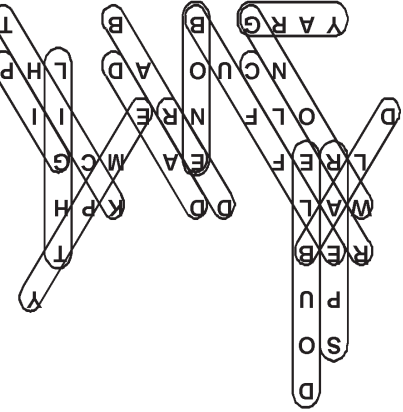
Bald  
Bare  
Bone  
Buffle

Clear  
Dead  
Double  
Empty

Gray  
Light  
Pig  
Red

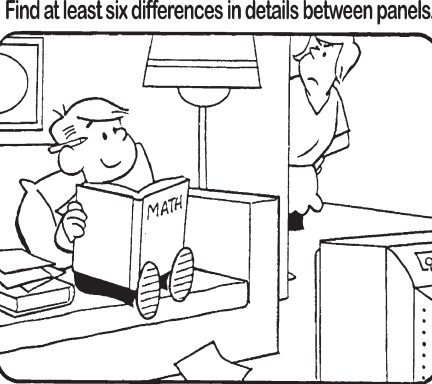
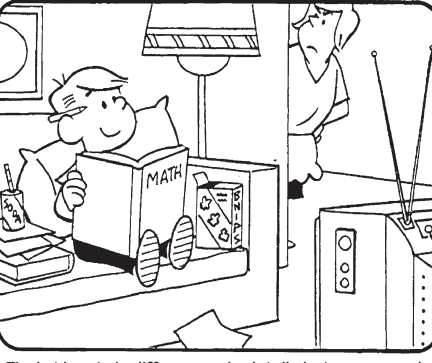
Spear  
Thick  
Wrong

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

## Super Crossword

### TRIMMING UP

#### ACROSS

- 1 Sports events played by visiting teams  
10 Obeys reluctantly  
16 Boho-chic Aussie boots  
20 Arched shoe part  
21 Part of U.K.  
22 She talks on iPhones  
23 Parasites plaguing the Cheshire cat?  
25 A party to  
26 Everlasting, poetically  
27 Above ground  
28 Bedazzled  
29 Worked to get a different reward?  
35 Pizza base  
38 Tic-tac-toe win  
39 Geometry assignments  
40 "Dr." who raps  
41 Above, poetically  
42 Yard separators  
45 Prefix with cyclist  
46 Combat vet's affliction, for short

#### DOWN

- 47 One giving technical advice to wizards?  
52 Bull in a ring  
54 Structure near a tonsil  
55 "Othello" adversary  
56 Relatives of alpacas  
59 Adversary  
60 City area where lots of radiators are produced?  
63 Sword variety  
66 Medic  
67 Hiking aid  
68 Disgusting  
69 Untwisting threads overseas?  
75 "I think —!"  
77 Mobile's state  
78 Smell horrible  
79 Big ape  
83 Hoofbeat  
84 Math student doing sums correctly?  
87 Motley —  
89 — hub (tech device)  
91 Widely known  
92 "Nope"  
93 Narrow estuary  
94 Guinea pig's cousin

#### ACROSS

- 97 Ring legend Muhammad  
98 Speechify  
100 Clock setting at the rear of a ship?  
105 Makes grimy  
106 Eye color, e.g.  
107 Non-Spanish spelling of an Arizona tribe's name  
111 Pack neatly  
112 Trim request ... or what this puzzle takes, based on what its missing letters spell?  
117 Sicilian peak  
118 Use a hammer to fix, perhaps  
119 Angry cry to a captor  
120 Promising  
121 Lacey's partner on TV  
122 Hugh Jackman film about robot boxing

#### DOWN

- 1 Vex  
2 Doing the job  
3 Suffix with clear or vigil

#### ACROSS

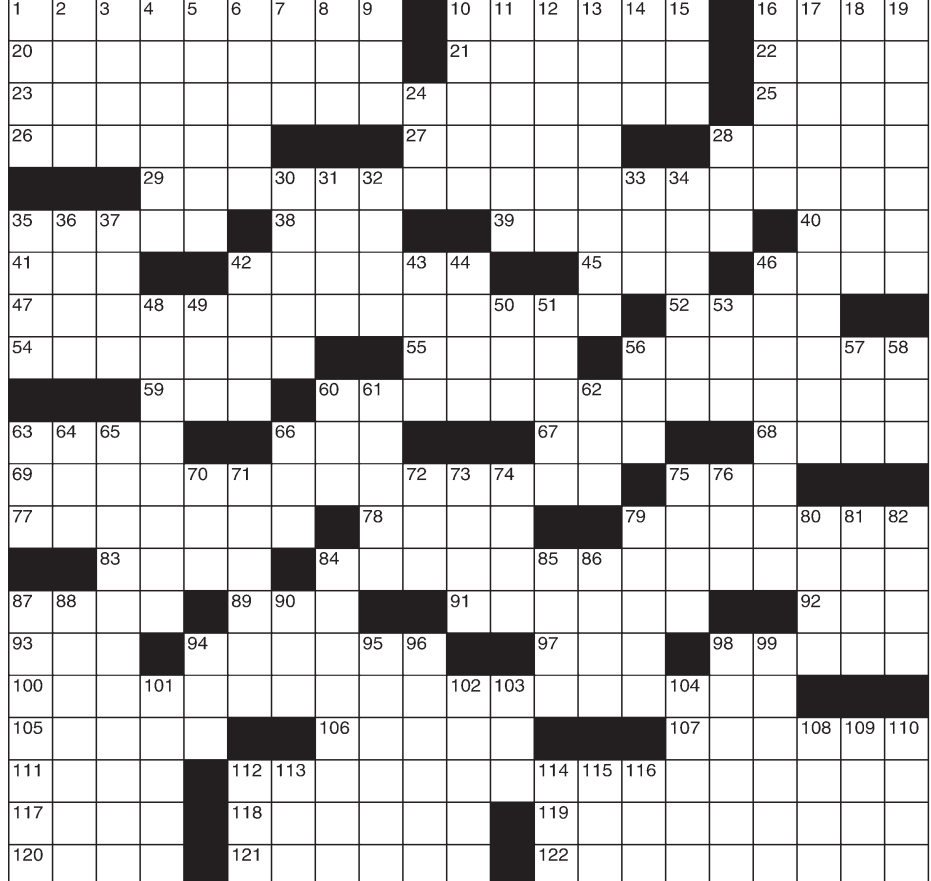
- 4 Certain plows and tractors  
5 Give a smile  
6 Ed of "Gus"  
7 Trim grass  
8 "Do Ya" rock gp.  
9 Wash. bigwig  
10 Good, in Spain  
11 Freeway access point  
12 More shrewd  
13 Begin  
14 "X" number  
15 Eccentric  
16 Consuming  
17 Popular highball  
18 Gardeners, farmers, etc.  
19 Well-muscled  
24 Affront, in rap  
28 GEICO's bus.  
30 Incessantly  
31 Geologic spans  
32 Lead-in to drama  
33 Sweetie pie  
34 Should that be the case  
35 Super-deep sleep  
36 Skim, say  
37 Spur (on)  
42 Pâté de —  
43 Hollywood's Kazan

#### DOWN

- 44 Eye color, e.g.  
46 Itchy, medically  
48 Make weak  
49 Pigeon sound  
50 Geologic span  
51 Shearer of "A Free Soul"  
53 Sept. follower  
56 Bigwig  
57 Comic strip cry of dismay  
58 Sloppy farm area  
60 Animal in a 58-Down  
61 Greeting with a GIF, maybe  
62 June honoree  
63 Geologic span  
64 Chum  
65 Pre-hurricane orders  
66 Stuff in the gene pool  
70 Thai language  
71 Oppose as false  
72 Snoozing site  
73 Atoll feature  
74 Sticky pod in Cajun cuisine  
75 Entre — (between us)  
76 Tolkien beast  
79 Astronaut's wear

#### ACROSS

- 80 "Girls" creator Dunham  
81 Legal exam, for short  
82 Former court king Arthur  
84 Lying adjacent to  
85 Epps of "Scream 2"  
86 Give up a poker hand  
87 More boorish  
88 Trattoria rice dish  
90 Distress call  
94 — Antiqua  
95 Plaid design  
96 Even-scored  
98 Nebraskan Native Americans  
99 Reinstate in an office  
101 1999 Super Bowl MVP John  
102 Humdinger  
103 Wolfed down  
104 Spying info  
108 To — (perfectly)  
109 Living space  
110 German car company  
112 Circle part  
113 Rural stretch  
114 Rink legend Bobby  
115 Stipend or toll  
116 St. Pete loc.







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# SPORTS



## CHEER TEAMS EARN WINS

The RTHS cheerleading teams finished first in their meet at Wilmington.

See page 3 for more details

### RTHS Girls Basketball

# Rochelle scores three wins at Oregon

## Darby earns All-Tournament team honors as Lady Hubs record trio of victories

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**OREGON** — Senior Kendyl Darby knew she would be in for a significant leadership role with the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team this season. Entering her fourth season at the varsity level, Darby shined at the Oregon Tip Off Tournament this past weekend, when the senior forward earned All-Tournament Team honors while leading Rochelle to a trio of victories.

Darby scored a team-high 22 points and drilled three 3-pointers on Wednesday evening, when the Lady Hubs took the court against Amboy for their first official game of the 2024-25 season. Despite falling to the Clippers 59-47, Rochelle bounced back with a win over Genoa-Kingston on Friday before beating both Richmond-Burton and Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday.

“It was a really good start to the season,” Darby said. “When I was younger, I’d see the girls get the All-Tournament awards and I always wanted one, so being a senior and getting it was really cool. Coach [Jon] Gehm told me before the season that I needed to step up and be a leader. It’s important for me to lead the younger girls and show them what

to do and what not to do.”

Darby drained two triples in the second half on Wednesday evening, helping the Lady Hubs maintain a steady pace with Amboy, who led Rochelle 36-17 at halftime. The senior forward turned in seven fourth-quarter points, using her frame to take the ball down low and score in the painted area. The Lady Hubs made six 3-pointers in the game, with junior Carmela Bright hitting two for six of her eight points in the game. Rochelle held the Clippers to 23 second-half points.

“The first half was a feeling-out process,” head coach Jon Gehm said. “We had a lot of girls without varsity experience playing for the first time and Amboy is a veteran team who was a little more prepared than us. We were able to fly around in the second half and get into our 1-2-2 defense and our press, which energized us a bit. We had a really good inside presence and I thought Kendyl played a heck of a game. We’ll need to be able to play inside-out like that.”

Rochelle earned its first win of the season on Friday evening, with the Lady Hubs taking down Genoa-Kingston 49-44 behind a team-high 17 points from junior Jaydin Dickey, a returning starter from last season. Dickey converted three triples in the first half



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Kendyl Darby works into the painted area during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Amboy on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Darby earned All-Tournament honors at the Oregon Tipoff Tourney.

and showed poise from the free-throw line, going 8-for-10 in the win. Freshman Audrina Rodriguez added nine points, while Bright and senior Abby Metzger combined for 13 points to aid the Lady Hubs on Friday.

“Coach Gehm has asked Kendyl and I to step up and be leaders,” Metzger said.

“It’s important for us and the other returning players to set an example for how we want to be as a program. We picked it up against Genoa-Kingston... Our main focus was our energy and our effort. We brought more energy onto the court and we were fighting for every ball. We wanted to win every possession and

we tried to keep the ball in our hands so we could keep scoring.”

The Lady Hubs put an exclamation point on their tournament performance with a pair of wins on Saturday. Rochelle started the day with a 48-36 victory over Richmond-Burton to move into the ninth-place game. Dickey scored 13

points and went a perfect 9-for-9 from the free-throw line, while Darby totaled seven points, all of which came on free throws. Metzger finished with nine points and two players including Rodriguez and senior Payton Cesarone chipped in six points.

See HOOPS page 3

### RTHS Girls Bowling

# Lady Hubs back on the lanes for new season

## Vincent, McCullough headline varsity players returning for Rochelle this year

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team is back at T-Byrd Lanes for the start of the 2024-25 season, which opened with the first practice this past Monday. The Lady Hubs will look to build on a 10-6 record and a fourth-place finish in the Interstate 8 last season.

Rochelle’s first meet of the season will be against Rockford Lutheran on Monday, Dec. 2. The Lady Hubs are returning two key starters including senior and Rock Valley College signee Cassidy Vincent, who’s a three-time All-Conference winner and IHSA sectional qualifier. Junior Kylie McCullough returns after earning an Honorable Mention in the Interstate 8 last year.

“We have 10 bowlers signed up and I’m really pleased about that,” head coach Eric Widick said. “The girls we have back this year all seemed to work hard last year. From what I’ve seen so far already, I’ve noticed some major improvements over last year and I’m looking forward to this year... Cassidy and Kylie will need to

be my leaders. They’re the two bowlers I’ve had the longest, but I’ll be looking to see how our younger girls start the year and pick each other up.”

Rochelle also welcomes back a small group of underclassmen who gained competitive experience last season. Those players include sophomores Ava Norris, Magaly Belmonte, Karina Valdez and Chloe Rodriguez. Rochelle’s young players will need to step up, as the team is replacing four starters from last season including IHSA sectional qualifier Kenzie Liezert.

“Ava will be one to watch this year,” Widick said. “The key for us will be to take the emotion out of the game. When our leaders go down, the rest of our team will follow, but if they fight through it and keep working at it, the younger girls will follow... I definitely want to see improvement in our spare shooting this year. That hurt us the most last year and we’re going to work on that.”

Rochelle will begin Interstate 8 play against Sycamore at T-Byrd Lanes on Dec. 3. The Lady Hubs are scheduled to com-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Cassidy Vincent is among the returning players for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team this season. Rochelle opens the season against Rockford Lutheran on Dec. 2.

pete in five tournaments including the Jefferson Invitational as well as the LaSalle-Peru Cavalier

Classic, Morris Charles Butterfield Invitational, Sterling MLK Invitational and the Interstate

8 meet. The IHSA State Series will begin in February 2025.

“I’m looking for us

to finish in the second-third-fourth range in the conference,” Widick said.



# SPORTS

## RTHS Wrestling

### Rochelle takes dual matches against Dixon, Burlington Central

Hubs start season 2-0 after rallying for 37-34 victory over Dukes on Tuesday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**BURLINGTON** — Returning seniors on the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team had revenge on their minds as they took the mat for their season-opening dual against Dixon on Tuesday night.

Looking to avenge a loss to the Dukes last year, Rochelle found itself trailing early in the match, with Dixon taking a 27-9 lead after winning six of the first eight bouts. The Hubs took control as the match progressed to the upper weights, however, as Rochelle delivered two pins and two technical falls over the final six bouts to clutch out a 37-34 win over the Dukes. The victory set the tone for the Hubs, who dominated Burlington Central 62-18 later in the evening to start 2-0.

“It’s huge for our confidence that we came back and beat Dixon after a tough loss to them last year,” said senior Xavier Villalobos, one of four Hubs to win by fall against the Dukes. “We have a lot of things we still need to work on, but it feels good to start off strong... We’re all a family and we’re all pushing each other to be the best we can be. Everybody in the room wants to get better so we can make

it down to state. We want Rochelle to be a team to look out for.”

Rochelle’s first win against the Dukes came from freshman Aidan Lopez, who scored two takedowns and three reversals during his 13-6 major decision over Kye Dieterle in the 120-pound bout. Villalobos followed with a first-period fall over Gavin Kramer in the 132-pound bout, but three straight victories from the Dukes put the Hubs in an 18-point hole. Junior Brenden Voight sparked Rochelle’s rally with a 16-1 technical fall in the 157-pound bout.

The Hubs made the score 27-25 after senior Grant Gensler took a forfeit and senior Matt Lynn locked down a key victory in the 175-pound bout, where he compiled five takedowns, including three in the second period, for a 20-3 technical fall against Dixon’s Spencer Pleskovitch. Junior Roman Villalobos pinned Daniel Fordham in the 190-pound bout to give Rochelle its first lead.

Leading 31-27 with two bouts remaining, Rochelle clinched the dual win over the Dukes in the 215-pound bout, where senior Kaiden Morris overcame an 8-4 deficit in the first period to beat Dixon’s Will Howell by



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Matthew Lynn goes for a near fall during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling match against Dixon on Tuesday evening. Lynn won by technical fall and Rochelle defeated the Dukes 37-34.

second-period fall. The match nearly went the way of the Dukes, as Howell came within inches of pinning Morris, who navigated out of bounds to reset the match.

“This was a dual that was marked on my calendar for a while,” Morris said. “We had a pretty heartbreaking loss to them last year, but we came back and I thought we wrestled well for the amount of practice we’ve been able to put in. It’s a confidence booster, but there’s so much room for growth. We’re returning just about everybody and we have a few spots we’re sewing up. I think we have a great team and I think we’ll definitely

be able to make a run.”

## Burlington

The Hubs controlled their match against Burlington Central from start to finish, winning 11 of the 14 bouts and recording eight falls. Freshman Aidan Lopez took a forfeit and junior Keagan Albers scored a first-period fall over David Wyruchowski to win the 126-pound bout. Xavier Villalobos followed with two takedowns in a 7-0 decision over Austin Lee in the 132-pound bout.

Leading 15-0, Rochelle added to its total after Deegan Schabacker took a 7-2 lead over Barry Yildirim into the second period, where Schabacker pinned

to take the 138-pound bout. Junior Frank Nasca then claimed the 144-pound bout against Jack Aguirre, holding an 11-7 advantage before scoring a third-period takedown and fall at the 4:45 mark to extend Rochelle’s lead.

Sophomore Josh Lassiter continued the pinning streak in the 150-pound bout, where Lassiter struck down RJ Perez to give the Hubs a 38-6 lead. Brenden Voight dominated the 157-pound bout against Samvir Denineni, earning four takedowns and one near fall in the first period alone before adding a fifth takedown in the second period for an 18-2 technical fall. Grant

Gensler needed only 20 seconds to take down and pin Gavin Theisen to win the 165-pound bout.

Roman Villalobos and Kaiden Morris each collected pins for the Hubs, with Villalobos beating Michael Junitz to claim the 190-pound bout and Morris locked down a first-period fall to take the 215-pound bout. Rochelle’s final victory of the night came in the 113-pound bout, where junior Freddie Hernandez rallied from a 3-1 hole to pin Eduardo Venes in the second period.

Rochelle (2-0, 0-0 Interstate 8) will return to action at the Giardini Invitational in Rockford next Friday and Saturday.

## RTHS Boys Bowling

### Hubs roll for Interstate 8 road win over Kaneland

Three players average over 190 per game as Rochelle beats Knights 3,241-3,108

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**DEKALB** — A balanced effort from the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team led to its first Interstate 8 Conference win of the season Monday evening, when three players averaged at least 190 pins over three games during a road matchup against the Kaneland Knights.

Senior Logan Frye rolled a 591 series to lead all players, while junior Caleb Mortensen bowled a 587 series and freshman Josef Alanis added a 580 series as the Hubs defeated Kaneland 3,241-3,108 at Mardi Gras Lanes. The Knights held a slim lead after the first game, where Kaneland edged out Rochelle 1,068-1,025 behind a series-best 244 from Nick Casey.

The Hubs (2-4, 1-1 Interstate 8) flipped the momentum in the second game, where Rochelle downed Kaneland 1,098-995 to take the series lead. Frye and Mortensen were the catalysts for the Rochelle side, with Frye shooting a 236 and Mortensen firing a 230. Alanis saves his best for last, throwing a 248 to lead all players in the third game, where Rochelle

beat the Knights 1,118-1,038 to win the series. Sophomore Luke Norris rolled a 204 to total a 563 series.

## Mendota

Freshman Josef Alanis fired a 570 series to lead the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team during its nonconference road match against Mendota on Tuesday evening.

Senior Logan Frye

rolled a 543 series for the Hubs, who fell to the Trojans 3,373-2,993 at the Elks Lodge. Rochelle (2-5, 1-1 Interstate 8) will return to the lanes against Sycamore at Mardi Gras Lanes on Monday, Dec. 2. Mendota defeated the Hubs 1,050-960 in the first game, where Alanis threw a series-best 239 to lead the Rochelle side. Frye’s 177 and sophomore Bryson Stewart’s 173 fu-

eled the Hubs in the second game, which Mendota claimed 1,224-1,001.

The Trojans clinched the series win and the sweep with a 1,099-1,032 victory in the third game, where Frye rolled a series-best 212 and junior Declan McGee shot a 183 to lead the Rochelle side. Alex Holland’s 637 series and BJ Bresley’s 616 series were the high marks for Mendota.

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Cheerleading



**RTHS teams finish first at Wilmington Invitational**  
Congratulations to the Rochelle Township High School varsity and JV cheerleading teams on first-place finishes at their meet in Wilmington. The varsity team (above) includes Taylin Watson, Ashley Dickey, Elyse Manning, Kami Damask, Elena Daugherty, Morgan DeLille, Zoey Schabacker, Madigan Williams, Audyn Kemp, Ryelee Bogle, Cambrey Rodeghero, Trent Kreider, Abbey Jarvis, Jasmynn Lipscomb and Maycie Powell. The JV team (at right) includes Mia Heitkamp, Alexis Vaughn, Emy Cacique, Lily Kerfin-Fifer, Rowan Thompson, Grace Montes, Veronica Lopez, DeLaney Heal, Roxy Taft, Aiyana Mashaw and Sara Dolensek.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team went 3-1 over four games at the Oregon Tipoff Tournament this past week. At left, junior Carmela Bright drives around Amboy's Bella Yanos. At right, junior Kyler Dickson dribbles around Amboy's Tyrah Vaessen. Below, junior Jaydin Dickey attacks the basket.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

## HOOPS: Rochelle finishes 3-1 over four games at Oregon Tipoff Tournament

From page 1

"I think we have a lot of talented players this year," Metzger said. "We're definitely younger than we were last year, but that gives us an advantage because we're learning how to work together and we're

finding out who works best doing what. We're having a lot of fun together."

Rochelle dominated the ninth-place game against Ashton-Franklin Center, beating the Raiders 49-19 behind a combined 22 points from Dickey and Darby. Bright scored nine

points, including six in the opening half, while junior Rose Luxton drained a pair of 3-pointers to aid the Rochelle offense. The Lady Hubs (3-1, 0-0 Interstate 8) will play at DeKalb on Monday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

"We didn't put our heads down and we stayed con-

fident, even after the first loss," Darby said. "We weren't thinking negatively

and I thought that was the best thing we did... I think we'll have a good team and

it's nice to have new faces. I think we're going to have a fun season."



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In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center  
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# SPORTS

## RMS Boys Basketball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### Rochelle Middle School eighth-graders defeat Sycamore

The Rochelle Middle School eighth-grade boys basketball team scored a 44-32 victory against Sycamore at home this past week. Above, Declan McKinney (left) and Elliot Kessen (right) each put up shots. Below, Riley Smith (left) and Nolan Zick (right) shoot over Sycamore defenders.

## St. Paul Lutheran School

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### St. Paul Lutheran School and Kings School boys basketball teams square off on the basketball court

The St. Paul Lutheran School and Kings School boys basketball teams faced off in local action this past week. The St. Paul seventh/eighth grade boys defeated Kings 55-18 and the Kings School fifth/sixth grade team took down St. Paul 28-6. Above, St. Paul's Braxton Bruns (left) and St. Paul's Danny Johnson (right) rise up for shots near the basket. Below, Kings player Tate Bigelow (left) launches a half-court shot and St. Paul's Ty Vongsiri (right) shoots over a pair of Kings defenders.





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here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?



**Time is money.** It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF )  
)  
Donald D. Kennay )  
Case No. 2024 PR 54 )  
)  
Deceased )  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of Donald D. Kennay, of Ashton, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 18, 2024, to Ronald J. Kennay, whose address is 7010 S. Daysville Road, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, and Donald L. Kennay whose address is 7714 IL Rt 38, Ashton, Illinois, 61006, and whose attorney is Charles P. Cole, Jr., 1021 5th Avenue, Rochelle, Illinois, 61068. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before June 30, 2025, that date being not less than six (6) months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk, at the Ogle County Judicial Center, Oregon, Illinois, 61061, or with an estate representative, or both. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office must be mailed or delivered to an estate representative and their attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
DATE: November 20, 2024.  
/s/ Ronald J. Kennay  
Donald L. Kennay  
Independent Representatives  
No.1124  
(Nov. 24, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
**ADVERTISEMENT**  
**FOR BIDS**  
1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION  
A. Notice to Bidders: Qualified bidders may submit bids for project as described in this Document. Submit bids according to the Instructions to Bidders.  
1. Regulatory Requirements: Applicable laws and regulation of those having jurisdiction in the State of Illinois shall govern submittal, opening, and award of bids.  
2. All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).  
B. Project Identification: 2025 LMC RENOVATION  
1. Project Location: Rochelle Township High School, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, Illinois 61068.  
2. Architect's Project Number: 0713-2023094  
C. Owner: Rochelle Township High School District 212.  
1. Owner's Representative: Kevin Dale, Business Manager / CSBO.  
D. Architect: GreenAssociates, Inc., 1437 Harmony Court, Itasca, Illinois 60143.  
E. Architect's Representative: Amy White, AIA, 847-317-0852 x125, awhite@greenassociates.com.  
F. Project Description:  
1. Project consists of interior improvements including: demolition, light gauge metal framing, gypsum board, hollow metals frames, wood doors, interior glazing, move-

able glass partitions, acoustical ceiling grid, acoustical ceiling panels, acoustical wall paint, flooring, electrical, lighting, HVAC and other Work indicated in the Contract Documents.  
G. Construction Contract: Bids will be received Single Prime Contract  
1.2 BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING  
A. Owner will receive lump sum bids until the bid time and date at the location given below. The sealed bid must be submitted on the Bid Form provided, Project Name, Date and Time of Bid clearly marked on the outside of the sealed envelope to prevent premature opening. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders, and delivered as follows:  
1. Bid Date: 18 December 2024.  
2. Bid Time: 10:00 a.m., local time.  
3. Location: 1401 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, Illinois 61068.  
a. Bidders shall enter door 2 of High School.  
B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.  
C. Any bid submitted unsealed, or unsigned, without bid bond or received subsequent to the aforementioned date and hour will be disqualified and returned to the bidder.  
D. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.  
1.3 BID SECURITY  
A. Bid Security is required in the form of a Bid Bond, AIA Document A310-2010 in an amount equal to not less than ten percent (10%) of the Base Bid and all Additive Alternates.  
B. It is the Owner's intent to issue a Notice of Award to the successful Bidder within thirty (30) calendar days of the Bid Date. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the opening of bids.  
1.4 PREBID MEETING  
A. Prebid Meeting: A mandatory prebid meeting for all bidders will be held at 1401 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, Illinois 61068 on 05 December 2024 at 3:30 p.m., local time. Prospective bidders are required to attend. Failure to attend may result in rejection of bid.  
B. Additional visits to Rochelle Township High School may be arranged by contacting Mark C. Klouse, Director of Facility and Grounds for HSD212 at 815-562-4161 Ext. 7160 by phone at least one day prior to visit. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site and familiarize themselves with the conditions under which the work is to be performed.  
1.5 DOCUMENTS  
A. Bidding Documents: Obtain access after 20 November 2024, by going to BHFX website at [www.bhfxplanroom.com/jobs/public](http://www.bhfxplanroom.com/jobs/public) and registering.  
B. Bid forms are included in the bidding documents and can also be downloaded separately from the BHFX website.  
C. Addenda will be made available, in digital format, to plan holders of record.  
D. Bidding Documents can be viewed at the Architect's of-

1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  
Successful bidder shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice of Award and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time. Work is subject to liquidated damages.  
1.7 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS  
A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work.  
B. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum, on AIA Document A312-2010, as issued by the American Institute of Architects.  
No. 1202  
(December 1, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PUBLICATION**  
**NOTICE OF COURT**  
**DATE FOR REQUEST**  
**FOR NAME CHANGE**  
**(MINOR NAME**  
**CHANGE)**  
**IN THE STATE OF**  
**ILLINOIS,**  
**CIRCUIT COURT**  
**OGLE COUNTY**  
**CASE NUMBER**  
**2024 MR 37**  
**REQUEST OF:**  
**MARIELA GODINA**  
**TO CHANGE**  
**NAMES OF MINOR**  
**CHILDREN**  
There will be a court date on a Request for Name Change (Minor Children) for these children: Giselle Anais Linares to the new name of Giselle Anais Godina. Court date will be January 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at 106 S. 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, Courtroom 304.  
Mariela Godina.  
No. 1203  
(Dec. 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Ogle County Educational Cooperative (OCEC) maintains temporary student records on students with disabilities who have received special education services while attending the public schools in Ogle County. These records are maintained at the OCEC central office in Byron. This notice is intended only for those individuals having birth dates during the period of 2000, 2001, and 2002 who have received special education services. OCEC advises as follows: Any temporary student records maintained regarding your special education services will be destroyed effective January 31, 2025. These records may be of assistance to former students and they may request the actual student records, rather than the records being destroyed. Individuals wishing to obtain their temporary records must request such no later than January 15, 2025 at the OCEC offices at 417 N. Colfax St., Byron, IL 61010. The OCEC will continue to maintain electronic permanent records of former students. By Matt Zilm, Director  
No. 1204  
(Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Zander  
Griner**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Wrestling*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Three years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: I enjoy the experience you get.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Math.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Eddie Goldman.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: My mom and dad because most of the things I do are for them.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a welder because I think it's cool.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: The Bahamas.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: Having fun playing sports and being involved.*



**Evan  
Bly**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Wrestling*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: This is my second year.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: Live wrestling because it's fun.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Conditioning because that class is the only time I get to work out.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Gabe Steveson because I look up to him.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My dad because he taught me most of the things I know.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be an iron worker because I'd rather do manual labor than work a desk job.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Tennessee because the weather is nice.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: Doing something after school.*

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