



ROCHELLE News-Leader

WEEKEND EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

New Year, NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

Call Now: 305-748-9812

Launch your dream business! Prime shopping center space available in Rochelle, DeKalb, Freeport. Free store build-out and free rent for qualified tenants. Limited time offer. Don't miss out!

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

Rochelle Community Unity
Shop • Play • Stay

Rochelle Veterinary Hospital

1381 N. 7th St.
815-562-5207

Vol. 105 • No. 75

More coverage. Less spendage.

Discounts up to 40%
Get more. Spend less. It's that simple when you get car insurance from us. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there. **CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.**

Terri Schaefer, Agent
Bus: 815-562-7063
terri.schaefer.115n@statefarm.com

State Farm
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL



Stoller honored for service

State Sen. Win Stoller was recently recognized for his service at the end of his term. **Page 3**

WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH 33	HIGH 22
LOW 22	LOW 8

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH 13	HIGH 20
LOW 3	LOW 5

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

Rochelle Community Unity
Shop • Play • Stay

Liberty Village of Rochelle
A Community of Care

2203 E. Flagg Road
815-562-9800

OBITUARIES

NONE

INSERTS

• RUNNINGS

INSIDE

Local News.....2, 3, 5, 8, 9
Obituaries.....4
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



3 suffer burn injuries after propane heater incident

RFD Chief: Injuries were 'serious, but not life-threatening'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Three people were transported via ambulance with “serious, but not life-threatening” burn injuries early Tuesday morning suffered from an incident with a propane heater outside of Silgan Containers at 400 N. 15th St. in Rochelle, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

At 3:52 a.m., RFD was dispatched to Silgan Containers for the report of a small explosion, no fire and two injuries. After arriving on scene, RFD personnel found there had been a total of four injuries. One patient suffered minor burns to their hands and opted not to be transported.

“They have an enclosure out in their parking lot for their employees to go and smoke,” Sawlsville said. “They had a propane heater in there that was apparently leaking propane. This morning some employees went out there to smoke and there was a flash due to propane igniting. We transported three people from there in ambulances. All three



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Three people were transported via ambulance with “serious, but not life-threatening” burn injuries early Tuesday morning suffered from an incident with a propane heater outside of Silgan Containers at 400 N. 15th St. in Rochelle, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

have since been sent to burn centers.”

Sawlsville said that after being transported to Rochelle Community Hospital, the three burn victims were transported to OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford to treat their burns. That hospital has a burn unit, the RFD chief said.

“Any time there’s a burn on the hands or face, you want to refer them to a burn center,” Sawlsville said. “The hands are a quality of life issue and the face is an air-

way. There was no damage to the structure they were in. It didn’t even burn the tarps the structure was wrapped in. When the flash happened, some of the employees’ clothes were set on fire.”

Sawlsville said the propane heater was fueled by a small 20-pound propane tank, the size used in a common gas grill. Due to multiple injuries taking place, the state fire marshal was called to investigate the incident. Their findings have not been released yet, Sawlsville said.

“Preliminarily, they had a propane heater in there and maybe that heater was leaking propane,” Sawlsville said. “So when they went out there and lit their cigarette, that could have caused the incident. The report is they were sitting there smoking and just on their phone and all of a sudden the flash happened. We’re unsure of what caused the problem. It could have been a faulty cylinder or was hooked up wrong. Injuries were serious, but not life-threatening. Everyone is going to survive.”

New home construction ongoing in subdivision

New library construction progressing

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees heard a report from Village Building Inspector Aaron Moore on the building of new homes that has been taking place in the Creston Commons subdivision.

A temporary occupancy permit has been granted for the first home that began construction on South Pierce Street, Moore said, and only sidewalk and yard work remains for that home which must be completed by May 1. Five other homes are currently under construction and another new house permit has been requested for 525 Roberts St. The new homes have all been sized around 1,600 square feet.

Hayden Real Estate closed on the ownership of the subdivision at the end of December 2023. The village has hoped in recent years to see clean up, new homes and a new agreement with



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees heard a report from Village Building Inspector Aaron Moore on the building of new homes that has been taking place in the Creston Commons subdivision.

the subdivision’s ownership.

Construction work on the homes is still taking place amid the winter weather. Trees were also recently planted in the subdivision and eight new water lines have been pushed for new homes. Water will need to be made available to the new Roberts Street home. The village is working with Rochelle Municipal Utilities on repairing street lights in the subdivision area that have not been working.

Library

Moore also provided an update on the ongoing new Creston-Dement Public Library project. Finishing work is ongoing at the location.

See **CRESTON** page 2



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board unanimously approved the appointment of Patricia Garcia to a vacant trustee seat. Garcia was then sworn in by Village Clerk Dawn Bearrows.

Garcia sworn in as new Hillcrest board trustee

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST—At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board unanimously approved the appointment of Patricia Garcia to a vacant trustee seat. Garcia was then sworn in by Village Clerk Dawn Bearrows.

It was announced in October that Trustee Joe Thompson had resigned his position due to personal reasons. Thompson was appointed to his position in June 2023 and served as streets & grounds trustee.

Garcia will serve in the trustee seat until the next election. She has lived in Hillcrest for 32 years.

“I like the area,” Garcia said. “It’s nice and quiet. It’s a good place to raise kids.”

1A

Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman said during the meeting that Hillcrest’s Priority 1A water main project is fully complete and final documentation will soon be done.

See **HILLCREST** pg 3

Start the New Year with a NEW HVAC System

ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

621 First Ave. • Rochelle, IL • 815-562-8784

Holcomb Bank
Where Relationships Matter

Banking at the speed of your life

Mobile Banking
Online Bill Pay
Zelle®
TransferNow
Digital Wallet

www.holcomb.bank

LOCAL NEWS

CRESTON: Village board receives update on construction of new library

From page 1

“It looks like they’re still working on all the HVAC and ductwork,” Moore said.

The project broke ground March 15 at the corner of Main and Cedarholm Streets. A referendum passed in June 2022 that allowed the Creston-Dement Public Library District to issue

\$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building on the land that was donated years ago for just that purpose. The main reason for the desire for a new building is the library outgrowing its current space at 107 S. Main St. The library board hopes for a fall 2025 opening.

Water

During the meeting,

Village President Tom Byro read a report sent to him by Village Engineer Kevin Bunge, who was not present Tuesday. The report said the village has completed contracts for work on Creston’s water tower and work could start soon. Last month, the board unanimously approved a proposal from KLM Engineering for \$16,836 for the cleaning and inspection of Creston’s water tower. The work will be completed by July 1, 2025.

Trustees expressed a desire to look into the water tower cleaning in recent months when discussing rust issues that have been seen in the village’s water system. It’s been estimated the water tower hasn’t been cleaned in 4-5 years. Village officials are also investigating other potential fixes for the village’s rust issue, including hydrant flushing and changing the layout of Creston’s water system.

Bunge’s report also said Tuesday that he has researched where rust issues have been seen and matched them with bellies in Creston’s water system. He will be bringing potential fixes to the board, Byro said.

“We’ll see what he comes up with,” Byro said.

“I’m a little leery about spending a whole bunch of money and not getting squat out of it.”

Sewer

Bunge’s report also said Tuesday that he is working to set up a meeting for residents that will be impacted by a planned storm sewer project in Creston.

The project is currently in the easement negotiation stage. The next steps will be the meeting with the involved property owners, getting easement agreements signed, finalizing plans and going out for bids in February or March.

The project will consist of 36-inch storm sewer pipe being put in to replace broken drain tile and improve drainage in Creston. The storm sewer work will consist of adding pipe on both sides of the railroad tracks, but the current phase of it will not go under the tracks. The work was suggested due to issues with stormwater overflow.

The work will likely begin in the spring or summer of 2025. Bunge has estimated in the past that the project could roughly cost \$180,000-200,000.

Roads

The board voted unani-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Village President Tom Byro memorialized Jack Kerns during the meeting. The longtime Creston resident passed away Jan. 3 at the age of 82.

mously during the meeting to sealcoat roads with steel slag this year on the south side of Creston for an estimated cost of \$96,000. The board also considered using soft rock for \$82,000 or harder gravel for \$84,000 for the sealcoating of those same roads on the south side of Creston.

Village Trustee Curt Ward said the steel slag material involves more years of life, causes little to no dust after application, and the roads remain black. The method has been used in other area municipalities such as

Franklin Grove, Ward said. Creston has used rock in years past.

Kerns

Byro memorialized Jack Kerns during the meeting. The longtime Creston resident passed away Jan. 3 at the age of 82.

“He was a great guy,” Byro said. “He did a lot for this town. He’s going to be missed. He was a good friend of mine and everybody here. When someone needed something, he’d help them out. And he’d do it that day. We’re going to miss him.”

Start or Continue Your Career at Steward Elementary School as a Classroom Para-Educator

Full-Time Position Throughout the School Year

Steward Elementary School (District 220) is seeking a Classroom Student Aide starting immediately. The Classroom Para-Educator must be certified in IL and registered through the Lee-Ogle-Whiteside ROE. Focus will be on academically supporting a primary-grade student with special needs, including the development of peer and social-emotional skills. District will provide additional training. Full time position for entire school year. Starting pay contingent upon experience and credentials. Position Starts Immediately.

Apply online at <http://www.stewardschool220.org/>
Call Steven Simpson, Supt./Principal at 815-396-2413 for more information.

Steward Elementary is an Award-Winning School & Recognized as an Outstanding Workplace in This Area!



RNI/SPEC

Dollars & Sense

Financial tips for young professionals

YOUNG adults confront something of a juggling act once they begin their professional lives. For many, that challenge begins with landing and starting a first job, arranging a payment plan for student loans, finding a place to live, and determining savings and personal finance goals. Although entering the workforce and taking a big step toward financial independence can be exciting, it also comes with financial responsibility.

Setting a strong financial foundation as early as possible helps establish long-term financial security. These tips can help young professionals manage their money more effectively.

- Take a money management course. Young professionals may be tired of heading to class or making the grade at this point in life, but educating oneself about some of the basic rules of personal finance can help bridge knowledge gaps in this arena. Many young adults have never been taught the basics of applying for credit and staying out of debt. If you’ve been riding your parents’ financial coattails throughout school, now is the time to learn more, whether it’s through an online course or reading up on the subject.
- Set SMART goals. The acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, and can serve as a roadmap to achieving various goals,



including those related to money. Develop a clear plan for your money, which can make it easier to budget and achieve savings-related goals.

- Minimize debt. The Education Data Initiative says university graduates owe an average of \$28,244 on student loans after they leave school, with a monthly payment between \$200 and \$299. Some graduates have even more debt and higher payments. Managing debt is vital to anyone’s finances. Create a debt repayment plan at the earliest

opportunity. With a “snowball” strategy, borrowers pay off their smallest debts first. Once a debt is paid off, the payment amount for that debt is then applied to the next smallest debt, gaining momentum with each payment. The “avalanche” approach involves paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first.

- Aim to pay with cash more often. Unless you can afford to pay off the balance in full every month, using credit cards a lot can contribute to debt accumulation. Lending-

Tree says that, as of September 2024, the average APR on all new card offers was 24.92 percent. Buying items with cash or debit will reduce the likelihood of spending what you don’t have, offers Investopedia.

- Set up an emergency fund. It might be challenging to set aside a lot of money right now when you have an entry-level position and some debt. But setting aside as little as \$1,000 for unexpected life events separate from your own personal savings can shield you from issues that arise from unexpected expenses.
- Participate in employer benefit plans.

Look for the various ways that your employer can help you save money. This may include participating in retirement plans (including those with employer contribution matches), health spending accounts, gym memberships, and additional opportunities.

- Start saving and investing now. According to SmartAsset, if you start investing \$150 a paycheck at age 25 and your investments have an average annualized return of 8 percent, after 40 years you’ll have about \$1.1 million in your account. Investing the same at age 35 means cutting nearly half of that total simply by procrastinating.

There are many ways young professionals can develop strong financial skills. Working with a certified financial planner also can help young professionals grow wealth over the course of their lives.



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

Learn about investment strategies that could potentially lower next year’s tax bill. Talk to a financial advisor today to learn how.



Jessica L. Morris
Financial Advisor
1214 Currency Ct
Rochelle, IL 61068
815-561-4341



FAP-19420-A-AD AECSPAD 24056602



Holcomb Bank

Member FDIC

Local Lenders . Local Decisions . Local Support

Rochelle | New Milford | Creston | Byron

Where Relationships Matter

815.562.3838 www.holcomb.bank Since 1892

LOCAL NEWS

HILLCREST: Priority 1A water main project finishes on time and under budget

From page 1

Once the village sends its final payment to contractor Elliott & Wood, Inc., the IEPA will then reimburse the village. Wright said the project came in on schedule and under budget.

The project had a \$1.2 million total budget and replaced mains along the full length of Scott Avenue, parts of Errett Road and Erickson Road from Scott Avenue to Jeffrey Avenue, and parts of Jeffrey Avenue from Errett Road to Erickson Road. Those streets are in the southern and oldest part of the village. The project will be financed with an IEPA loan that will involve 50 percent loan forgiveness. The debt service on the project will be \$35,000 per year over 20 years.

Streets

During the meeting,

Village President Rick Rhoads said that he plans to hold a meeting with Wright and others on what can be done in the future to improve the shape of the village's streets, along with the possible implementation of speed tables and speed bumps to deal with speeding cars.

"We don't want to put down a brand new street and then tear it up in a couple years when we put in new water mains or something," Rhoads said. "And we'll look at speed tables. I know what 20 miles per hour is, and people just fly by. I'd like to even look into getting a speed camera. It's getting to a point where people don't even care anymore. They speed and blow through stop signs and it's getting dangerous."

Wright said during the meeting that streets planned for Hillcrest's 2025 chip seal program

include Hillcrest Avenue, Jeffrey Avenue, Wayne Road, Errett Road, Erickson Road and Powers Road. The board will vote to approve funds for that in February and the estimated cost this year is \$48,000.

"Since we're going to be discussing potential changes with how we're addressing the roads, we'll have that approval wait until February," Wright said.

Lead

During the meeting, Wright said that Hillcrest still needs to work to identify about 50 percent of water lines running into homes in the village amid ongoing state-mandated lead service line inventory work. The village must check to see if water lines running into homes are possibly made of lead or galvanized pipe. The village recently sent out a survey to residents



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

During the meeting, Village President Rick Rhoads said that he plans to hold a meeting on what can be done in the future to improve the shape of the village's streets, along with the possible implementation of speed tables and speed bumps to deal with speeding cars.

to determine water line materials and may send another mailing and a representative to inspect unknown water lines in homes. The inventory has an April 2025 submission deadline. So far one resident has reported a lead line in Hillcrest, which

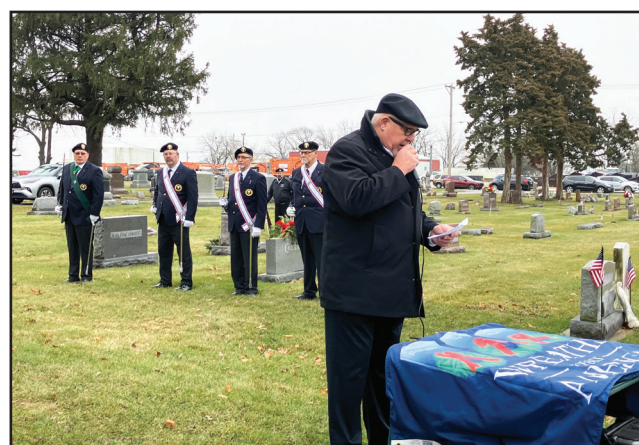
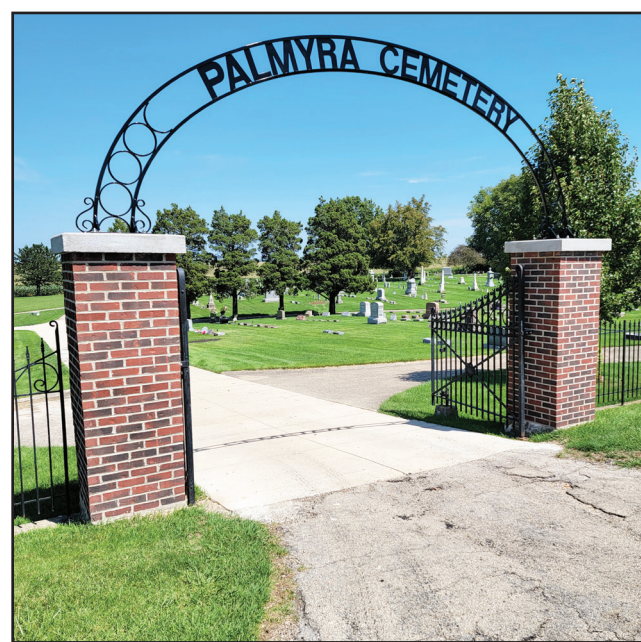
Wright has advised the village to confirm.

Roof

Rhoads said during the meeting that a new roof was recently installed on the Village Hall building. In October, the board unanimously approved a

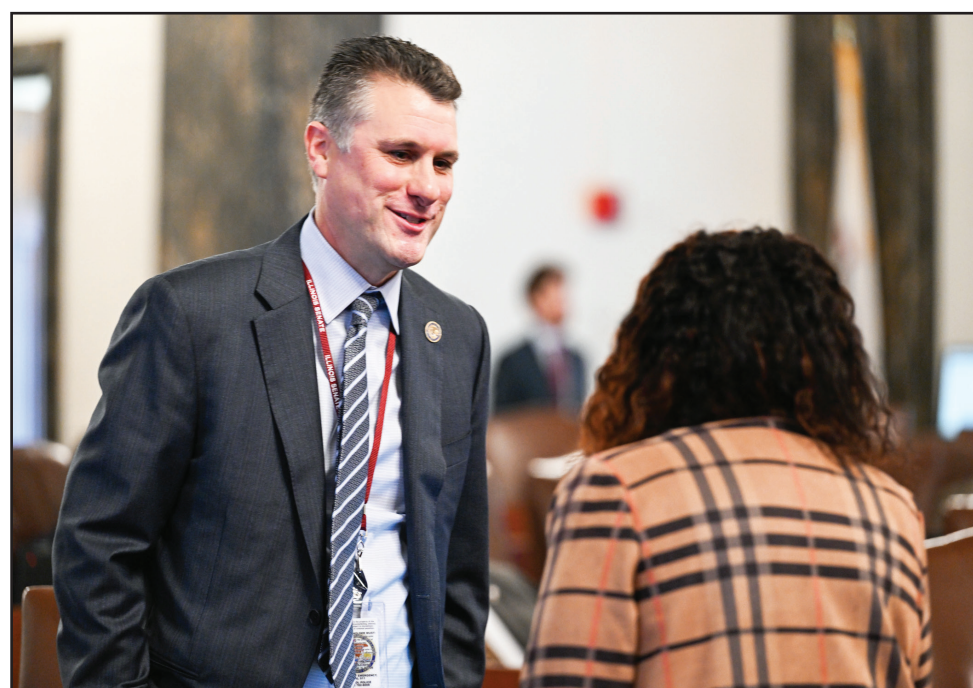
\$20,495 bid from Tip Top Roofing & Construction for the replacement of the roof at Village Hall.

"I thought for the size of the building and the quality of the shingles, it was a pretty good deal," Rhoads said. "They did a good job."



Wreaths Across America places over 700 wreaths, fundraising ongoing

As part of the national Wreaths Across America program, the Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution placed over 700 wreaths on Veterans' graves at Daysville, Lawnridge, St. Patrick's, Trinity, and Woodlawn cemeteries on Dec. 14 & 15. The Rochelle Chapter has added a sixth cemetery - Palmyra in Dixon, for 2025. The Wreaths across America organization is providing a two-for-one matching campaign for any wreaths ordered before 11 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. These wreaths will be placed this coming December. Forms are available at the Rochelle VFW and online at <https://wreathsassamerica.org/IL0136P>. Be sure to include the IL0136P at the end of the web address to sponsor wreaths at the cemeteries in our area supported by the Rochelle Chapter. (Courtesy photos)



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

State Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) was honored on the Senate Floor Jan. 7 following the passage of Senate Resolution 1348, which commended him for his two terms of service and congratulated him on his retirement from the Illinois General Assembly.

Stoller honored for his service in the Illinois Senate

SPRINGFIELD — State Sen. Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) was honored on the Senate Floor Jan. 7 following the passage of Senate Resolution 1348, which commended him for his two terms of service and congratulated him on his retirement from the Illinois General Assembly.

"It's been an honor of my life to work with my colleagues in the State Senate to make Illinois a better place to live. I wish them all success as they continue this important work," Stoller said.

Senate members on both sides of the aisle took time to honor Senator Stoller through several

floor speeches recognizing him for his financial and business background, his humbleness and dedication to his faith.

"One of the highlights of this role was being able to meet so many people, from all walks of life, throughout the 37th District. One thing we have an abundance of in Illinois,

is good people."

Senator Stoller was recognized for his legislative achievements including the passage of his innovative State and Local Tax (SALT) workaround bill, which provided significant relief to Illinois small businesses at no cost to the State of Illinois. He

also served as the key negotiator for the Senate Republicans on solving the \$4.5 billion deficit in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Stoller, who serves as CEO of Widmer Interiors in Peoria, plans to continue his community service in various roles in the Peoria area.

"It gives me comfort to know, as I leave this role that it will be in good hands with my successor, Li Arellano. I'm confident Li will do great things for the 37th District," concluded Senator Stoller.

Arellano was sworn in to represent the 37th Senate District on Jan. 8.

LOCAL NEWS

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On Jan. 3 at 2:12 p.m. Julie Haray, 48, of Rockford was cited for disregarding a stop sign and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 24 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 3 at 5:05 p.m. David Mollet, 57, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and cited for illegal transportation/possession of alcohol.

On Jan. 5 at 9:56 p.m. Jesus Rios Navarro, 29, of Rochelle was arrested for an Ogle County warrant for domestic battery and transferred.

On Jan. 7 at 12:15 a.m. Steven Gonzalez, 32, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration, suspended registration and

operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 7 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 6 at 9:50 p.m. Tyree A. Simmons Jr., 21, of Rochelle was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 7 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 7 at 2:59 p.m. Anjolie E. Hall, 19, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She was released on a notice to appear with a Jan. 24 Ogle County court date.

On Jan. 7 at 4:43 p.m. Anjolie E. Hall, 19, of Rochelle was arrested for an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Jan. 7 at 3:14 p.m. Jonas G. Stankevicius, 74, of Downers Grove was cited for improper left turn. He signed a promise

to comply and was given a Jan. 24 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 7 at 8:17 p.m. Larry E. Burns, 54, of Rochelle was cited for disregarding a stop sign and operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 7 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 8 at 7:21 p.m. Christopher Reed, 30, of Rochelle was arrested for possession of cocaine with intent to deliver and possession of MDMA with intent to manufacture/deliver. Reed was transferred.

On Jan. 8 at 7:50 p.m. a 14-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated assault and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

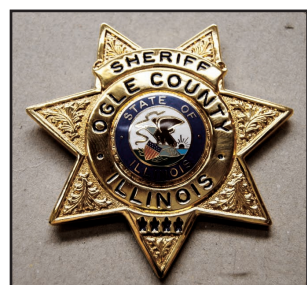
OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Jan. 7 at 2:11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of 5,000 North German Church Road. After a brief investigation, the driver, Douglas Keeling, 49, of Loves Park, was arrested for driving while license revoked. Keeling was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was processed and released on a notice to appear. Keeling was also cited for no splash guards.

On Jan. 9 at approximately 11:36 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Tyrone Long, 47, of Dixon under arrest for driving

while license suspended. Long was further issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Long was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date. The passenger in the vehicle, Nayiesha Edwards, 25, of Rochelle, was also placed under arrest for an active Lee County contempt of court warrant. Edwards was transported to the Ogle County jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 9 at approximately 3:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Edson Road. After



investigation, deputies placed Cartez Tate, 24, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license revoked. Tate was further issued a citation for speeding 21-25 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Tate was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was later released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

UW-Whitewater announces Dean's List

WHITEWATER, Wis. — The following local students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2024 fall semester:

Rochelle: Makenzie Liezert and Baylie Sutton.

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point

average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John Chenoweth, who serves as UW-Whitewater's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope

to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

The Registrar's Office reports 3,775 students were selected for the Dean's List for the fall semester. More than 11,700 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

Local students named to Marquette University's fall 2024 Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Rochelle: Ayah Sbeih, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 cred-

its for the fall 2024 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate

GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Six \$1,500 scholarships now open to Midwest high school seniors

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — High school seniors from Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin now have a chance to receive one of six college scholarships worth \$1,500.

Registration is open now through April 30, 2025. Parents are also able to register their student. High school seniors or their parents may register for the ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship at www.IowaStudentLoan.org.

IowaStudentLoan.org/Midwest. ISL Education Lending will award \$1,500 scholarships to six students whose names are randomly drawn after the registration period. There are no financial need, grade point average or class rank requirements. The ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship can be used at any eligible institution in the United States.

Registered participants also receive emails highlighting financial

literacy tips, such as the importance of early career and college planning and ways to reduce student loan indebtedness. "Student loan debt is a huge concern for new college students," said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of ISL Education Lending. "As a nonprofit, we provide tools and resources to help high school seniors plan so they can reduce the amount of debt they need to take on while

achieving their education goals.

Students sign up for a chance at a \$1,500 scholarship, and we take that opportunity to share information with them about our free resources." The ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship is open to legal U.S. citizens who are seniors at a high school in one of the qualifying states during the 2025-2026 school year and who intend to attend college, either virtually or physically, in fall 2025.

It is a no-purchase-required program, and full rules and details are available at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Midwest. Additional Resources Available: In addition to offering student loans, ISL Education Lending has other resources for families planning for

college and for students who intend to pursue advanced degrees. The Parent Handbook consists of valuable tips to help families of students in sixth through 12th grades prepare for success in college and other post-secondary options.

Parents of students in eighth through 12th grades can also sign up to receive twice-monthly emailed tips on academic, college and career planning through the Student Planning Pointers for Parents program. The College Funding Forecaster helps families understand the total cost of four years of college based on a freshman-year financial aid offer. Information about these resources is available at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/SmartBorrowing.

About ISL Education Lending: Established in 1979 as Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation, a private, nonprofit organization, ISL Education Lending helps students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. ISL has helped nearly 400,000 students pay for college, offering student loans and other products under the name ISL Education Lending. The organization, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, also provides an array of borrower benefits, financial literacy tools and community reinvestment programs, including support for free college planning services for students and their families. For more information, visit www.IowaStudentLoan.org.

Lincoln Manor

Owned and operated by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) offering apartment living for older adults in Rochelle and the surrounding communities.

- Secure Entry System
- Community room with kitchen
- Activities
- On-site coin operated laundry
- On-site management office
- Dependable 24/7 maintenance service
- On-site parking for residents

Full time Social Service Coordinator is available to assist residents

For more information, please call 815-562-1404

615 N. Lincoln Hwy.
Rochelle, IL 61068
TTY 847-390-1460

MANAGED BY:
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
www.LSSI.org

07262023

Ogle County EFSP listed to receive funds, applications available

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has been listed to receive federal appropriations from EFSP National Board Program in the amount of \$25,008 for phase 42. This amount is subject to change by the National EFSP National Board. The Ogle County EFSP Program is accepting grant letters of applica-

tion from agencies in Ogle County that provide emergency food and shelter. Eligible agencies must meet the following criteria; have the capability to provide emergency food and/or shelter services; propose to use the funds to supplement or expand an existing program and services; is a private nonprofit with a voluntary board or an agency of government; have an accounting system, and practices non-discrimination, have FEIN# and UEI#.

How to apply:

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for

Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds can visit www.uwogle.org or contact Ashley Richter, executive director of United Way of Ogle County at (815) 284-3339 for an application. Grant request applications are due by 4 p.m., Feb. 14, 2025 mailed to Ashley Richter at PO Box 382, Dixon, IL 61021 or emailed to arichter@uwleeco.org.

The local board is to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs run by local service organizations with services in Ogle County.

Report policy

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

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

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.

IN-COUNTY REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- \$139.99 for one year • \$79 for six months
- \$34.99 for three months • \$13.99 for one month

Call (815) 562-4171 or
Visit our website at
www.rochellenews-leader.com

HOW TO CONTACT US

News-Leader Main Switchboard	(815) 562-4171
General Manager	(815) 561-2124
Newsroom Staff Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor Russ Hodges, Sports	(815) 561-2151 rhodges@rochellenews-leader.com
To Place a Display Ad Chris Ackland	(815) 561-2153 cackland@rochellenews-leader.com
To Place a Legal Ad Mike Feltes	mfeltes@oglecountylife.com
To Place a Classified Ad Chris Ackland	(815) 561-2153
Subscriptions and Delivery Kelly White	(815) 562-4171 kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com

LOCAL NEWS

Encore! Mt. Morris art classes open for registration

MT. MORRIS — Encore! Mt. Morris and Highland Community College’s Lifelong Learning division have partnered up to offer four art classes in Mt. Morris this spring. Registration begins Jan. 6 (through March). Go to encoremtnorris.com (click HCC Art Classes button) to see additional information (locations, photos of projects, etc.). Local classes include:

Rug Hooking Basics, March 10 and 17 (two-session class), 6-8 p.m., \$29. Description: Discover basic rug hooking techniques while creating coasters! Explore samples of vibrant fiber art projects that use the same techniques. Materials include a 12 x 12” frame, hook, linen burlap, and wool strips. Instructions for building your own wool stash and additional supplies will

also be provided at no charge. Perfect for beginners! Thinking Outside the Watercolor Box, March 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$65. Description: Explore a creative blend of watercolor painting and embroidery! Start by painting spring tulips and daffodils, then embroider your artwork expressing your personal style. Your finished piece will fit an 8x10 frame.

Materials provided; bring watercolor brushes or borrow from the instructor. Bring lunch and a friend. Mosaic Masterpieces, March 22, 9:30-4:30 p.m., \$135. Description: Join us for a mosaic workshop where you’ll create a fish or school of fish on a small panel using glass, beads, china, and found objects. Learn basic design, cutting techniques, and how to use cement mortar as adhesive.

Bring your own found objects if desired. Beginners welcome. Felted Blooms, April 2 and 9 (two-session class), 6-8 p.m., \$65. Description: Experience the magic of wet felting, where water and friction bind dyed wool into beautiful creations! In the first week, create a bud vase; in the second, a 3-D flower. All supplies are included. Please bring a cookie sheet

with sides or a boot tray, plus two old bath towels. Join us for some creative fun!! Questions? mollyb@encoremtnorris.com or text 309-255-1096. Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris, IL into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in northwest Illinois. Learn more at EncoreMtMorris.com.

County residential electronics recycling collection event is Jan. 31

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and

a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Accepted items include all residential televisions

and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calcula-

tors, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven (7) large or bulky items per permit and one permit per coun-

ty household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic

recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled. For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday Worship & Children’s Church 10:00 A.M., Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers 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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visions of the past — and the War in Ukraine

A VISION of the past haunts those who argue against U.S. support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. It directs our attention to America's experiences in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and warns against entanglements in far-away military conflicts. We must indeed avoid the mistakes of those ill-conceived ventures.

A different vision is, however, a better fit for the situation in Ukraine, and its solution.

It takes us back to Europe in the 1930s. One word — appeasement — has ever since stood for the tragic events of that time. Many historians and political analysts — Christine Adams (time.com on April 16, 2024) for example — have detailed the similarities with today's crisis in Ukraine.

German Chancellor Adolf Hitler was pursuing an intensive build-up of military power and territorial expansion. He

turned his attention to neighboring Czechoslovakia in 1938, claiming that a large section of that country, called the Sudetenland, had been unjustly taken from Germany after its defeat in World War I. The Czechs resisted Hitler's demand to give it up but, without support from Britain and France, would suffer defeat in a war against its powerful neighbor.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain believed that Hitler had a point about the Sudetenland, and took him at his word that this would be his last demand. Mr. Chamberlain, along with his reluctant partner, France, signed a treaty in Munich, Germany on Sept. 30, 1938, surrendering the Sudetenland to Germany. The Czechoslovakians had no choice but to accept the loss of a big chunk of their territory.

The following March, Hitler broke his promise, and occupied the rest of

the country. In September, he took the next step by invading Poland, again using the excuse that he was protecting Germans living in a foreign country. It was clear by then that Hitler had to be stopped, and World War II was on.

Britain's and France's appeasement of Hitler has gone down in history as a case study in the futility of giving in to an aggressor in return for a promise not to do it again.

The similarities to today's conflict over Ukraine begin with Russian President Putin's claim of victimhood by the West, and the sympathetic ear he finds in some American politicians, including Donald Trump and his vice president. The Russian President, echoing Hitler's claim about Czechoslovakia, says that Ukraine was unjustly taken from Russia at the end of the Cold

War. Mr. Trump has responded, like Prime Minister Chamberlain at Munich, that Ukraine should give up some of its territory in exchange for peace with Russia, and he's criticized our policy of military aid to Ukraine.

The lesson from appeasement in 1930s Europe is that giving in to an aggressor can lead to a bigger, more expensive, more dangerous, and bloodier conflict further down the line. Germany, Italy, and Japan were intent on overpowering the Western Democracies and creating a new authoritarian world order in the 1930s. This time it's Russia, along with China and Iran, and there's little reason to think President Putin will stop if he wins in Ukraine.

The potential benefits from supporting

Ukraine far outweigh the cost. The 1.5% of the federal budget that we're spending is a tiny fraction of the massive losses of machinery and lives that Russia is suffering at the hands of the Ukrainians, according to Congress's House Committee on Foreign Affairs (foreignaffairs.house.gov on Nov. 15, 2023). The damage extends to its economy, which is finally beginning to weaken under the strain of maintaining the war.

Mary Glantz, with the United States Institute of Peace (usip.org, 3-11-24) reports that analysts say Russia is unlikely to be able to produce military equipment at the current rate beyond this year. Meanwhile, Russian power and influence around the world is declining as the war swallows up its military and economic resources, as reported by Amy Knight at the Wall Street Journal on Dec. 17, 2024. Un-

comfortable silence has replaced active support for the war among Russian citizens, according to Vadim Shtepa at the Eurasia Daily Monitor on Sept. 10, 2024.

Russia is increasingly vulnerable as the war drags on, but, if it can outlast the West and win in Ukraine, the consequences will extend around the world and into the future. It would encourage Russia to take the next step in its quest for dominance in Europe. China would likely interpret it as a green light for its threat to invade Taiwan, with the possibility of a world war to follow.

The next move is up to us, and the world is watching.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who has served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.

Ron Kern: New law on business ownership

A FEDERAL court has ordered a nationwide preliminary injunction halting enforcement of a law requiring the filing of private business ownership information with the federal government.

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) requires certain entities, including many farming operations and other small businesses, to report information about ownership to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The CTA was originally passed to combat money laundering and organized crime funding, through numerous actions, including Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing to FinCEN.

The filing requirement is expected to impact nearly 800,000 Illinois businesses, including over 5,000 farming operations in Illinois.

This will allow Congress and the Treasury Department time to adjust the

implementation of this law to remove the unfortunate impact on honest citizens and their businesses. The added time will give these decision-making authorities time to fix the negative impacts on an estimated 5,000 Illinois farms and address the original intent of the law to combat money laundering and organized crime funding.

This also helps prevent thousands of innocent people being impacted by the potential civil penalties and criminal penalties for simply not complying because of the confusion caused by the requirements.

The preliminary injunction was ordered by the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas. The court's decision was based on its assessment that the CTA and the Reporting Rule likely violate constitutional protections and are likely "outside of Congress's power."

All companies subject to the CTA's reporting

requirements are now exempt from filing beneficial ownership reports until further notice. However, FinCEN is likely to appeal the decision, which could change requirements. Those that meet FinCEN's requirements are encouraged to continue to monitor developments and seek guidance from trusted advisers to determine compliance.

Prior to the injunction, those who didn't report BOI to FinCEN by the Jan. 1, 2025, deadline or who failed to update information in the future could face civil (\$591 per day of violation) and criminal penalties (up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000).

The law has been clouded with uncertainty from farmers since it was passed, specifically concerning who is required to file and who will have

access to the confidential data.

According to the legislation, any small business that files an incorporating document with their state business authority, including corporations, limited partnerships or limited liability companies (LLCs) are required to report. Specifically, "small entities" are any company with less than 20 employees and under \$5 million in cash receipts.

Trade deficit
As the U.S. closes out fiscal year 2024 and looks toward 2025, farmers and ranchers are facing another year with an agricultural trade deficit.

The recent USDA Trade Outlook has U.S. ag trade running in the red for 2024 and 2025 and the updated forecast doesn't give us much better news.

Last week's USDA

trade outlook confirmed once again, that both fiscal years 2024 and 2025 are going to be record trade deficits in agricultural products. The fiscal year '24 deficit ended up being \$31.8 billion. And fiscal year '25, which started on October 1, is now forecasted at \$45.5 billion. Mexico and Canada are leading the charge as the top destinations for US export markets.

Currently there are multiple factors driving the negative forecast. Fiscal year 2025, the USDA currently projects the third year in a row of declining exports by value, which combined with continuously climbing imports, exasperates the ag trade deficit. Declining exports by value are mostly still on sliding commodity prices with volumes of bulk commodities projected to stay steady year over year. Of course, any projections made now are still educated guesses, as

we'll have to wait and see how the next administration's trade agenda shakes out.

A new report from the Department of Commerce shows the larger U.S. economy at a deficit as well.

The October trade data was published, and overall, the U.S. economy has a smaller trade deficit than forecasted in October, mostly on falling imports. Now, while overall exports fell in October, agricultural exports have had a year-to-date peak, which is pretty typical this time of year with large after-harvest exports.

"As history has repeatedly proven, one trade tariff begets another, then another - until you've got a full-blown trade war. No one ever wins, and consumers always get screwed." -Mark McKinnon

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



Lowell Harp



Ron Kern

How to contact government officials

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

IL Sen. Li Arellano Jr.
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

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

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

** Denotes Chairman/President*

Rochelle City Council

*John Bearrows	jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	kschaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes	bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga	rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso	bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Trisha Vaughn	tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net
Dave Casey	dcasey@d231.rochelle.net
Steve Builta	sbuilt@d231.rochelle.net
Ashley Jackson	ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White	swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
Jennifer Thompson	jthompson@d231.rochelle.net

Rochelle Township High School Board

*Tom Huddleston	tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas	bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton	jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Bobby Chadwick	bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org
Brent Ohlinger	brent.ohlinger@rthsd212.org
Laurie Pillen	laurie.pillen@rthsd212.org
Joel Thompson	joel.thompson@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Brent Carmichael	bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs	jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells	dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden	thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart	jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis	jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Kristi Gonzales	kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Austin Gillis	agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller	dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms	jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4

Jackie Ramsey	jramsey@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney	skenney@oglecounty.org
David Williams	dwilliams@oglecounty.org

Creston Village Board

*Tom Byro	tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman	skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman	
Reid Elliot	
Jennifer Payton	

Hillcrest Village Board

*Richard Rhoads	rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman	ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter	dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball	tball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta	jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski	ebraski@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township

Sue Messer	flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick	flaggtwpclerk@rochelle.net
Susan Rothenberger	assessor@rochelle.net
Scott Seebach	scottseebach@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

Lance Noggle	noggle62@gmail.com
Eric Gruben	egruben@comcast.net
Susan Hager	susanhager303@comcast.net
Jim Kenney	jimk@rocketsupply.com

Flagg-Rochelle Library

Jaqueline Dickow	dickow@comcast.net
*Teresa Haggstad	haggstads@comcast.net
Kelly Johnson	kellyjohnson0927@yahoo.com
Lanning Nicoloff	nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera	alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge	nit1prl22@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip	doobs12@comcast.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

LaHood sworn into 119th Congress

WASHINGTON D.C. — On Jan. 3, Congressman Darin LaHood (R-IL-16) issued the following statement after taking the oath of office to represent Illinois' 16th Congressional District. This will be Rep. LaHood's fifth full term in Congress, following his first election in 2015.

"I am humbled and honored to represent Illinois' 16th Congressional District in the 119th Congress. I will continue to provide high-quality constituent services and advocate for conservative Midwestern

values. I look forward to working with all my colleagues in Congress and President Trump to deliver on the promises made to the American people. "I was proud to continue my support for Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House. Together, we will strengthen our economy, secure our border, restore American energy independence, and return to American peace through strength. I look forward to representing the people of central and northwestern Illinois for another two years!"



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Jan. 3, Congressman Darin LaHood (R-IL-16) issued the following statement after taking the oath of office to represent Illinois' 16th Congressional District.

Local Girl Scouts receive \$9,775 grant from CFNIL

NORTHERN ILLINOIS — Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) received a generous \$9,775 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. Funds from this grant will be used

to support Youth Mental Health First Aide Training for volunteers who interact with Girl Scout members. In addition to volunteer training, Girl Scout members will learn about five different pillars

of health and wellness and embark on a wellness journey that will serve them their entire life.

GSNI would like to thank the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for joining in the

Girl Scout Mission where our future community leaders have a space all their own, where their interests, their experience, and their leadership—today and tomorrow—is the top priority!

Rajeshree Vikrant Kudale named to Trine University President's List

ANGOLA, Ind. — Rajeshree Vikrant Kudale of Rochelle, a Trine University student, was named to the President's List for the Fall 2024 term. Kudale is majoring

in BS in Information Systems. To earn President's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.75-4.0.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 13
Judy Messer

Jan. 20
Hailey Losoya

Jan. 25
Nikki Greenfield
Ashton Arwood

Jan. 14
Jeannie O'Dell Boeck

Jan. 21
Les & Martha Miller (48th anniversary)

Jan. 28
Peggy Futrell

Jan. 15
Kami South
Trenton South

Jan. 23
Odessa Waters

Jan. 29
Nayelia Ramirez

Jan. 19
Kevin South

Jan. 24
Terry Dodillet
Kelly Arnold

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



Dec. 5 - From the Heart, \$25

Dec. 6 - Martha Phillips, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 7 - Dwayne Rangel, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 8 - Jane Quitno, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 9 - Celeste Canfield, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 10 - Calvin Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 11 - Cindy Kentner, Byron, \$25

Dec. 12 - Kayla McGrach, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 13 - Jessica Mueller, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 14 - Charles Bigelow, Davis Junction, \$25

Dec. 15 - Steve Meiners, Dixon, \$50

Dec. 16 - Ella Gilbert, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 17 - Luna Berkeley, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 18 - Marisa Whaley, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 19 - Mike Golt, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 20 - Ken Moss, Dixon, \$25

Dec. 21 - RACF, \$25

Dec. 22 - Julie Laws, Rochelle, \$50

Dec. 23 - John Conley, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 24 - Margaret Taylor, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 25 - From the Heart, \$1,000

Dec. 26 - Dr. Lonn Brander, DeKalb, \$25

Dec. 27 - Rosie Arteaga, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 28 - RACF, \$25

Dec. 29 - Gene Stoll, Rochelle, \$50

Dec. 30 - Tamara Morse, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 31 - Brian Vanderheyden, Sycamore, \$25

QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

CURRENT JACKPOT: \$16,220

DRAWINGS THURSDAYS

7 P.M. AT LUNA IN ROCHELLE

Coffee Break

MAGIC MAZE ● — DROP

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: DROP FROM THE EYE

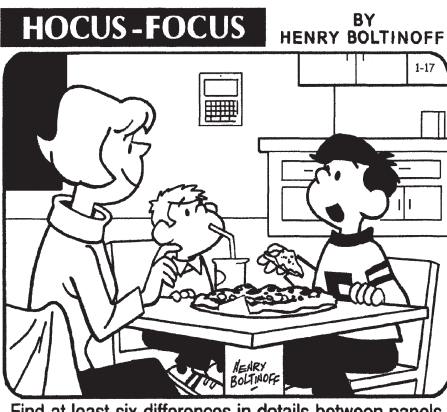
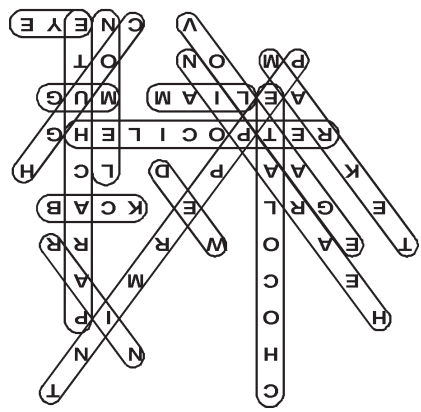
Back
Chocolate
Cough
Dew

Eye
Gum
Hear a pin
Helicopter

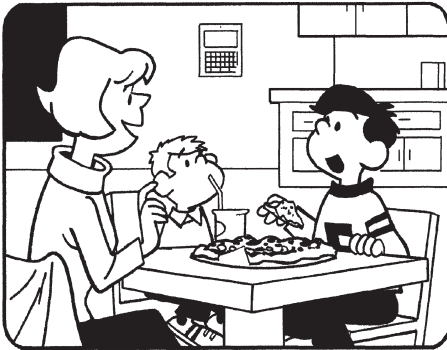
Lemon
Mail
Market
Parachute

Peppermint
Rain
Voltage

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fingers are not showing. 2. Counter is not as wide. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Mouth is open. 5. Straw is different. 6. Table is thicker.

Super Crossword

JOINED FOR A PURPOSE

ACROSS

1 Wish-granting spirits
7 Greek vowel
12 Records file
20 Punch combo
21 Splotchy GI garb
22 He played Al Bundy on TV
23 Planners of campus events
25 Often-pickled red vegetable
26 Atop, in poems
27 Lena of "The Reader"
28 Latin "I love"
30 Patron saint of sailors
31 Brotherhood
39 Capital of a Mexico state
40 Hard to find
41 Burdened
42 Travail
44 Political campaigners for a particular issue
50 Wonderment
53 Dragon in "The Hobbit"
57 Suffix with racket
58 Not at all tight

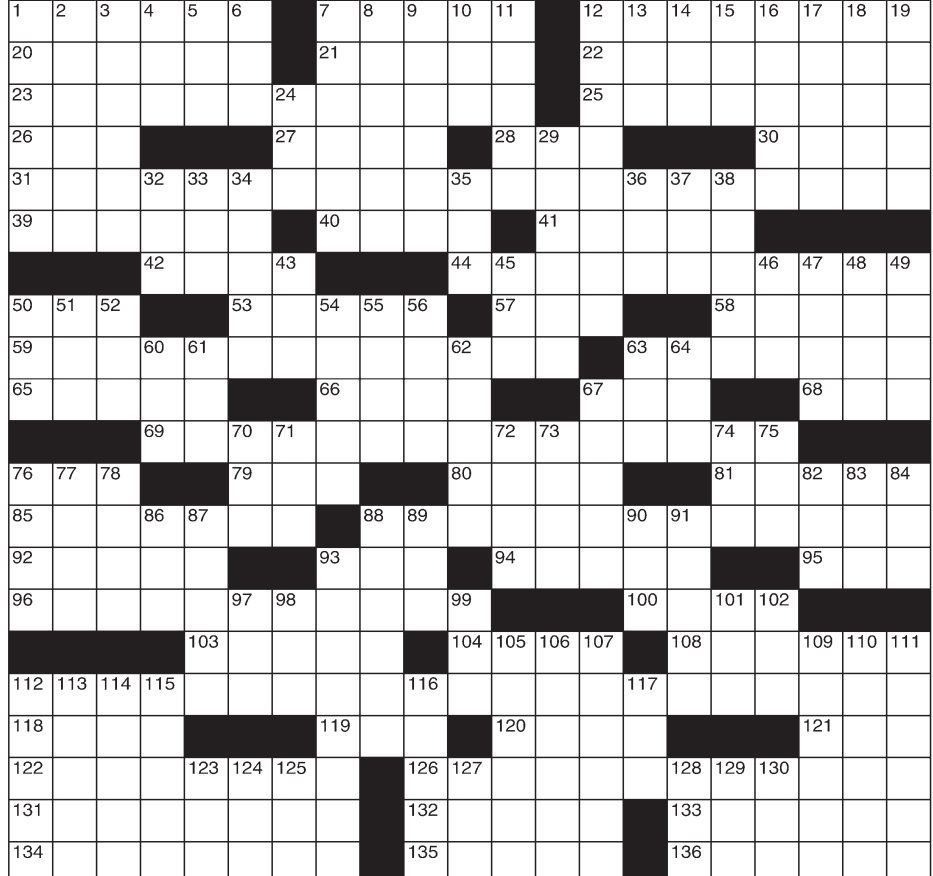
59 Medieval protectors of trade
63 Icebox
65 Boise's state
66 Gel in a lab
67 By means of
68 Claimed psychic gift
69 Regulators of a moral code
76 Bath fixture
79 Printer fluid
80 Years on end
81 More devoted
85 Surfs the internet, e.g.
88 Fighters of animal cruelty
92 Madison Ave. contact
93 Sea, in Paris
94 Corrective eye surgery
95 Pitching star
96 It consists of 13-player football teams
100 Aspirin target
103 Japanese alternative to massage
104 "Carpe —!"
108 Newspaper of the USSR
112 Managers of houses in a subdivision

118 SpaceX founder Musk
119 Formed a lap
120 "Leave — the pros"
121 Anna of fashion
122 It has Cut and Copy commands
126 Apt playing card for this puzzle's theme?
131 Company VIP
132 Barrymore or Waters of "Pinky"
133 Consignment shop deal
134 "I have no idea!"
135 — Dame
136 A whole lot

9 One-sharp musical key
10 Sticky gunk
11 Hit — (run into some trouble)
12 Urbane
13 Fruity drink
14 Foot part
15 Busy crawler
16 Artsy cap
17 Garlicky mayonnaise
18 Replay speed, briefly
19 "Your Song" singer John
24 Whole lot
29 Ice cream drink
32 "Tsk!"
33 — friendly
34 She was Mrs. Gorbachev
35 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
36 Nuptial oath
37 Buddhism branch
38 Point of view
43 K-O linkup
45 Toon frame
46 Fish eggs
47 Seep out
48 Welds
49 Crime doer
50 French bud
51 Join nuptially
52 Pitching stat
54 Sharp as —

55 Popular Aussie boots
56 Avocado dip, for short
60 Fidel's cohort
61 Sweltering
62 "... sad and dreary everywhere —": Stephen Foster
63 Suitable
64 Disloyal sort
67 Ivy and kudzu
70 Go in haste
71 Electees, e.g.
72 Diner offering
73 "— Lisa"
74 PC key
75 Gin inventor
76 Ski lift type
77 Pakistani language
78 Tennis' Björn
82 Positive vote
83 And so on: Abbr.
84 Dark loaf
86 Fly trapper
87 Jazz's — Gyra
88 Mecca-to-Medina flight
89 Country east of Arg.
90 Little drink
91 Giraffe's kin
93 Be certain

97 Actor Ayres
98 A, in Berlin
99 Self-help author
101 Lyric-penning
102 Ballplayer of D.C., in brief
105 Apple computer camera
106 Bible book before Job
107 Mark with multicolored spots
109 Optical
110 Exact look-alike
111 Licorice-like seeds
112 Listens to
113 Classic song
114 Actress
115 PC key
116 Dutch painter
117 Dove's call
123 Roman 1,200
124 Biblical verb suffix
125 — de plume
127 Figure skater
128 To's partner
129 Company VIP
130 Timothy Leary's drug



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County 2024 4-H Fair announces Livestock Project winners

OREGON — The Ogle County 4-H Fair was held July 31-Aug. 4 at the Ogle County Fairgrounds in Oregon, where 689 4-H livestock exhibits were judged on and showcased by Ogle County's 284 4-H members in 13 clubs.

4-H fairs are held nationally to allow youth to exhibit a product that has resulted from an in-depth yearlong study in an area of interest to them. As part of the exhibition, non-animal exhibitors meet one-on-one with project judges to receive feedback about their displays and gather ideas for future project expansion.

At the Ogle County 4-H Fair, competition exists at two levels. 4-H'ers first compete against themselves for exhibit ratings.

Every exhibit—animal or non-animal—is assigned a rating of blue, red, or white. Blue ratings are awarded to youth with entries that meet class guidelines and represent high-quality work. White ratings are assigned when entries do not meet class guidelines or exhibits are of low quality. Red ribbons are assigned for exhibits falling somewhere in between.

Once ratings have been assigned, all blue-rating award winners compete against one another to become class champions or overall division winners. Some blue-awarded non-animal exhibits are also selected each year to represent Ogle County 4-H at the Illinois State Fair.

Many thanks go to the hundreds of 4-H leaders, helpers, fair committee members, judges, auctioneers, and supporters who make this annual educational extravaganza possible!

Beef Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Jaxon Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). **Champion Intermediate Showmanship:** Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Angus Steer:** Mazy Queckboerner, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Polo). **Reserve Champion Angus Steer:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Hereford Steer:** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). **Reserve Champion Hereford Steer:** Robbie Thurow, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). **Reserve Champion Shorthorn Steer:** Beckett Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion All Other Breeds Steer:** Allissa Martin, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Steer:** Boone Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Market Heifer:** Cian Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). **Champion Crossbred Market Steer:** Wyatt Swanson, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Champion Crossbred Steer:** Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Grand Champion Market Beef:** Wyatt Swanson, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef:** Allissa Martin, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon).

Champion Bred & Owned Steer All Breeds: Wyatt Swanson, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Champion Bred & Owned Steer All Breeds:** Cian Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). **Champion Angus Female:** Brooke Allen, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club. **Reserve Champion Angus Female:** Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). **Champion Hereford Female:** Alex Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club. **Reserve Champion Hereford Female:** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). **Champion All Other Breeds Female:** Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Female:** Brooke Allen, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Champion Crossbred Female:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Reserve Champion Crossbred Female:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Grand Champion Female Overall:** Brooke Allen, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Reserve Grand Champion Female Overall:** Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Pair of Steers:** Wyatt Swanson, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Champion Pair of Steers:** Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Pair of Heifers:** Brooke Allen, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Reserve Champion Pair of Heifers:** Jaxon Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). **Champion Bred & Owned Heifer:** Alex Grygiel, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Champion Bred & Owned Heifer:** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). **Rate of Gain:** Mazy Queckboerner, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Polo). **Quality Beef 2000: (1st)** Skyler Holmes, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo); **(2nd)** Mazy Queckboerner, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Polo); **(3rd)** Addison Yordy, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River); **(4th)** Wyatt Swanson, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Oregon); **(5th)** Skylar Holmes, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo); **(6th)** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana); **(7th)** Mazy Queckboerner, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Polo); **(8th)** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo); **(9th)** Max Thurow, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction); **(10th)** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Dr. John Clayton 4-H Herdsman Award:** Allissa Martin, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana).

Dairy Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Intermediate Showmanship:** Tessa Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Champion Purebred Female:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Champion Purebred Female:** Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Grade Female:** Pyper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon).



Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club and Katelyn Bowers, Blackhawk Crossing at the 4-H Sheep Show at the Ogle County 4-H Fair.

gon). **Supreme Champion Female Overall Breeds:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Supreme Champion Female Overall Breeds:** Emily Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon).

Goat Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Intermediate Showmanship:** Jenna Alexander, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Braden Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **DAIRY GOATS:** **Champion Dairy Purebred Dry Doe:** Jenna Alexander, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Reserve Champion Dairy Purebred Dry Doe:** Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Dairy Purebred Milker:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Champion Dairy Purebred Milker:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Champion Dairy Goat Purebred Dam & Daughter:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Champion Dairy Goat Purebred Dam & Daughter:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Dairy Crossbred Dry Doe:** Jenna Alexander, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Reserve Champion Dairy Crossbred Dry Doe:** Bethany Akins, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Polo). **Grand Champion Dairy Dry Doe:** Jenna Alexander, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Grand Champion Dairy Milker:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Milker:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Grand Champion Dairy Goat Dam & Daughter:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Goat Dam & Daughter:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Grand Champion Horse at Halter:** Adalyn Bocker, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Reserve Champion Horse at Halter:** Kenzie Hongsermeier, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Junior Grand Champion Performance Horse:** Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Junior Grand Champion Performance Horse:** Ad-

Valley). **Grand Champion Meat Goat Doe:** Hailey Clark, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Doe:** Bernice Zanonai, Ogle Jolly 4-H (Stillman Valley). **Grand Champion Meat Goat Dam & Daughter:** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). **Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Dam & Daughter:** Noah Janesak, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club (Davis Junction). **Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether:** Caelen Janesak, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club (Davis Junction). **Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether:** Katelyn Rockwood, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). **PYGMY GOATS:** **Grand Champion Pygmy Doe Kid:** Alexandra Sarver, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Doe Kid:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Grand Champion Pygmy Doe:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Doe:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Dam & Daughter:** Ellie Schier, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Dam & Daughter:** Alexandra Sarver, Carefree 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **OTHER CLASSES:** **Grand Champion Pet Goat:** Jase Truckenbrod, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Grand Champion Pet Goat:** Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston).

Horse Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Adalyn Bocker, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Reserve Champion Junior Showmanship:** Addison Yordy, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Grand Champion Horse at Halter:** Adalyn Bocker, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Reserve Champion Horse at Halter:** Kenzie Hongsermeier, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Junior Grand Champion Performance Horse:** Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Junior Grand Champion Performance Horse:** Ad-

dison Yordy, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Junior Grand Champion Performance Horse: Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Junior Grand Champion Horsemanship:** Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Junior Grand Champion Horsemanship:** Addison Yordy, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Senior Grand Champion Horsemanship:** Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Junior Equine Sportsmanship Award:** Piper Johnson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Rochelle). **Junior Performance High Point Award:** Alyse Rogers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Chana). **Senior Performance High Point Award:** Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Junior Horse Speed Award:** Addison Yordy, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Senior Horse Speed Award:** Molly Ziegler, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon).

Llama/Alpaca Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Harmony Coy, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Champion Intermediate Showmanship:** Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club (Davis Junction). **Grand Champion Obstacle:** Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club (Davis Junction). **Reserve Grand Champion Obstacle:** Harmony Coy, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Grand Champion Public Relations:** Harmony Coy, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Mt. Morris). **Reserve Grand Champion Public Relations:** Elizabeth Kennedy, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club (Davis Junction).

Poultry Department

Champion Junior Showmanship: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Champion Intermediate Showmanship:** Kate Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Champion Senior Showmanship:** Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Large Fowl Classes:** **Top of Class American Hen:** Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class American Cock:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Top of Class American Pullet:** Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Grand Champion American:** Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Reserve Grand Champion**

American: Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Leaf River). **Top of Class Asiatic Hen:** Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class Asiatic Cock:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Top of Class Asiatic Pullet:** Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Grand Champion Asiatic:** Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). **Reserve Grand Champion Asiatic:** Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Top of Class English Hen:** Grace Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Top of Class English Pullet:** Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). **Top of Class English Cockerel:** Mason Zabran, Carefree 4-H Club (Byron). **Grand Champion English:** Grace Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Reserve Grand Champion English:** Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). **Top of Class Mediterranean Hen:** Kate Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Top of Class Mediterranean Pullet:** Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). **Grand Champion Mediterranean:** Kate Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Reserve Grand Champion Mediterranean:** Trent Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). **Top of Class Continental Hen:** Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class Continental Cock:** Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class Continental Pullet:** Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Grand Champion Continental:** Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). **Reserve Grand Champion Continental:** Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class Other Standard Breeds Hen:** Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). **Top of Class Other Standard Breeds Cock:** Paityn VanBriesen, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Top of Class Other Standard Breeds Pullet:** Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). **Top of Class Cockerel:** Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley).

See 4-H page 9

LOCAL NEWS

4-H: Ogle County livestock project winners announced

From page 8

Grand Champion Other Standard Breeds: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Grand Champion Other Standard Breeds: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Bantam Classes: Top of Class All Other Bantam Hen: Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class All Other Bantam Cock: Isacc Williams, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class All Other Bantam Pullet: Landon Zabran, Carefree 4-H Club (Byron). Top of Class Feather Legged Bantam Hen: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Feather Legged Bantam Cock: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Feather Legged Bantam Pullet: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Feather Legged Bantam Cock: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Reserve Grand Champion Feather Legged Bantam: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Egg Production & Meat Pen Classes: Top of Class Production/Commercial/Hybrid Female: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). Grand Champion Production Pen: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). Reserve Grand Champion Production Pen: Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Leaf River). Top of Class Roaster Market Pen of 3: Carson Conderman, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Byron). Grand Champion Meat Pen: Carson Conderman, By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club (Byron). Reserve Grand Champion Meat Pen: Kailee Miller, Carefree 4-H Club (Leaf River). Duck Classes: Top of Class Heavy Weight Old Hen: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class Heavy Weight Old Drake: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Heavy Weight Young Hen: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Medium Weight Old Hen: Issac Williams, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class Medium Weight Old Drake: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Medium Weight Young Hen: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Light Weight

Old Hen: Isaiah Akins, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Polo). Top of Class Light Weight Old Drake: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Bantam Ducks Old Hen: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Bantam Ducks Old Drake: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Bantam Ducks Young Hen: Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Bantam Ducks Young Drake: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Grand Champion Duck: Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Reserve Grand Champion Duck: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Geese Classes: Top of Class Heavy Weight Old Hen: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class Heavy Weight Old Gander: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class Heavy Weight Young Hen: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Top of Class Heavy Weight Young Gander: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Light Weight Young Hen: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Grand Champion Goose: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Reserve Grand Champion Goose: Grant Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (Forreston). Turkey Classes: Top of Class Turkey Old Tom: Bella Hammond, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Turkey Young Hen: Elliot Miller, Carefree 4-H Club (Leaf River). Top of Class Turkey Young Tom: Jaxon Miller, Carefree 4-H Club (Leaf River). Grand Champion Turkey: Bella Hammond, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Oregon). Reserve Grand Champion Turkey: Elliot Miller, Carefree 4-H Club (Leaf River). Champion Pair of Other Fowl: Jaxon Miller, Carefree 4-H Club (Leaf River). Reserve Champion Pair of Other Fowl: Mason Zabran, Carefree 4-H Club (Byron). Champion Hatched Pen: Wesley Eckerstrom, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Champion Backyard Bird: Jenna Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). Reserve Champion Backyard Bird: Trent Heller, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Dixon). Champion Costume Class: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Reserve Champion Costume Class: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class White Chicken Eggs: Kate Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Brown Chicken Eggs: Kate Costello, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class All Other Eggs: Bella Hammond, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Oregon). Grand Champion Egg Exhibit: Bella Hammond, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club

(Oregon). Reserve Grand Champion Egg Exhibit: Kate Costello, Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Top of Class Decorated Eggs (Youth age 8-11 by 9/1/2023): Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Decorated Eggs (Youth age 15-18 by 9/1/2023): Hayden Harvey, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Grand Champion Decorated Egg Exhibit: Hayden Harvey, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Reserve Grand Champion Decorated Egg Exhibit: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Best of Show: Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon).

Rabbit Department
Champion Jr. Showmanship: Emily Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Champion Intermediate Showmanship: Tessa Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Sr. Showmanship: Aylivia Danekas, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). Reserve Champion Market Pen: Lena Janoski, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Champion Production Class: Aylivia Danekas, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). Reserve Champion Production Class: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Jr. Doe Meat Breed: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Jr. Buck Meat Breed: Lena Janoski, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Top of Class Sr. Doe Meat Breed: Piper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Buck Meat Breed: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Grand Champion Meat Pen: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Grand Reserve Champion Meat Pen: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Dressed Rabbit: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Reserve Champion Dressed Rabbit: Tessa Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Jr. Doe Mini Rex & Rex: Aylivia Danekas, Carefree 4-H Club (Polo). Top of Class Jr. Buck Mini Rex & Rex: Harper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Doe Mini Rex & Rex: Mason Zabran, Carefree 4-H Club (Byron). Top of Class Sr. Buck Mini Rex & Rex: Piper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Jr. Doe All Other Breeds: Emily Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Jr. Buck All Other Breeds: Kodi Hubbard, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Top of Class Sr. Doe All Other Breeds: Harper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Buck All Other Breeds: Aylivia Danekas, Pine Creek Valley 4-H Club (Polo). Top of Class Jr. Doe Lop:

Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Jr. Buck Lop: Cora Mickley, Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club (Rochelle). Top of Class Sr. Doe Lop: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Buck Lop: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Reserve Grand Champion Fancy Rabbit: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Jr. Buck Crossbred: Pyper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Doe Crossbred: Alyvia Danekas, Carefree 4-H Club (Polo). Top of Class Sr. Buck Crossbred: Anna Marquardt, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit: Pyper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Reserve Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit: Hunter Kresmske, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Jr. Buck Pet Bunny Class: Hunter Kresmske, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). Top of Class Sr. Doe Pet Bunny Class: Aubrey Kusnierz, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Top of Class Sr. Buck Pet Bunny Class: Madeline Kusnierz, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Grand Champion Pet Bunny: Madeline Kusnierz, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Reserve Grand Champion Pet Bunny: Hunter Kresmske, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Costume Class: Piper Bruns, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Best Reserved of Show: Ashley Harbaugh, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana).

Sheep Department
Champion Suffolk Junior Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Suffolk Junior Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Champion Suffolk Yearling Ewe: Nolan Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Suffolk Yearling Ewe: Nolan Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Grand Champion Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Grand Champion Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Grand Champion Pair of Lambs: Kaitlyn Adams,

Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Grand Champion Overall Female: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Grand Champion Overall Female: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). COMMERCIAL CLASSES: Champion Commercial Senior Ewe Lamb: Luke Lichty, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Champion Commercial Junior Ewe Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Commercial Junior Ewe Lamb: Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Champion Pair of Commercial Lambs: Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Grand Champion Commercial Ewe: Luke Lichty, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Ewe: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). MARKET LAMB CLASSES: Champion Light Weight Southdown Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Light Weight Southdown Market Lamb: Katelyn Bowers, Blackhawk Crossing 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Hampshire Market Lamb: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Champion Hampshire Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Champion Shropshire Market Lamb: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Champion Shropshire Market Lamb: Aubrey Janoski, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Champion Montadale Market Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Champion Any Other Wool Breed Market Lamb: Nolan Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Whiteface Market Lamb: Kaitlyn Bowers, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Blackface Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Blackface Market Lamb: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Champion Light Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Emily Buttel, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Reserve Champion Light Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Ty Horn, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Rochelle). Champion Heavy Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Ty Horn, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Rochelle). Grand Champion Overall Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Reserve Grand Champion Overall Market Lamb: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Champion Pair

of White-Face Market Lambs: Delaney Byers, Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club (Forreston). Champion Pair of Black-Face Market Lambs: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Champion Pair of Black-Face Market Lambs: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Grand Champion Pair of Market Lambs: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Market Lambs: Blakelynn Swanson, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). SHOWMANSHIP: Champion Junior Showmanship: Nolan Adams, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Stillman Valley). Champion Intermediate Showmanship: Ty Horn, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Rochelle). Champion Senior Showmanship: Aubree Janoski, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction).

Swine Department
Champion Junior Showmanship: Emree Wiltfang, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Champion Intermediate Showmanship: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Champion Senior Showmanship: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Grand Champion Breeding Gilt: Grady Poliska, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Gilt: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). 3rd Place Breeding Gilt: Erallynn Wiltfang, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). 4th Place Breeding Gilt: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). 5th Place Breeding Gilt: Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Grand Champion Market Swine: Gwen Hall, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine: Grady Poliska, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). 3rd Place Market Swine: Cooper Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). 4th Place Market Swine: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). 5th Place Market Swine: Erallynn Wiltfang, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Grand Champion Pair of Barrows: Max Wiltfang, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Barrows: Boone Alderks, Carefree 4-H Club (Chana). Grand Champion Pair of Gilts: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Gilts: Levi Eden, Carefree 4-H Club (Oregon). Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Gilt: Grady Poliska, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Davis Junction). Reserve Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Gilt: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center). Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Barrow: Max Wiltfang, Leaf River Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Leaf River). Reserve Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Barrow: Ayden Alderks, Ogle Jolly 4-H Club (Monroe Center).

SPORTS

NIU Football

Huskies accept invitation to enter Mountain West Conference

NIU football team to leave Mid-American Conference, begin competing in new league in 2026

DEKALB – Northern Illinois University has accepted an invitation for the Huskies to join the Mountain West Conference as a football only member beginning in 2026, NIU and the Mountain West announced Tuesday (Jan. 7). The announcement came following a meeting of the NIU Board of Trustees.

“This is a truly exciting day for Northern Illinois University, for the NIU football program and for Huskie fans throughout the country,” said NIU President Lisa C. Freeman. “We are extremely pleased to accept the invitation for the Huskie football program to join a prestigious group of universities to compete in the Mountain West Conference. This move will open new opportunities for our student-athletes, expand the reach and strengthen the national brand of Huskie Football as they represent NIU and compete for championships the hard way, and the right way.”

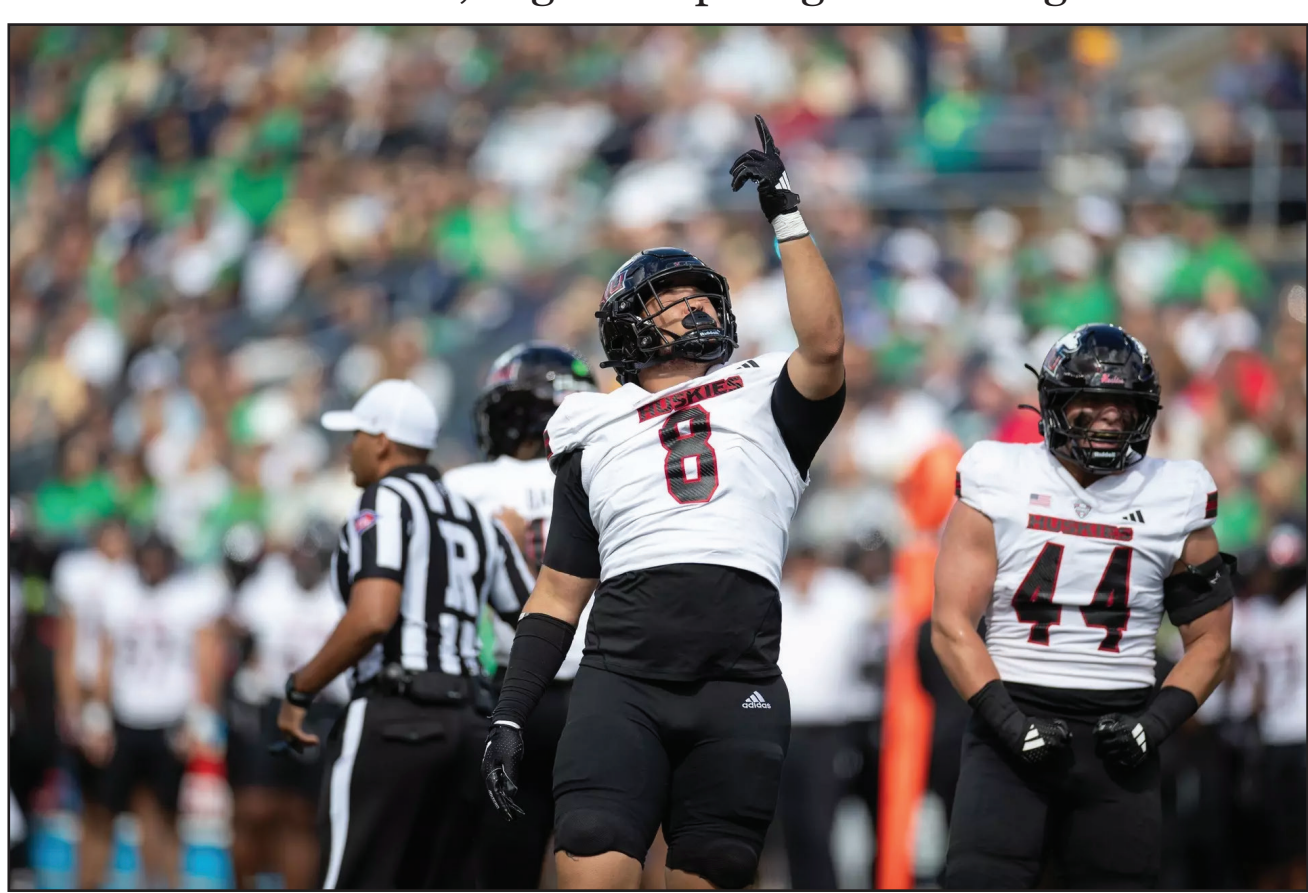
NIU, which is celebrating its 125th season of intercollegiate athletics in 2024-25, is the winningest Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) program in Illinois this century. The Huskies rank among the Top 30 FBS programs in the country in wins over the last 15 seasons, with five conference championships, 11 winning seasons and 11 bowl appearances, including in 2024 when NIU posted its second consecutive eight-win season, capped by a victory over Fresno State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. “What a great opportunity for NIU Athletics as we expand our horizons, adapt to this new national model of college athletics and prepare to start a new chapter in the history of NIU Football,” said Sean T. Frazier, NIU Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation. “We are grateful to Mountain West Commissioner Gloria

Nevarez and the membership of the Mountain West Conference for this invitation and to NIU President Lisa Freeman for her support as we navigated this process. The impact of this move to the Mountain West is going to be felt throughout our entire department and university. Our fans are going to enjoy the heightened competition, the media coverage and the additional opportunities the relationship with this conference and these great institutions provides.”

The 2026 MW football season will feature the United States Air Force Academy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, University of Nevada, Reno, University of New Mexico, Northern Illinois University, San José State University, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of Texas, El Paso and the University of Wyoming.

“We are excited about adding the Northern Illinois University football program to the Mountain West,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. “In evaluating NIU, the MW Board of Directors and Directors of Athletics carefully considered and were impressed by its history of football success and its commitment to academic excellence. NIU shares the Mountain West’s vision of balancing academic performance with athletic competitiveness and prioritizing opportunities for an outstanding student-athlete experience both on and off the playing field.”

Since moving to the “Major College” (now Football Bowl Subdivision) ranks in 1969, NIU has spent 39 seasons (1975-85, 1997-2024) – and the last 18 consecutive – in the Mid-American Conference. The Huskies were members of the Big West Conference in football from 1993-95 and operated as an independent



(PHOTO BY SCOTT WALSTROM/NIU)

from 1986-92 and again in 1996.

“What a great opportunity for NIU football,” said NIU head coach Thomas Hammock, who completed his sixth year as head coach at his alma mater in 2024. “Thank you to the Mountain West, to Sean [Frazier], President Freeman and the Board for making this commitment to our program. I think this move and the interest in NIU Football is a testament to what we’ve done in the past and what we have the capacity to do in the future. As both the head coach and as an alum, it’s extremely important to me that NIU football is able to compete at the highest level for conference and national championships. Moving to the Mountain West, especially with all the changes we’re seeing in college football right now, sets NIU up to do that.”

NIU Football to the Mountain West – Questions and Answers

When will NIU Football begin play in the Mountain West Conference?

NIU will officially join the Mountain West as a

football only member on July 1, 2026, and begin competition for the 2026 football season.

What teams will NIU compete against in the Mountain West?

In 2026, the nine football teams in the Mountain West will be: Air Force, Hawai‘i, Nevada, New Mexico, NIU, San Jose State, UNLV, UTEP and Wyoming.

Why is NIU Football leaving the MAC for the Mountain West beginning in 2026 and why now?

Over the past several years, monumental changes have come to college athletics. The NCAA House case settlement alone will result in revenue sharing with student-athletes and increased roster (scholarship) numbers. Add the transfer portal and the ability of student-athletes to profit off of Name, Image, Likeness (NIL), and everything from recruiting to the way players are developed to what schools can provide, has changed. In FBS football, the expanded College Football Playoff beginning this year, is going to continue to influence the way that teams and

athletic departments operate.

In order to remain relevant and competitive in the current environment, it became imperative to examine – and to determine how to maximize every revenue stream to ensure the sustainability – and the level of excellence – for all Huskie programs. Administrators were challenged to think outside the box and to identify ways in which NIU could ensure that its student-athletes continue to excel academically and athletically. The move to the Mountain West provides multiple opportunities and benefits to our program and athletes.

During that process and once there was interest from the Mountain West in Huskie Football, we felt very comfortable with the resources that are involved. We feel very comfortable that there will be more resources for all of our programs. The financial considerations and how that will benefit NIU was a key component as we talk about sustainability in this new college athletics environment.

What made NIU and NIU Football attractive

to the Mountain West at this time?

Huskie Football is a proven commodity with a national brand, built on conference championships and “Boneyard Wins” over highly resourced (i.e. “power conference”) teams. The record of success of NIU Football this century speaks for itself with 19 winning seasons, more wins than any Division I program in the state and a team that ranks among the Top 30 FBS programs in the country in wins over the last 15 seasons.

Why does a model with football competing in the Mountain West, while NIU’s other programs compete in a different league make sense?

This is something that has been done by the service academies, specifically Army West Point and Navy, in the past and we’ve seen the advantages this can have. Football, with its limited number of conference games – and fewer road games with less time spent on the road – has more flexibility to play in a league like the Mountain West.

See NIU page 12

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs take home road wins over Morris, Sandwich

Rochelle remains unbeaten in Interstate 8, moves to 18-6 overall this season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — Pins came left and right for the Rochelle Hubs as they looked to remain unbeaten in the Interstate 8 during their varsity wrestling match against Morris on Thursday evening.

The Hubs recorded 10 falls, including seven in a row to close out the match, during their 60-17 win over Morris. Rochelle returned to the mat for a nonconference battle against Sandwich, notching three falls and two technical falls to beat the Indians 53-24. Rochelle (18-6, 3-0 Interstate 8) will travel east for the XLIX Sycamore Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Morris

Senior Kaiden Morris opened Rochelle’s dual against Morris with a victory, notching two takedowns and two near falls before securing a first-period fall over Troy Bauer at 215 pounds. Sophomore Adam Cobos

followed with a decisive fall over Logan Boroczka at 285 pounds, using only 21 seconds to give the Hubs a 12-0 lead in the match. Morris claimed its first win at 106 pounds, where Jay Hughes scored a 20-2 technical fall over Hub freshman A.J. Milan.

Morris brought itself within three points after Parker Barry outlasted junior Freddie Hernandez for a 3-1 decision at 113 pounds. Leading 12-9, Rochelle answered with back-to-back falls at 120 pounds and 126 pounds, where freshman Aidan Lopez pinned Elian Mondragon at the 57-second mark and junior Keagan Albers turned a reversal into a pin against Aidyn Taylor.

Morris picked up a key win at 132 pounds, making the score 21-12 after Brock Claypool edged senior Xavier Villalobos for a 7-5 decision after a third-period takedown. Rochelle and Morris exchanged pins over the next two weights, with junior Deegan Schabacker securing a fall over

Michael Carvotta at 138 pounds for the Hubs and Carter Skoff hanging on in the final moments of the first period to lock down a fall over Rochelle junior Frank Nasca at 144 pounds.

Sophomore Josh Lassiter extended the Hub lead with a hard-fought pin at 150 pounds, compiling three takedowns and a near fall before earning the fall over Andrew Peterson with just six seconds left in the bout. Junior Brenden Voight and senior Grant Gensler followed with pins at 157 pounds and 165 pounds to seal Rochelle’s dual victory. Voight turned a 7-0 lead into a fall against Jordan Martinez and Gensler turned a 7-0 lead into a fall over Jeffery Martinez.

The Hubs closed out their match with pins at 175 pounds and 190 pounds. Senior Matthew Lynn used a third-period takedown to secure a fall over Aiden Whennen before junior Roman Villalobos built a 7-0 lead before recording a first-period fall in his match against

Brian Haish.

Sandwich

The Indians claimed the first bout in their match against the Hubs, taking a 6-0 lead after Luis Murillo’s second-period fall against Adam Cobos at 285 pounds. Rochelle responded with three straight victories starting at 106 pounds, where A.J. Milan capitalized on two reversals to earn a 7-2 decision over Hunter Whitecotton. Freddie Hernandez followed with a strong effort against Dom Urbanski at 113 pounds, totaling three takedowns and a near fall in a 14-1 major decision.

Aidan Lopez put the Hubs ahead 12-6 after dominating Leo Harbacek at 120 pounds, compiling four near falls during his 18-0 technical fall. Sandwich took the next two bouts, with Jakob Gruca and Colten Stone earning falls over Keagan Albers and sophomore Eliud Lombardia at 126 and 132 pounds. Junior Deegan Schabacker notched a second-period fall against



Jaxson Blanchard at 138 pounds, taking a 3-2 lead on a first-period takedown before turning top position into a pin.

Frank Nasca gave the Hubs a 24-18 lead with a win at 144 pounds, reversing and pinning Jacob Cassie. Sandwich evened the score after Josh Kotalik scored a third-period takedown and fall over Josh Lassiter at 150 pounds. Rochelle won five straight bouts to close out the match, building a large lead after Brenden Voight’s fall over Josh Lehman

at 157 pounds as well as forfeit victories for Grant Gensler and Matthew Lynn at 165 pounds and 175 pounds.

Roman Villalobos kept the Hubs rolling with a dominant showing at 190 pounds, totaling three takedowns and a near fall before locking down a third-period fall over Kaden Clevenger. Kaiden Morris ended the dual with a 19-3 technical fall over Devon Blanchard at 215 pounds, stringing together four takedowns, one near fall and one reversal.

SPORTS

NIU: Huskies accept invitation to enter Mountain West Conference for football

From page 10

The rest of NIU's teams are able to play a more regional schedule, develop/keep strong regional rivalries, travel in a way that makes sense for those teams and also allows fans of those teams to easily travel to support them on the road.

Where will NIU's sports other than football compete in 2026?

NIU is committed to making the best decision for ALL student-athletes

and programs moving forward. We are in the MAC for the next 18 months and we're going to take our time, and actively review all of the options. There are multiple options available to us with several of the regionally based multi-sport conferences, including continuing discussions with the MAC. We want to be thorough; we want to ensure we have the right fit for NIU and Huskie student-athletes. At the same time, now that the Mountain West move

is finalized, making sure that all our sports are taken care of is a priority. We do believe this "national" model is going to work and be a great fit for NIU.

NIU left the MAC once before and returned, what is the reasoning behind leaving this time and how is it different?

NIU has had a proud and long-standing relationship with the Mid-American Conference dating back to 1975 and, after leaving the league for a 12-year

period in the mid-80s, has spent the last 18 consecutive years competing in the MAC. When NIU left the MAC in 1985, it was a very different reality as the changes that have occurred in college athletics (House settlement, transfer portal, NIL, expanded CFP) over the past three years have completely changed the landscape. How those changes affect NIU, the MAC and every student-athlete were the major factors in making this move.

Why is NIU Athletics launching Huskies Ascend at this time?

NIU Athletics is entering a new era in our history at a time of significant change in the landscape of college athletics. Increasing support for NIU Football from donors, alumni, football alumni and the local community while preparing to make this transition is important to maintaining the championship tradition of NIU Football and to set the program up for

future success in the Mountain West. Huskies Ascend will address specific areas like the locker room, facilities and equipment, the 1899 Club, and involve exploring additional revenue streams, to help guarantee the sustainability of NIU Football with more details provided in the coming weeks. From a moment to a movement to the mountaintop, we hope that all Huskies will choose to be a part of Huskies Ascend.

RTHS Girls Basketball

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Fresh/Soph Lady Hubs battle Sterling on Tuesday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hubs faced Sterling in a fresh/soph basketball matchup on Tuesday, defeating the Golden Warriors 55-16. Above are action shots of several Lady Hubs including freshmen Carol Carpenter (top left), Gianna Olguin (top right), Preslee Sanders (bottom left) and Mackenzie Bybee (bottom right).

COMMUNITY BOARD

Need to get the word out about a product or service you offer? Give us a call at 815-561-2153. We can reach over 9,000 homes!

Gutters, Roofing & Siding

THEISEN ROOFING *Free Estimates!*

ROOFING
SIDING
GUTTERS

CONTACT US
815-758-8998
THEISENROOFING@COMCAST.NET

Family owned & operated for over 50 years

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Concrete

Bruns Construction, Inc.

• Residential & Commercial Concrete
• Additions

FREE ESTIMATES!

Tim & Roger Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

815-561-0099
Free Estimates • Fully Insured
www.brunsconstructioninc.com



Heating & Air Conditioning

HULL HVAC & Household Services

Furnaces - Air Conditioners - Boilers
Duct Cleaning - Water Heaters

Precision Furnace Clean & Check
\$85.00
Includes FREE carbon monoxide test

24/7 Emergency Service
815-561-6551
www.HullHVAC.com

Storage Sheds

Rocky Ridge Structures

FREE Sales Rep. Evaluation At Your Site

We Deliver! From Our Lot To Your Site

We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Competitive Pricing
- Many Options Available
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

Advertise Here

What Service Do You Offer?

815-561-2153
Call Christel to be included on our Service Directory.



The businesses featured on this page are
“Hubs Super Fans”
They proudly support our local athletes and students.



Please show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

Home & auto.
Easy & affordable.

Call me for a quote today



State Farm
Huber Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
Shane Huber, Agent

221 E. Route 38
Rochelle, IL 60660-2903
Bus: 815-562-7078
shane@shanehuber.com
www.shanehuber.com

Shane Huber is a licensed insurance agent for State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, IL.
Shane Huber is a licensed insurance agent for State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, IL.
Shane Huber is a licensed insurance agent for State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, IL.

Local People Providing Local Service



Rochelle
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Water • Waste Water
Electric • Communications

Phone: 815-562-4155 333 Lincoln Highway
Fax: 815-562-5861 Rochelle, IL

www.rmu.net

HS2016



CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOAN

Loans For All Your Needs
Auto • Home Improvement • Vacation

Jami Rees • Tonia Holland

815★561★4035!

310 Eagle Drive, Rochelle
All loans subject to our normal credit requirements and policies.

HS2016



MORTON BUILDINGS

If you can dream it, we can build it.



Rochelle Sales Office • Hwy. 251 N. • 877-613-3050

HSF2016



Rochelle
Community Hospital

Your Local Healthcare Resource.

900 N. 2nd Street, Rochelle
815-562-2181
www.rochellehospital.com

HSF2017



MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N
Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-8792
www.meyersfurniture.com



Bruns
Construction, Inc.

• Residential
• Commercial
• Concrete
• Additions

815-561-0099
Free Estimates • Fully Insured
www.brunsconstructioninc.com

Tim & Roger Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)

Rochelle Township High School seniors Colton Czekala (left) and Grant Gensler (right) were selected for the 2025 Illinois High School Shrine Game this summer.

Czekala, Gensler selected for 2025 Illinois High School Shrine Game

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Two Rochelle Township High School football players will represent the Hubs at the 51st Annual Illinois High School Shrine Game this summer. Seniors Colton Czekala and Grant Gensler were each selected to compete in the annual all-star event, which will be held at Tucci Stadium on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, June 21, 2025.

Gensler and Czekala will reunite with RTHS head coach Kyle Kissack, who was selected to attend the event as a coach, for one final high school football game. The game caps off a full week of activities that include the Shriners of Illinois cook-out and the Central Illinois Miracle League softball game.

“It’s a good feeling that we can put Rochelle out there a bit more and show how hard we work and how good our coaching staff is,” Gensler said. “Our success stands out and what I enjoyed most was the group of guys we had. . . I’ve learned a lot from coach Kissack. I’ve learned how to be humble and stay focused on what I need to be focused on and limiting distractions.”

“It’s a very big game with a lot of great players,” Czekala added. “I’m happy that I can be picked for this game and I’m excited for the whole experience, not just the football. . . Coach Kissack coaches up techniques in practice, but it’s more about learning life lessons and that’s why I love him so much. The morals he preaches in practice and meetings are things that translate into life outside of sports. He’s one of my favorite coaches. He teaches us how to take things head on.”

Both Czekala and Gensler were All-Conference honorees in the Interstate 8 this season. Czekala started at center while contributing on the defensive line over each of the last two seasons, leading an offense that rushed for over 4,200 yards and 60 touchdowns in 2024. Czekala, who won the RTHS Ellis Sportsmanship Award this season, is a multi-sport athlete who was a two-time All-Interstate 8 honoree during his varsity football career with the Hubs.

“The main things I’ll take away from this season are the small things and the little moments,” Czekala said. “We practiced for two-and-a-half or three hours every day during the summer and it gets tiring, but when I’m with the guys I’ve been playing with since the fifth grade, it makes that a lot easier. Being able to bond with them for one more year was my biggest takeaway from this year. . . The wins we picked up throughout the season are something I really enjoyed.”

Gensler finished his career at RTHS as a three-time All-Interstate 8 honoree and a two-time IHSFCA All-State honoree. Gensler, who started at tailback for two seasons and free safety for three seasons, rushed for 1,485 yards and 25 touchdowns while adding 26 tackles and two interceptions on defense. Rochelle’s Hackett MVP Award winner this season, Gensler totaled 2,759 rushing yards and 39 touchdowns as well as 76 tackles and seven interceptions at RTHS.

“We were all dedicated and all-in for this season and I think that’s why we were able to have so much success,” Gensler said. “I’ll always remember playing with the guys and I’ll never forget the time I spent with them on the field during practice, after school and over the summer.”



Alfano's
Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant

Taste The **TRADITION**
Taste The **DIFFERENCE**

2024 BEST OF ROCHELLE

- Best Pizza • Pasta
- Italian Restaurant
- Appetizer/small plate
- Family Restaurant • Local Business

Pizza • Pastas
Sandwiches • Salads and Lots More!

Dine-In • Carry Out • Home Delivery
1115 TURKINGTON TERRACE, ROCHELLE
815-562-3312



JOHNSON TRACTOR

SALES • PARTS • SERVICE

200 Steward Road
800.262.1680
www.johnsontractor.com

HS2023

"Proudly Serving the Rochelle Area Since 1945"



Berg-Johnson Electric

FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed and Insured

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

24 Hour Emergency Service
815-562-4937
500 Cleveland Avenue

Busy Schedule?
Leave the cooking to us.

- Large menu of foods
- Rochelle's famous chicken by the dinner or bucket
- Hand dipped ice cream (16 flavors)



COUNTRY SCHOOL
DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT

251 N. ROCHELLE • 562-6039

HSF2016



Stillman BANK

GO HUBS!



Earning Your Trust Since 1882
www.stillmanbank.com Member FDIC



ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Lic# 055-013999



Rochelle Chiropractic Clinic
Dr. Chad M. Pillar



227 E. Rt 38 • Rochelle, IL
815-562-8706
www.rochellechiropractic.com
Now Accepting New Patients!

WIN BIG
GO HUBS!



SPORTS



SHRINE GAME BOUND

Colton Czekala and Grant Gensler were selected for the 2025 IL Shrine Game.

See page 13 for more details

RTHS Girls Basketball

Rochelle falls to Golden Warriors

Bright leads RTHS with 10 points in 61-29 defeat against Sterling on Tuesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hubs played tough zone defense to slow down the Sterling Golden Warriors during the opening quarter of their varsity basketball matchup Tuesday night.

Although Sterling took the early lead, Rochelle made scoring points difficult for the Golden Warriors, who struggled to sink shots from the perimeter and failed to get the ball inside to their 6-foot-3 center Madison Austin, who was limited to just two first-quarter points. Deflections and turnovers were crucial for the Lady Hubs, who only trailed 13-9 entering the second quarter.

Sterling eventually got warm from the outside, however, as both Jaelynn James and Joslynn James buried a pair of 3-pointers to fuel a 28-point second quarter for the Golden Warriors, who took a 41-20 halftime lead and ultimately cruised for a 61-29 win over the Lady Hubs. Jaelynn and Joslynn combined for 28 points to lead the Sterling offense, while junior guard Carmela Bright totaled a team-high 10 points for Rochelle (5-13, 0-4 Interstate 8) in the loss Tuesday.

“We had really good movement and rotations, especially in the first quarter,” head coach Jon Gehm said. “We got some deflections and that’s the key for us on defense. When we’re playing with active hands and getting deflections, we’re a different team because we have some length. We tend to play with our hands down, but when we have our hands up in those passing lanes, we’re a tough team to score on. We got tired as the game went on and they wore us down.”

Junior guard Rose Luxton gave the Lady Hubs a brief spark in the second quarter, knocking down a pair of catch-and-shoot triples while Bright added a 3-pointer of her own. On the other end, Sterling continued its efforts to move the ball inside to Austin, who managed to draw multiple fouls with her 6-foot-3 frame. With Joslynn and Jaelynn James draining shots from outside and Austin working inside, Sterling managed to build a 21-point half-time lead.

“Rose has stepped for us over the last couple of games,” Gehm said. “She’s made some shots for us and she’s played with good defensive energy. She’s in good positions on defense and she brings a bit of spark



Senior Kendyl Darby drives with her left hand during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Sterling on Tuesday. Darby finished with five points in the team’s 61-29 loss to the Golden Warriors.

to our offense. I’m really happy with her effort and her confidence.”

Rochelle remained committed to its zone defense in the third quarter, but the Lady Hubs were unable to contain Austin, as the Illinois State commit put home three shots and converted

an old-fashioned 3-point play to run her scoring total up to 18 points. As Sterling wore down Rochelle’s defense, the Lady Hubs also ran out of steam on offense, scoring just nine points over the third and fourth quarters. Rochelle will face LaSalle-Peru on

the road Friday evening. “Sterling is relentless,” Gehm said. “They’re a really good team that will do a lot of damage in February. They move the ball very well on offense and they have shooters from all different angles. They have a 6-foot-3 center

down low, which is impressive, and their man-to-man defensive pressure in the full court is really tough to score on. We had some problems getting the ball across half court at times and their second effort on defense was also really good.”

RTHS Girls Basketball



JV Lady Hubs battle Sterling on Tuesday evening
The Rochelle Lady Hubs faced Sterling in a JV basketball matchup on Tuesday, falling to the Golden Warriors 39-25. Above are action shots of several Lady Hubs including junior Rose Luxton (top left) as well as sophomores Vivian Novak (top right), Dylan Etes (bottom left) and freshman Natalie Foster (bottom right).

