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ROCHELLE

# News-Leader

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**Vol. 105 • No. 87**

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, FEB. 23, 2025

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**Hubs win over  
Winnebago**

The Rochelle Hubs beat Winnebago 74-68 in varsity basketball on Tuesday evening. **See SPORTS**

**WEATHER**

SUNDAY

HIGH LOW

36 22

MONDAY

HIGH LOW

46 32

TUESDAY

HIGH LOW

47 33

WEDNESDAY

HIGH LOW

45 32

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**OBITUARIES**

NONE

**INSERTS**

NONE

**INSIDE**

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Opinion.....6  
Community.....7



## RTHS Job Fair set for March 13

### Students to take ACT exams in April

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School will hold its annual Job Fair on March 13. RTHS Principal Dr. Chris Lewis discussed the job fair, which will be held in partnership with the City of Rochelle and the Kishwaukee College Career Office, during the RTHS board meeting Tuesday.

Lewis said that 20 vendors have signed up to be at the job fair, which will open to senior and junior students during school hours before opening to the public from 12-2 p.m. While RTHS had held career fairs before the COVID-19 pandemic, Lewis said the school deviated to a job fair due to the job market and number of employment opportunities available in the community.

“It really became a collaborative effort with the city and Kish,” Lewis said. “Our vision here is to prepare students for tomorrow and sometimes, the kids aren’t quite sure what they want to do yet. We’re trying to provide opportunities for our kids to have different



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)  
**Rochelle Township High School will hold its annual Job Fair on March 13.**

jobs and careers because many of them are undecided at this point. We have some kids who need summer jobs or want to enter the workforce right away and this allows for our kids to start preparing themselves.”

Junior and senior students at RTHS will attend a soft skills/job interview assembly during the school day before their dismissal to the job fair. Seniors will assemble during seventh and eighth-hour periods, while juniors will assemble during the ninth-hour period. Last year’s job fair at RTHS featured 35 local employers including industry, commercial, retail, banks and credit unions, healthcare, daycare, service organizations, national brands and small businesses.

“I’m sure there will be some kids who find summer jobs,” Lewis said. “The conversations our kids have during the job fair could impact them one, two, three, four or even 10 years down the road. It’s exposing them to a lot of different careers and it could even help the kids figure out what they don’t want to like and that’s OK too. The kids can narrow down their list.”

**See RTHS BOARD page 5**



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)  
**At its monthly Wednesday, the Hillcrest Board of Trustees held a public hearing for and unanimously approved a special use permit for the new owner of the former Masterbend building at 221 Powers Road.**

## Special use permit approved for fiber business in former Masterbend building

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**HILLCREST** — At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees held a public hearing for and unanimously approved a special use permit for the new owner of the former Masterbend building at 221 Powers Road.

The building is now owned by Amit Patel of Syndeo Networks, a technology company that provides fiber (internet) access to residences and

businesses. The special use permit the board approved will allow the property to be used as a wireless communication facility. The zoning of the property did not need to be changed for the use. Patel said the facility will be used for office space and truck and fiber line storage.

Renovations are underway inside the building and a privacy fence will be added to the property along with parking lot renovations.

**See HILLCREST pg 2**

## Electrical aggregation resolution approved

### Special use permit for community solar project approved Tuesday

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**OREGON** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board approved an electrical aggregation resolution by a vote of 20-0. The resolution is for county residents and small businesses not in a township or city to have the opportunity to pay a power rate agreed to by the county if they so choose.

The meeting saw a presentation by Mike Mudge of Rock River Energy Services, which gets a commission by providing the energy consultation service for the county and doing the bidding process. The resolution the board approved consisted of a bid from MC Squared (MC2) for a 22-month term at 8.95 cents per kilowatt hour. The county received one other bid. It chose the 22-month term due to uncertainty in the power market. The county’s previous agreement was for 6.612 cents



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)  
**At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board approved an electrical aggregation resolution by a vote of 20-0. The resolution is for county residents and small businesses not in a township or city to have the opportunity to pay a power rate agreed to by the county if they so choose.**

per kilowatt hour from October 2024-May 2025. The county can terminate the new agreement at any time it chooses.

Mudge’s presentation said

power rates have risen across the country due to increases in demand for power, and early retirement of fossil fuel plants and the new production of renewable energy

generation decreasing supply and not keeping up with the demand for data centers and electric vehicles.

**See COUNTY BOARD pg 3**

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# LOCAL NEWS



State Sen. Li Arellano J.r (R-Dixon) extends his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making Valentine's Day extra special for senior citizens across the 37th Senate District.

## Arellano Jr. delivers handmade Valentines Cards to area seniors

**DIXON** — State Sen. Li Arellano J.r (R-Dixon) extends his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making Valentine's Day extra special for senior citizens across the 37th Senate District.

"Our inaugural Valentines for Seniors Card Drive was a tremendous success, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who donated their time and supplies to create heartfelt cards for our seniors," Arellano Jr. said. "Because of your generosity, we were able to visit residents in long-term care facilities and nursing homes, spreading warmth and joy during this special week."

Thanks to the generosity of students, scout groups, churches, and community members, two thousand handmade Valentine's cards were delivered to nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, and other long-term care centers. This outpouring of kindness helped brighten the day for many seniors, reminding them they are valued and appreciated.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

## HILLCREST: Village to update plan for needed large-scale water improvements

From page 1

"I'm really happy to see that building getting filled up again quickly," Village President Rick Rhoads said. "We're all for bringing in another business."

Patel attended the meeting Wednesday and said Syndeo Networks will be adding infrastructure to provide internet service to Hillcrest residents and businesses, similar to the infrastructure Frontier added around Hillcrest recently.

### Water system

During her monthly report, Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman said the village will need to update its plan for large-scale water system improvements to keep in compliance with IEPA. The plan would include a new well, water treatment plant, and an elevated tank. The village has been in need

of those improvements to eventually meet IEPA requirements following a recent nitrate level violation with one of its current wells.

The village needs to re-submit its plan to be in line to receive potential funds from the IEPA in the future, including \$500,000 in principal forgiveness for a new well and another nearly \$500,000 in funding. The village would abandon its current well with the nitrate issue. Hillcrest currently has two wells. Wright said she would provide more details on the plan update next month.

### Solar

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the board heard from Jim Rodriguez, who represents a planned solar farm (Rochelle Solar) within Hillcrest limits.

Rodriguez said his client, Enel Green Power, will need another extension of its special use permit as it has seen delays in working on an interconnection agreement and infrastructure with ComEd.

Rodriguez said the project could break ground in 2026 or 2027. The project will see a solar field installation north and south of Twombly Road. The village originally started working with Enel Green Power on a special use permit in April 2021.

### Insurance

The village unanimously approved its yearly insurance policy for \$17,068 through the Illinois County Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) program during the meeting. Adam Heal of Query Insurance provided the village with that quote along with another through Houston Casualty that was \$3,743 more

expensive.

### Roads

During the meeting, the board unanimously approved its 2025 chip seal program that includes Hillcrest Avenue, Jeffrey Avenue, Wayne Road from Scott Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue, Errett Road from Scott Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue, Erickson Road from Scott Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue, and Powers Road from Scott Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue. \$48,000 is the estimated cost.

The board also discussed the possibility of resurfacing a portion or all of Hillcrest Avenue. Wright provided estimates and said resurfacing the full portion would cost \$290,000. Resurfacing Hillcrest Avenue from River Road to Errett Road would cost \$175,000 total and the rest would be sealcoated. The reverse option of resurfacing from

Illinois Route 251 to Errett Road would cost \$135,000 and the rest would be sealcoated.

The board will consider those estimates for potential approval in the future as it looks at slowly resurfacing its roads year over year within its chip seal program.

### Lead

Wright said during the meeting that the village plans to offer in-home inspections during the first two weeks of March as Hillcrest works to identify a remaining 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 inventory has an April 2025 submission deadline.

A village representative

will go door-to-door and attempt to schedule visits with homes that have not reported the material their service line is made up of.

### Bowling alley

Village Building Inspector Aaron Moore said during the meeting that recent demolition work has been done at 201 and 203 Powers Road at the former bowling alley after the ownership obtained another permit after the previous permit expired.

"They are moving along and have a March 1 completion date," Moore said. "It should be graded by then, but with all the frozen ground it could be difficult to have that done. It's looking quite a bit better. They are getting it worked on."

The owners of the property have told the board in the past that they have plans for constructing buildings with storage units that could be utilized by businesses.

**Luis Cano**  
RCH Registered Dietician

**Janelle Stein**  
RCH Registered Dietician

## Take Charge of Tomorrow

No Place Like It

**Rochelle Community Hospital**  
Prediabetes Program  
March 3 - May 19

815-561-0009  
rochellehospital.com

## RCH will be offering 12 free diabetes prevention classes

**ROCHELLE** — Did you know more than one in three adults have prediabetes? Prediabetes significantly raises the risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes and other health concerns. Making small

lifestyle changes during this stage has been shown to reduce your risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes by up to 50%.

RCH Registered Dietitians, Janelle Stein and Luis Cano are offering a series of

classes called Lifestyle Balance, targeting those with prediabetes. These classes have been modified from the original year-long CDC led National Prediabetes Prevention Program and condensed into 12 weeks.

"Our goal is to provide you with useful tools to help you make healthy lifestyle changes in order to prevent or delay Type 2 Diabetes," Stein and Cano said.

Classes will be held every Monday from 1-2:30 p.m. starting March 3 and ending May 19 at Rochelle Community Hospital in the Multi-Specialty Clinic Conference Room. Take charge of your health and join us every Monday for 12 weeks. Please call 815-561-0009 to register for this free program. Registrations for these classes are open to the public.

For more information on these classes and other services provided by Rochelle Community Hospital, visit rochellehospital.com.

## 100th Birthday

Norma Peters is turning 100 on March 2nd, and we will be celebrating this incredible milestone with family & close friends! Known for her kindness and warmth, Norma has touched so many lives. Let's make her day special by sending birthday cards and well wishes to:

**Norma Peters**  
PO Box 399  
Rochelle, IL 61068

Let's fill her mailbox with love and make this birthday unforgettable! Thank you for being part of the celebration!

# LOCAL NEWS

## COUNTY BOARD: Special use permit for Kabbage Patch LLC approved

From page 1

The PJM (ComEd grid operator) auction saw a spike for 2025-2026 with a higher cost per megawatt, Mudge said.

Board Member Benjamin Youman (R-Davis Junction) asked the board to review the state of the power market in the coming months.

“We have three competing factors going on with power prices,” Youman said. “There is big demand going on because everyone is thinking AI and data centers are going to be in big demand. The only thing that will counter that immediately in the next 2-3 years is natural gas rates. Electric prices always follow natural gas prices. We’re hedging our bets between the competing interests of what demand is going to be and gas suppressing the cost of electricity. We can break this rate at any time with no penalty. It seems to be a good idea in maybe 3-4 months to come back and look at what the national average of electric rates is so we can make a determination.”

Customers not in cities or townships can decide to stay on the county program, opt out and select their own supplier or select the ComEd default rate.

“By doing this, we’re not doing anything but locking in this particular rate now,” Board Member and Long Range Planning Committee Chairman Don Griffin (R-Oregon) said. “It still gives everybody a chance to do whatever they want to do.”

Board Member Aaron Mudge (R-Oregon) abstained from the vote due to a personal conflict (Mike Mudge being his father).

### Community solar

The board approved a special use permit for OneEnergy Development for the construction and operation of a two-megawatt community solar facility in the 3,200 block of South Union Road in Buffalo Township on 16.13 acres by a vote of 17-3 with Board Member Wayne Reising (R-Oregon) abstaining due to a conflict with a business client of his.

Board Member Marcia Heuer (R-Oregon) voted against the special use permit, citing the land’s 94 percent productivity score for agriculture.

Board Member Susie Corbitt (R-Polo) voted in favor of the special use permit and said that there was no sentiment against



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The board unanimously approved a special use permit for Kabbage Patch LLC to allow for the operation of a truck & trailer repair, maintenance, mechanic shop, parking and related ancillary uses at 14742 E. Illinois Route 64 in White Rock Township.**

the project at recent Polo City Council meetings she attended.

### Repair shop

The board unanimously approved a special use permit for Kabbage Patch LLC to allow for the operation of a truck & trailer repair, maintenance, mechanic shop, parking and

related ancillary uses at 14742 E. Illinois Route 64 in White Rock Township. The new business will be located at the former site of Timberman Tree Service.

### Road & Bridge

During the Road & Bridge portion of the meeting, the board unanimously approved the appropriation

of \$600,000 in motor fuel tax funds for the reconstruction of South Lowell Park Road from a quarter mile south of West Penn Corner Road to 200 feet north of West Penn Corner Road.

The project will include the removal and replacement of an eight-by-12 concrete box culvert, earth excavation and embank-

ment construction and construction of a full depth hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement on an aggregate base, including cold milling HMA. The work further entails the construction of a soldier pile retaining wall along the cemetery, concrete gutter, pipe culverts, storm sewers, and other collateral work.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**The annual Art Dash, hosted by Serenity Hospice and Home, has successfully united local artists and community members in a vibrant celebration of creativity, beauty, and connection. Above at left, participants view art while others mingle. At right, James Brown announces the Dashers. Below are some of the delectable desserts.**

## Serenity Hospice & Home prepares for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Dash

**OREGON** — The annual Art Dash, hosted by Serenity Hospice and Home, has successfully united local artists and community members in a vibrant celebration of creativity, beauty, and connection. With excitement, Serenity has begun preparations for Art Dash 2025 and warmly invites the community to participate in this year’s event. Mark your calendars for April 9, as Art Dash 2025 will take place at the River’s Edge Experience in Oregon.

There are two ticket options available: “dasher”

and “spectator.” A random selection of three “dashers” will be called at a time to race for their chosen artwork. Every “dasher” will leave with a unique piece of art to cherish. Dasher tickets sell out quickly, so interested attendees should contact event organizers Karen Virnoche and James Brown at 815-973-2050 to secure their tickets.

All the stunning artworks featured at the event have been generously donated by local artists. Both dashers and spectators will enjoy delicious light bites, beverages from the cash

bar, live music, incredible artwork, and the chance to interact with many of the attending artists.

Last year’s event was a tremendous success, raising over \$30,000 to support Serenity in delivering exceptional bereavement care to the community and integrated therapies for patients in need. Serenity Hospice & Home is proud to be a five-star rated non-profit organization in the region, serving nine counties across northern Illinois with essential hospice and palliative care for those in need.





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# LOCAL NEWS

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MARCH 8  
2025

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(COURTESY PHOTO)

## The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting their annual 5K race Lucky Hub Dash. Chamber's Lucky Hub Dash is March 8

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting their annual 5K race Lucky Hub Dash. The presenting sponsor for the March 8 race is Holcomb Bank. The race starts and stops at Flannigan Park in Hillcrest with registration at 9 a.m. and the race starts at 10 a.m.

Other sponsors are City of Rochelle, Americold Logistics, Ralfie's BBQ and Catering, Rochelle Community Hospital, Stillman Bank, Central Bank, Country Financial - Josh Messenger, Vince's Pizza, NAMI, and 926 Custom Embroidery.

The proceeds from the race support chamber program and projects. Adult runners can register by using the QR code or link on the Facebook event on the Chamber's page or contacting the Rochelle chamber 815-562-4189. The cost to participate is \$25 and includes a swag bag of items from our sponsors and a t-shirt.

All 3rd-8th grade students in Rochelle and surrounding school districts can participate at no charge. We ask them

## Kish College celebrates Career and Technical Education Month

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College is celebrating Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month throughout February. Educational institutions and communities across the nation observe CTE Month to raise awareness of the role that CTE plays in preparing students for college and career success.

"CTE programs provide students with the skills and training necessary to fill in-demand roles in the local workforce. Students can gain real-world skills, explore careers to find their passion, and set up options for further college and career advancement," Chase Budziak, dean of instruction, said.

Kish adapts its CTE programs to meet local workforce demands, providing students with opportunities to pursue high-wage, high-skill and in-demand careers. Most programs can be completed in two years or less, providing a shorter, more cost-effective path to employment. Kish's CTE career pathways include Agribusiness, Automotive Technology, Basic Nurse Assisting, Computer Information Systems, Criminal Justice, Diesel Power Technology, Early Childhood Education, Emergency Medical Services, Esthetics, Health Information Technology, Horticulture, Marketing & Management, Medical Assistant, Office Systems, Radiologic Technology, Registered Nursing, Technology & Manufacturing, Therapeutic Massage and Welding Technology.

The college works

closely with local and regional employers who share industry insights and provide Kish students with internships and other job opportunities. In 2024, about 65% of Kish CTE graduates were employed in a related field, and 98.5% of graduates were employed in Illinois, according to technical graduate surveys. Statewide, approximately 396,000 students participate in CTE, and roughly 41,000 students graduate each year from CTE programs, according to Illinois Community College Board data.

Kish's CTE programs offer flexible scheduling, work-based learning and stackable credentials that provide a pathway from education to employment. Learn more at kish.edu/cte.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

## The Kishwaukee College Foundation announced the Spring 2025 scholarship recipients. Pictured are Spring 2025 scholarship recipients.

## Kish College Foundation announces Spring 2025 scholarship recipients

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College Foundation is pleased to announce the student scholarship recipients for the Spring 2025 semester. The Foundation awarded 354 scholarship awards totaling \$335,355.

Scholarship funds are made possible through generous gifts from community members, local businesses and industry, and area agencies and associations. Students are selected on a competitive basis according to each scholarship's specific requirements.

Local Kishwaukee College students received the following awards:

AG Communications Endowment — Damian Nava-Barrientos of Rochelle, Anna Varner of Rochelle

Albert & Frances Besserman Endowment — Thomas Koziol of Rochelle

Bud & Kay Stocking Rochelle Rotary Service Above Self Endowment — Annaleigh McKinney of Rochelle

Charles & Mary Roberts Memorial Endowment — Erica Prange of Lindenwood

Charles & Mary Roberts Memorial Endowment for Nursing — Rita Walsh of Rochelle

Dean & Betty Burge-meister Endowment — Carly Summers of Esmond

Diane McNeilly Education Endowment — Annaleigh McKinney of Rochelle

Emma Anderson Scholarship — Elijah Luxton of Rochelle, Kara Martinez of Rochelle, Baldemar Nambo of Rochelle, Kendall Sachs of Rochelle, Kylie Smith of Rochelle, Danica Ward of Creston

Jeanne M. Henderson Memorial Endowment — Baldemar Nambo of Rochelle

Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees Scholarship — Aiyanna Washington of Rochelle

Kishwaukee College Employee Give Scholarship — Alexis Huerta of Rochelle, Damian Nava-Barrientos of Rochelle, Marisa Whaley of Rochelle

LaVerne "Dutch" Johnson Memorial Fund — Lenna Hulthen of Lee, Elijah Luxton of Rochelle, Anna Varner of Rochelle,

Law Enforcement Lifelong Learning Scholarship — Damen Harrington of Rochelle

Mark Joseph Bussone Memorial Endowment — Alexander Torres of Rochelle

Mathew J. Rood DPT Scholarship — Jack Anderson of Chana

Nancy D. Castle Scholarship — Jessica Marin of Rochelle

Rowland & Lucile Matteson Endowment — Francis Vowels of Rochelle

Ruth Ashelford Pollock Horticulture Fund — Michelle McCandless of Kings, Francis Vowels of Rochelle

Ruth Ashelford Pollock Nursing Fund — Michelle Lidren of Rochelle

Ruth I. Hall Nursing Endowment — Cassandra Kirk of Rochelle, Sherlyn Rojas of Rochelle, Cecilia Vargas of Rochelle

Stoltz-Caruthers Family Scholarship — Pamela Davis of Creston

The Founder's Endowment — Danica Ward of Creston

Tom & Nancy Roberts Endowment — Lauren Ponto of Chana

Vernon & Dorothy Smith Memorial Scholarship — Abel Huerta of Rochelle, Jessica Marin of Rochelle, Cecilia Vargas of Rochelle, Marisa Whaley of Rochelle

Wayne McIlrath Family Scholarship — Erica Prange of Lindenwood

Students who wish to remain anonymous are omitted from this list.

The Kishwaukee College Foundation scholarship application period for the Fall 2025 semester is open through Monday, March 17. For more information on Foundation scholarships, contact the Kishwaukee College Foundation at 815-825-9803 or visit kish.edu/kcfscholarships.

## Applications available for Northern Rehab scholarship for RTHS seniors

**ROCHELLE** — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is pleased to announce that scholarship applications are now being accepted for their annual Northern Rehab Health & Wellness Scholarship. New this year, applications are available online at <https://northernrehabpt.com/scholarships/>. This scholarship is open to Rochelle Township High School seniors who have participated in a sport or

extracurricular activity and plan to pursue a career in healthcare. Completed applications must be submitted online by March 14, 2025. The scholarship recipient will be announced and awarded at the Rochelle Township High School Senior Awards Night.

This annual scholarship has been awarded to Rochelle Township seniors since 2017. Past recipients include Christina Payton,

Hannah Cruz, Alexander Harvey, Katherine Bakken, Kaylee Brown, Ayah Sheith, Madison Ost, Anastasia Harvey, and Kendall Sachs. Northern Rehab, voted Ogle County's Best Physical Therapists six consecutive years, is a local and privately-owned physical therapy practice that provides cost-effective, one-on-one physical therapy care. A doctor's prescription is not required for physical therapy, which

means you can immediately begin treatment and start feeling better right away. You don't need to live in pain. Choose Northern Rehab for your physical therapy care and stop letting pain control your life. For more information about Northern Rehab please visit [northernrehabpt.com](https://northernrehabpt.com) or call 815.562.3299. Additionally, you may find Northern Rehab on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.

ROCHELLE  
News-Leader

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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.

# LOCAL NEWS

## RTHS BOARD: Parent Teacher Communication Week held Feb. 10-14

**From page 1**  
**Principal's Report**

During his monthly report at Tuesday's board meeting, Lewis said that RTHS held its yearly Parent Teacher Communication Week Feb. 10-14. During this time, Lewis said teachers reach out to students

with academic deficiencies and parents can schedule conferences if necessary. Lewis also said that planning is well underway for the 2025-26 school year. Lewis said that counselors are meeting with students this month to review their four-year plans and summer school sign-ups will begin in March. Lewis said that the school's master sched-

ule will be created in the month of April before being disseminated and modified during the month of May. Lastly, Lewis said that freshman, sophomore and junior students will take either the ACT or the Pre-ACT exam on April 8. Lewis said this is the first year RTHS has used the ACT exam and that students took a practice

exam in September, with teachers using October to analyze data and create action plans for the second semester. ACT prep classes will be offered next month.

**ISBE**

RTHS art teacher Beth Mock was chosen for the ISBE Those Who Excel Award of Excellence. The

award is presented to educators who demonstrate a commitment to equity and the success of all students. Teachers chosen for the award typically collaborate with colleagues, students and families to create a positive school culture, are lifelong learners who connect their schools to the larger community and inspire other professionals

within and beyond their schools.

**Personnel**

The board unanimously approved personnel changes Tuesday including the dismissal of Rogelio Rodriguez (third-shift custodian) and the employment of Amber Cravens as an FY26 library/media specialist.

## Heuer and Pearson Elected to Ogle County SWCD

**OGLE COUNTY** — On Feb. 18, the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its General Election to elect two directors to the five-member District Board. Incumbents Marcia Heuer of Oregon, and Jon Pearson of Mt. Morris were re-elected to fill those expiring seats on the board. Heuer has served as a director on the SWCD Board since 2002 and has

served as the chairperson for several years. Living outside of Oregon, Marcia is active in several different organizations and serves on the Ogle County Board. Having grown up on a farm, Marcia is concerned about conservation and the loss of natural resources in Ogle County due to improper and poorly planned development. Pearson was first elected as a director on the SWCD

Board in 2019. Jon grew up on the family farm between Leaf River and Byron. He has farmed for many years near Mt. Morris. Jon has been a longtime advocate for conservation utilizing no-till early on. Jon raised about beef cattle for many years and has been active in several different agricultural organizations. The Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District is a not for profit,

local unit of government in Ogle County, formed in 1942, to provide landowners technical and educational assistance in applying conservation practices. Today, the Ogle County SWCD has the responsibility to inform the public on the wise use of natural resources, addressing the application of conservation practices, wildlife habitat, forest uses, water quality, natural resource education,

construction and zoning uses. The district assists in administering federal, state, and local conservation programs and financial assistance. Heuer and Pearson have been great advocates for conservation and agriculture in Ogle County and beyond. Congratulations to both of them as they continue serving on the Board along with directors, Cade Bushnell of Stillman

Valley, Cody Considine of Byron, and Kayse Rushford of Oregon. Associate directors include Ed Baker of Mt. Morris, Molly Duncan of Chana, and Darin DeHaan of Oregon. If you would like more information about the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District, please feel free to contact any of these five directors or the district office staff at 815-732-6127 ext. 3.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church**, 126 E. South Street, Creston. Phone 815-384-3720, Email: [StJohnsLutheran@aol.com](mailto:StJohnsLutheran@aol.com), members of NALC/LCMC. Worship is led by **Pastor Terese Whitten** 231-878-4150. St. John's Lutheran Church is a part of God's Family, planting hope, nurturing faith and harvesting love. Coffee or Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. Worship begins at 10:45 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: [stpatricksochelle.com](http://stpatricksochelle.com) Email: [stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org) Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

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



# LOCAL VIEWS

## OFCB's Kern: Ag seminars kick into high gear

IT'S that time of year when the meeting, programs and seminars kick into high gear around the ag sector. Seems like everyone is trying to get as much out there to the farm as possible before the calendar turns, the weather warms and tractors hit the fields. So we will throw out a few things coming up that producers need to be aware of should they need to certify.

Illinois growers and grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, now are required by state regulation (8 IAC 215) to complete Certified Grower Training. Certification will be good for three years from the date they complete the training, after which time they will need to partici-

pate in a refresher course. Certified Grower Training will be delivered through both online and in-person instruction at no cost to the grower or grower farm operator. Growers and grower farm operators can choose whichever method they prefer. The online course is available by visiting the Illinois Department of agriculture website and clicking on the link.

The in-person classes will take place at various locations throughout the state with the closest to Ogle County set for March 3 at the Civic Center, in Mendota. More information on start times etc can be found at the Illinois Department of Agriculture website [www.agr.illinois.gov](http://www.agr.illinois.gov)

The Illinois Farm Bureau is again sponsoring it's highly sought after Rules of the Road seminar

across Illinois through March.

Those in northwest Illinois wishing to attend the seminar can register through their County Farm Bureau.

The closest Rules of the Road program in our area is scheduled on March 11 at the Sauk Valley Community College Riverview Conference Center, in Dixon.

Rodney Knittel, Illinois Farm Bureau transportation Specialist will facilitate the program. Attendees will learn about the various rules and regulations they need to know about operating commercial and farm vehicles in intrastate and interstate travel.

The Quad Cities area County Farm Bureaus along with other ag

groups are sponsoring a Women in Agriculture Conference on March 28 at Bally's (formerly Jumer's) in Rock Island.

The cost is \$70 per person and registration can be made through their website at [www.womeninagricultureconference.com](http://www.womeninagricultureconference.com).

The conference features various speakers on a myriad of topics.

Brooke Taylor opens the conference concerning how rural America and Agriculture is reaching out to our urban counterparts. She also will lead a session on the do's and don't of agricultural marketing.

Various speakers will present a session on work – life balance and how farm women can utilize their time most productively.



Ron Kern

Other breakout sessions planned are:

Farm Family Resource Initiative in Illinois

Boots, Boardrooms and Babes

The Voice of Reason; Why Women are Vital to Ag Safety

Bridging the Gap: Connecting to Congress and Constituents

What You Ought to Know About Renewable Energy Contracts

Registration is required and can be made through the website aforementioned.

**Scholarships**

Just a reminder The Ogle County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that applications for their 2025 Scholarship Program are now available to graduating high school seniors, or those enrolled at an accredited university.

Farm Bureau members may pick up or have applications mailed. Applications can also be downloaded from the Ogle County Farm Bureau website at [www.oglefb.org](http://www.oglefb.org)

This year the organization will award nine total scholarships each in the amount of \$2,000.

Applicants must be Ogle County Farm Bureau Members or a dependent of a member.

All completed applications must be received in the Ogle County Farm Bureau off no later than April 1, 2025 to qualify for judging.

"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring." -Aldo Leopold

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

## Reed Harris: Consider this - DOGE

BUILDING on my last article's section pertaining to the Department of Education and even to other departments that may be on the chopping block, how many of you really feel that the following is a possibility? That once any department is no longer in existence, or even is still there but has had staff or budget reduced, that any savings from the changes will be given back to the states? If you feel it will, I have some swamp land for your purchase.

Elon Musk's DOGE has, in less than two weeks, determined that cuts can be made in so many areas that it's almost scary. With everything they have been searching through, how can two weeks tell anybody anything? How can the staff be cut, the budget be reduced, or a whole department be shut down? What we want to know is why. This why can be scary enough.

First, Elon has talked about our federal agencies as if they were weeds. He said, "If you leave part of them behind ... It's kind of like leaving a weed. If you don't remove the roots of the weed, then easy for the weed to grow back." This quote can be found in an article by Eleanor Pringle of Fortune on MSN at [www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/elon-musk-wants-to-tear-out-entire-federal-agencies-it-s-like-a-weed-if-you-don-t-remove-the-roots-the-weed-will-grow-back/ar-AA1yYte7?ocid=BingNewsSerp](http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/elon-musk-wants-to-tear-out-entire-federal-agencies-it-s-like-a-weed-if-you-don-t-remove-the-roots-the-weed-will-grow-back/ar-AA1yYte7?ocid=BingNewsSerp)

In addition, President Trump has promised to extend the tax cuts that were passed during his first term and expire at the end of this year. This has led to a budget plan that would add an additional 4.5 trillion to the deficit. But why would Congress pass this? Haven't the President, Congress, and many other Republicans said that the Democrats increased the deficit, and they were not going to because of their fiscal responsibility. You can find more about this plan in an AP article written by Kevin Freking and Lisa Mascaro at [apnews.com/article/house-republicans-budget-blue-print-trump-tax-cuts-f2bddf31f4e7cb0928139072392a091](http://apnews.com/article/house-republicans-budget-blue-print-trump-tax-cuts-f2bddf31f4e7cb0928139072392a091)

So, what is Elon doing cutting and gutting our federal government? My response to this? So that President Trump and his administration can look good by beginning to reduce the deficit they raise in a few months or a couple of years and look good at the next election (if there is one). A problem is created so that a benefactor can look good down

the road. Do you feel that there will be people that will praise President Trump for being their savior if this is his plan?

In other news, Vice President Vance recently told Rep. Ro Khanna to "grow up" after he demanded an apology from DOGE staffer Marko Elez after Marko was found to have made racist comments online. Do we presume that VP Vance has the same thought process when students are bullied online? Some of these students go on to hurt themselves or take their own lives. Does VP Vance feel the students affected should "grow up"? After all, in my book, bullying is racism. This story by Jabin Botsford of The Washington Post can be found on MSN at [www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/grow-up-jd-vance-eviscerates-democrat-attempting-to-cancel-doge-employee/ar-AA1yQ0sW?ocid=BingNewsSerp](http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/grow-up-jd-vance-eviscerates-democrat-attempting-to-cancel-doge-employee/ar-AA1yQ0sW?ocid=BingNewsSerp)

And why does President Trump want peace between Ukraine and Russia so badly? My thoughts are that since Russia is now feeling the squeeze on their economy, the President would like to make sure that Russia is saved from the trauma. "The Russian economy is now

beginning to see the full effects of international sanctions. If these trends continue, then the full impact of these financial punishments, combined with strong Ukrainian resistance to Russian forces, could at last put enough pressure on the Kremlin to end its war." This quote can be found in the article by Mark Temnycky of the Atlantic Council at [www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/is-2025-the-year-that-russias-economy-finally-freezes-up-under-sanctions/](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/is-2025-the-year-that-russias-economy-finally-freezes-up-under-sanctions/)

I feel that what President Trump and Putin want is to see that Russia gets the western-most parts of Ukraine it initially conquered in the early part of its invasion and the war to go silently away. At this time, however, Ukraine is finally gaining ground on Russia and could eliminate this requirement. This depends, partly, on Zelenskyy's popularity. It also depends on the involvement of other countries, especially the U.S.

With all these changes and shake-ups within the government, there is one area that will feel things a bit differently. Farmers may feel some of the biggest effects with these changes. But it should not be assumed

that farmers will be the only ones affected. With grocery prices staying high or even rising in some areas, you and I will feel an even tighter pinch at the supermarket since it's farmers who supply the basic ingredients to most of our purchases.

"A newly introduced bill and judicial review could stall some damage, but a number of U.S. producers will likely still feel economic pain. Funding cuts will also impact 19 land-grant university-based innovation labs in 17 states." This statement is in an article by Deborah Huso of FARM/Journal Ag Web which can be found at [www.agweb.com/news/politics/politics/usaid-dismantling-what-it-means-farmers-and-ag-research](http://www.agweb.com/news/politics/politics/usaid-dismantling-what-it-means-farmers-and-ag-research)". This article covers several changes the federal government is making. If these changes force more smaller farmers out of business, their farms will be absorbed by big agricultural corporations. Once again, we find ourselves bowing to the rich in this country.

How did some of us not see these changes coming? Well, we had one eye on the television, one eye on our phones, and were told the truth was false and the false true. In a sense, beaten within an inch of our rationality with disinformation.



Reed Harris

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

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

*\* Denotes Chairman/President*

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Darci Waltrip [doobs12@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com).) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

## Bunger named January Rotary Student of the Month at RTHS

“Hailey helps out whenever and wherever she is needed. Just some of her volunteer hours have come from helping at the Lions Club pancake breakfast, Little League concessions, Little League baseball and softball practices, REC basketball practices, Show Choir competition, Eswood pork chop dinners, garage sales for the elderly, Operation Christmas Child, Salvation Army bell ringer and the Lindenwood and Rochelle Food pantries,” an RTHS Facebook post said. “Hailey also volunteers her time at St. Paul Lutheran School and Church working sporting events and helping with registration, Sunday



school, and VBS. She has also volunteered as a VBS group leader at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church. Somehow Hailey also finds time to be a member of the Interact Club, Speech

Team, RTHS and City bands and helps her teachers out whenever she can. She uses her study hall hour to volunteer as a Counseling Center monitor where she is always ready and willing to help out however she can. Mrs. Harvey says

that she is a very responsible, courteous and conscientious student who strives to be the best that she can be. Congratulations Hailey! Thank you for having a servant's heart. You make a difference in our school and community."

**JACKSONVILLE**—Liberty Hayes of Kings was recently named to the Dean's List at Illinois

College for Fall 2024.  
Candidates for the  
Dean's List must com-  
plete at least 12 graded

semester hours and post a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. All grades must be “C” or

better, no more than one “C” grade is allowed and the student must have no “Incomplete” grades.

Feb. 26  
Natalie Powell

March 2  
Addison Perkins

March 6  
Nicole King

Feb. 27  
Beth Bolhous

March 5  
Briggs Bridgeman

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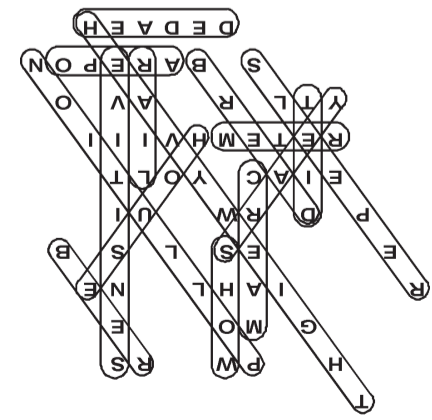
## MAGIC MAZE ● LIGHT —

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

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

Beer	Headed	Opera
Bread	Heavyweight	Pollution
Cream	House	Rail
Diet	Meter	Sensitive

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L	I	G	H	T					
S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E		
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D	E								
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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFFBY  
BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



longer.

# Super Crossword

## SONG TITLES

## ACROSS

1 Teenage  
witch played  
by Melissa  
Joan Hart  
8 Breakwater  
embankment  
15 Nintendo title  
plumber  
20 Germ-free  
21 Singer with  
the 2018 hit  
"Boo'd Up"  
22 Put up, as  
a building  
23 Patti Smith  
25 Flat, as cola  
26 One of the  
two Pro Bowl  
gps.  
27 Rangle  
28 Notices  
30 Hero type  
31 Nina Simone  
39 Napoli's  
nation  
41 Alien-seeking  
proj.  
42 City near  
Disney World  
43 Manicure  
tool  
46 Oxidizes  
49 Put the  
kibosh on  
50 Missy Elliott  
53 Dir. from  
Miss. to Mich.  
56 Pre-CIA gp.  
57 Ad featur-  
ing Smokey  
Bear, e.g.

58 "Science Guy" with multiple Emmys  
59 Honorable  
60 Busy airport  
63 George Strait  
69 World capital in the Andes  
74 60s war zone  
75 2010-14 Mets member  
76 Britney Spears  
79 Plane ticket detail  
80 Large musical disk  
81 Encyc. unit  
82 Tosses out of the game, for short  
85 "Law & Order" spinoff, in brief  
88 Busy insect  
89 Bessie Smith  
97 Plane ticket detail, for short  
98 Mafiaoso John  
99 Narrates  
100 Running rather quickly  
104 "This Is Life" journalist Lisa  
106 Totally in favor of  
107 Chuck Berry

112 "Casablanca" woman  
113 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)  
114 — Schwarz  
115 Peculiar  
118 Just making with "out"  
120 Liza Minnelli  
127 Roaring cat crossbreed  
128 Remove loose coverings from  
129 "Tartuffe" playwright  
130 Thick  
131 Ancient Jewish ascetics  
132 Slung mud at

**DOWN**

1 Very long tale  
2 Dating from  
3 Furniture pieces for lying or sitting  
4 Tach abbr.  
5 Judge Lance  
6 Petty peeve  
7 Have — on one's shoulder  
8 "Black Panther" actor Andy  
9 "Xanadu" gp.  
10 Sitcom ET  
11 "679" rapper Fetty —  
12 Make laugh

13 Thin streets  
14 "In this way"  
15 Spanish for  
"month"  
16 Skilled crafter  
17 Go further into  
the book, sa  
18 Apple digital  
storage  
service  
19 Verdi opera  
24 Mess up  
29 Hercules  
player Kevin  
32 Affictions  
33 Natural  
talent  
34 Greet loudly  
35 Architect  
Saarinne  
36 Double —  
(Oreo option)  
37 Wife on "The  
Addams  
Family,"  
casually  
38 Big to-do  
39 Lowdown  
40 Mai —  
(rum drinks)  
44 Track circuit  
45 Max staffers  
47 Ex-Yankee  
Martinez  
48 James Bond  
genre, in bri  
51 Ox of Tibet  
52 "Doggone it!"  
53 Punishment  
for a tube  
watcher  
54 "Me neither"

55 Rival of Ben  
 & Jerry's  
59 Nibble (on)  
60 Suspend  
61 Scanned  
 market ID  
62 Busy insect  
64 With one fla  
 musically  
65 Brief snooze  
66 Biotech-  
 created food  
67 Atop,  
 in verse  
68 Japanese  
 salad green  
69 Links gp. fo  
 women  
70 Club for a  
 69-Down  
 member  
71 Small fortun  
72 Letters of  
 invitation?  
73 American  
 assn.  
77 Margarine,  
 quaintly  
78 Adobe  
 Acrobat  
 suffix  
83 Fourth  
 of a yr.  
84 That girl  
85 Large yellow  
 bloom  
86 Put the  
 kibosh on  
87 KGB's land  
89 Paree to be  
90 Native New  
 Zealanders

- 91 WWII battle town in France
- 92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)
- 93 Hog sound
- 94 Tesla auto, e.g.
- 95 String necktie
- 96 Quiet stretch
- 97 Fuel gases
- 100 Off-track
- 101 New film type in the 1920s
- 102 What “@” is
- 103 Rotational force
- 105 Big blunders
- 108 Man-goat deities
- 109 Marsh plants
- 110 Capture
- 111 Campus buildings
- 116 Have the guts
- 117 Made blond, maybe
- 119 Test for college srs.
- 121 Prior to, in sonnets
- 122 Indian flatbread
- 123 Not closed, in —
- 124 —, -ph band
- 125 Heavy breed
- 126 Dav, to Diego

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	19
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130							131							132						

# HUB NEWS March 2025



## Bunger receives Rotary Student of the Month award



**Congratulations to the January Rotary Student of the month, Hailey Bunger. Hailey is a junior who has accumulated 464 Silver Service volunteer hours over her time here at RTHS. Hailey helps out whenever and wherever she is needed. Just some of her volunteer hours have come from helping at the Lions Club pancake breakfast, Little League concessions, Little League baseball and softball practices, REC basketball practices, Show Choir competition, Eswood pork chop dinners, garage sales for the elderly, Operation Christmas Child, Salvation Army bell ringer and the Lindenwood and Rochelle Food pantries. Hailey also volunteers her time at St. Paul Lutheran School and Church working sporting events and helping with registration, Sunday school, and VBS. She has also volunteered as a VBS group leader at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church. Somehow Hailey also finds time to be a member of the Interact Club, Speech Team, RTHS and City bands and helps her teachers out whenever she can. She uses her study hall hour to volunteer as a Counseling Center monitor where she is always ready and willing to help out however she can. Mrs. Harvey says that she is a very responsible, courteous and conscientious student who strives to be the best that she can be.**

**Congratulations Hailey!**

## Calendar of Events

- March 6** Choral Pops Concert 7pm
- March 13** RTHS Job Fair Open to the Public 12pm-2pm  
**EARLY DISMISSAL** SIP DAY - Half Day for Students 11:30 Dismissal
- March 14** Graduation Cap & Gown Handouts
- March 17** RTHS Board Meeting 5:30 pm  
 NHS Induction Ceremony 7pm
- March 24-28** Spring Break



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\*Northern Illinois Federal Credit Union is compensated by ISL Education Lending for the referral of student loan customers.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 23, 2025

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## FRESHMEN WIN I-8 TITLE

The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team won the Interstate 8 tournament.

See page 3 for more details

### RTHS Boys Basketball

# Hubs play fast for win over Winnebago

Rochelle scores 29 second-quarter points during 74-68 victory Tuesday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Playing fast has been a major key for the Rochelle Hubs to unlock their offense throughout the season. Rochelle successfully pushed the pace Tuesday night, when the Hubs poured in 29 second-quarter points during their varsity basketball matchup with Winnebago.

Rochelle drilled four 3-point shots in the second quarter, with junior guard Van Gerber sinking two as the Hubs overcame a slow start to take a 44-32 halftime lead. Despite a late run from the Indians during the fourth quarter, Rochelle held on with big plays late in the game, where senior guard Elijah Harley knocked down a clutch triple and Gerber helped the Hubs close out their 74-68 victory with a tough layup and two free throws. Harley finished with 17 points in the win. “It’s always been a point of emphasis in our game to play fast and I think that’s when we’re at our best,” Harley said. “I feel like we’re doing a good job of pushing the pace. We made good passes and I think it’s a lot easier for us to get buckets when

we’re going fast because the momentum is with us. We need to work on our defense, but I think we’ll get better there.”

A shaky start on both sides gave way to an action-packed second quarter, where Rochelle (10-19, 2-7 Interstate 8) looked for its low-post offense with sophomore forward Brody Brunns, who drew a trio of shooting fouls with his 6-foot-5 frame and scored eight of his team-high 21 points in the quarter. It was one of the better shooting quarters of the season for the Hubs, who saw Harley nail a corner triple and senior guard Carson Lewis drain one from long range.

“I thought our energy went up and I thought we started playing faster,” Harley said. “We started getting better looks for our teammates and there were people on the court making extra passes. Van did a good job of that and I gave him one too. We made the extra passes in that quarter.”

Winnebago remained within striking distance at the half behind a strong individual effort from 6-foot-4 guard Blaise Brown, who buried a pair of 3-point shots and used his athleticism to finish two

close-range shots around the basket. The Indians had no answer for Brunns in the third quarter, where the left-handed shooting sophomore continued working down low and showed a nice touch from the mid-range area, scoring seven third-quarter points to keep Rochelle rolling.

The Hubs carried a 57-48 lead into the fourth quarter, where Winnebago made one last stand to bring Rochelle within one point. Turnovers and missed shots led to transition points for the Indians, who converted a pair of difficult reverse layups in the fourth quarter and nearly took the lead with roughly two minutes remaining. But a full-court pass to beat the Hubs down the floor went a few feet too far and resulted in a Winnebago turnover, allowing Rochelle to regroup.

Clinging to a 65-64 lead, the Hubs closed the game on a 9-4 run, avoiding turnovers and making key shots much like they did last Friday, when Rochelle held on for a five-point win over LaSalle-Peru. Gerber showed poise over the final moments of the game, driving to the basket for a left-handed layup and staying strong



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Sophomore Brody Brunns attacks the basket during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Winnebago on Tuesday evening. Brunns finished with 21 points as the Hubs defeated the Indians 74-68 to move to 10-19 overall.**

with the ball to earn his way to the free-throw line.

“I feel like we’re all staying to connect now that we’re late in the season,” Gerber said. “We’re passing the ball to each other more and we’re trusting each other to make shots. We played with more rhythm and we were get-

ting the ball down low. When the ball was kicked out to us, we hit our threes and everything was clicking. It feels good to win close games, especially against good teams, and it’s a huge confidence booster going into the regionals.” Gerber finished with 14

points and Lewis added nine points for the Hubs, who will face Byron on the road Thursday before hosting Ottawa for their final Interstate 8 Conference game of the season Friday. Junior forward Brode Metzger chipped in five points to aid Rochelle in the win.

### RTHS Girls Basketball

# Sterling ends Rochelle’s season in IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals

Darby scores 11 points with 10 rebounds as Lady Hubs fall 68-35 on Monday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING** — A promising first quarter was a bright spot for the Rochelle Lady Hubs as they looked to knock off top-seeded Sterling during the IHSA 3A Sterling Regional Semifinals.

Entering as the No. 8 seed in Monday’s varsity basketball matchup, Rochelle hung tough with the Golden Warriors early, with freshman guard Audrina Rodriguez and junior guard Jaydin Dickey each burying 3-point shots to spark the Lady Hub offense. Sterling was ultimately too much to handle, however, as the No. 1 seed controlled the game with its defense and leaned on 6-foot-3 center Madison Austin, who scored 23 points with nine rebounds as Rochelle fell 68-35.

“We talked before the game about coming out and letting it fly and not backing down to them,” head coach Jon Gehm said. “We knew how good they were and we had to come out with a lot of energy. We did that in the first quarter and I thought we had good energy defensively and on the boards. We hit shots when we needed them, but a team like Sterling finds ways to win.” Sterling (26-5, 13-1

Western Big 6) looked for Austin throughout the opening quarter, where the Illinois State commit capitalized on a size mismatch against a smaller Rochelle frontcourt, hitting four field goals around the basket to help the Golden Warriors build a 22-12 lead. Any hopes of victory for the Lady Hubs faded in the second quarter, where turnovers and missed shots led to easy layups for the Golden Warriors, who held Rochelle to six points to surge ahead 42-18.

“We told the girls after the game that next season starts today,” Gehm said. “It’s a physical game and Sterling showed that we have to be able to handle that physicality and pressure. We need to improve as ball handlers and shooters and I think Sterling has the blueprint for what we all want to be. We’re going to work hard to get as close as we can to reaching that point.”

With Austin doing damage inside, Sterling guard Joslynn James was equally as effective off the dribble, hitting two first-half triples and scoring from the mid-range area to keep the Golden Warrior offense rolling. James, who sparked the Sterling defense in the second quarter, finished with 19 points and drained a tough mid-range



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Kendyl Darby avoids defender Nia Harris during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Sterling on Monday. Darby finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds as Rochelle fell to Sterling 68-35.**

shot to help her team lead 62-32 after three quarters. A layup from Dickey was the only fourth-quarter field goal made by the Lady Hubs.

“Those are two really good basketball players,” Gehm said. “It starts on defense for them and their

defense turns into offense. Austin runs the floor very well and all of their guards are good about pushing the ball in transition and getting to the 3-point line. They’re confident shooters and they’re super athletic. We had a hard time matching up with them out there

tonight.”

Senior forward Kendyl Darby did her best to keep Rochelle (8-23, 1-9 Interstate 8) in the mix during the second half, where she used her dribble-drive and offensive rebounding ability to finish a trio of layups around the rim.

Darby earned a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while junior guard Carmela Bright scored nine points, with seven coming in the third quarter. Dickey finished with eight points and Rodriguez chipped in five points on Monday.



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### HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Emmalyn  
Eggenburg**  
*Year: Freshman  
Sport: Wrestling*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**  
*A: This is my first year as a manager.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**  
*A: Seeing the guys and girls interact with the coaches and each other.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**  
*A: Math or French because they are easy to understand and the material is easy to pick up on.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**  
*A: Christa McGrath because even through she has a lot on her plate,*

*she always finds a way to get things done.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**  
*A: To be an athletic trainer so I could help others and come up with solutions for people.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**  
*A: A small non-tourist town in Germany or France so I could see a small part of Europe.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**  
*A: Seeing the bonds people have formed over time and creating new bonds with others.*

**Mia  
Rowe**  
*Year: Junior  
Sport: Wrestling*



**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**  
*A: I have been a manager for two years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**  
*A: Watching my family wrestle.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**  
*A: Jennie Finch because she works really hard.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**  
*A: Anatomy because we get to learn about the human body.*

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

*A: My sister Diana because she's so selfless and kind. She considers every one of my feelings and I want to be just like her.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**  
*A: To be a labor and delivery nurse because I want to bring new life into the world.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**  
*A: Hawaii because I love the trees and going to the beach.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**  
*A: It helps keep my grades up.*

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Basketball

# Rochelle freshmen win Interstate 8 tournament

## Hubs move to 22-3 after victories over LaSalle-Peru and Sycamore on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team won each of its two games to clinch the Interstate 8 Conference tournament title at Rochelle Township High School on Saturday afternoon. Rochelle (22-3) entered as the top seed, defeating LaSalle-Peru and Sycamore to take home the tournament crown.

Rochelle's tournament run opened with a 64-47 victory against LaSalle-Peru in the semifinal round. Holden Liebhaber led the Hubs with 17 points, including 10 in the second half, while Luke Chadwick added 12 points and went 10-for-11 on free throws during the second half. Brayden Harley and

Eli Schweitzer each totaled nine points.

Rochelle sealed the tournament championship with a 60-51 win over Sycamore in the final round. Eli Schweitzer led the Hubs with 25 points and made 12 free throws, while Brayden Harley added 10 points. Luke Chadwick and Holden Liebhaber each finished with seven points.

The team includes Eli Schweitzer, Sebastian Albertson, Luke Chadwick, Holden Liebhaber, Brayden Harley, Maddox Hueramo, Jax Sullivan, Zach Johnson, Dalton Bien, Owen Wyssbrod, Dominick Joyce, Jace Spears, Tyson Carmichael, Tyler Johnson and Trentin Neale. The team is coached by Matt Rosenwinkel and Riley Lodico.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team won the Interstate 8 Conference tournament. The team includes Eli Schweitzer, Sebastian Albertson, Luke Chadwick, Holden Liebhaber, Brayden Harley, Maddox Hueramo, Jax Sullivan, Zach Johnson, Dalton Bien, Owen Wyssbrod, Dominick Joyce, Jace Spears, Tyson Carmichael, Tyler Johnson and Trentin Neale. The team is coached by Matt Rosenwinkel and Riley Lodico.

## RMS Girls Basketball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### Rochelle Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team falls to Belvidere Central

The Rochelle Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team faced Belvidere Central at home this past week, falling 19-17. Above are Rochelle's Jaelyn Gonzales (top left) starting the fast break and Cora Mickley (top right) grabbing a rebound. Below are Rochelle's Tinley Tabor (bottom left) dribbling past a defender and Tinlea Sitter (bottom right) playing defense.

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# SPORTS

## Rochelle Wrestling Club



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Rochelle Wrestling Club athletes Cooper Harris (top left) and Chase Marruffo (top right) earned third-place finishes during the 2025 Milton Monster Mash this past weekend. Grant Cole, Elias Andronic and Nehemiah Andronic (below from left to right) all medaled during the 2025 Omro Youth Wrestling Tournament.

## RWC athletes medal at Wisconsin tournaments

Local kids earn honors from Milton Monster Mash, Omro Youth Wrestling Tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**OMRO, Wis.** — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent three athletes to the 2025 Omro Youth Wrestling Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 16. Nehemiah Andronic and Elias Andronic each brought home first-place finishes, while Grant Cole earned a third-place finish in the meet. Elias Andronic won the 2016-17 61-68 Division title with a 3-0 record. Andronic scored a 17-5 major decision against Omro Foxes wrestler Camdyn Henry before outlasting Aviators wrestler Gunnar Roffers for a 13-10 sudden victory in overtime. Andronic clinched his championship with a 13-4 major decision over Appleton North Youth Wrestling's Colton Reiland in the final round. Nehemiah Andronic won the 2014-15 79-81 Division with a 3-0 record. Andronic opened the tournament with a fall over Southside Lutheran's Marshall Moen before picking up a 15-2 major

decision over Winneconne Wolves wrestler Roman Dain. Andronic sealed his championship crown with a fall over Wrightstown wrestler Cooper Heim in the third and final round. Cole took third in the 2014-15 76-79 Division with a 2-1 record. Cole earned a fall over Southside Lutheran's Oscar Kacmarynski in the opening round before scoring a 7-0 decision against Winneconne Wolves wrestler Milo Wenzel in the second round of the tournament.

### Milton

The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent two athletes to the 2025 Milton Monster Mash on Sunday, Feb. 16. Cooper Harris and Chase Marruffo represented the club, with both wrestlers bringing home third-place finishes in the tournament at Milton High School. Harris went 5-1 over six bouts to take third in the 8U 62 Boys Division. Harris won his first three matches, earning a first-round fall

over Belvidere's Bobby Faraher before scoring an 18-2 technical fall against Slinger Red Rhinos wrestler Daxton Trimberger. Harris, who reached the semifinals with a fall over Maverick Training Center's Trace Haugen, bounced back from a loss with a 15-0 technical fall over Badger Youth Wrestling's Theodore Ecklund and a 17-0 technical fall over Belvidere's Jesse Farnato to end the tournament in third place at his weight division. Marruffo went 4-1 over five bouts to take third in the 10U 105 Boys Division. Marruffo opened the tournament with a 15-0 technical fall over Milton Monsters wrestler Kyron Smith and an 11-4 decision against Belvidere Bandits wrestler Braxton Slack. After a semi-final-round loss, Marruffo clinched third place with an 8-0 major decision over Slinger Red Rhinos wrestler Carson Aulenbacher and a 6-4 decision against Oregon Youth Wrestling Club's Everett Wachter.



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

## Meridian Conference



### St. Paul Lutheran School girls basketball teams host Steward School

The St. Paul Lutheran School and Steward School girls basketball teams duked it out on the hardwood this past week. Steward won the varsity game 41-16, while St. Paul took the JV game in a 10-0 shutout. Above are Steward's Mayson Smardo (top left) putting up a shot and Evi O'Rorke (top right) working around two defenders. Below are St. Paul's Hailey Chapman (bottom left) and Charlie Frankenberry putting up shots.

# SPORTS

## RMS Girls Basketball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### Rochelle Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team beats Belvidere South

The Rochelle Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team picked up a 39-8 win over Belvidere South this past week. Above, Makayla Waters (top left) makes a pass and Jehan Jaradat (top right) puts up a shot. Also above, Camila Norberto (middle left) lays the ball up and Chloe Escatel (middle right) dribbles around a defender. Below, Ariana Hueramo (bottom left) runs up for a shot and Alivia Law (bottom right) leaps for a shot.



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- 6** **Time is money.** It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!
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- 8** **Keeping it local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.
- 9** **One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

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**IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF ROSALVA VARGAS MUNOZ, )))**  
Petitioner,  
AND  
VICTOR MANUEL BARRIOS, Respondent.  
) No. 2024DN61  
To the defendant: Victor Manuel Barrios, last known address: 1034 Lorlyn Circle, Apt. 1A, Batavia, IL 60510  
YOU ARE SUMMONED and required to file an answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage filed in this case, or otherwise file your appearance in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court, located at 106 South Fifth, Oregon, Illinois on or before April 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU AT THAT TIME FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.  
Prepared by: Paul E. Chadwick FEARER NYE & CHADWICK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner 420 Fourth Avenue Rochelle, IL 61068 815/562-2156 paul@fnclaw.com No. 0209 (Feb. 09, 23 and Mar. 2,

2025)  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF PEDRO VARGAS, )**  
Petitioner, )  
AND )  
No. 2024DN30  
SUSAN M. MILLER, ) Respondent. )  
To the defendant: Susan M. Miller, last known address: 1800 Maple Ave., Apt. 412, Belvidere, IL 61108  
YOU ARE SUMMONED and required to file an answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage filed in this case, or otherwise file your appearance in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court, located at 106 South Fifth, Oregon, Illinois on or before April 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU AT THAT TIME FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.  
Prepared by: Paul E. Chadwick FEARER NYE & CHADWICK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner 420 Fourth Avenue Rochelle, IL 61068 815/562-2156 paul@fnclaw.com No. 0215 (Feb. 16, 23 and Mar. 2, 2025)

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LOST - A blue coin purse - coins inside, a piece of paper, little stones from great granddaughter. Last seen on top of paper machine outside of Rochelle News-Leader. If found, please return to the Rochelle News-Leader, open M-Th 9a-3p and F 9a-1p or call 815-562-4171 to arrange a time to drop it off.

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- You'll get good value for your money.** At a cattle auction, you'll be able to negotiate a fair price for the cattle you want. Conversely, if you buy cattle from a private farmer, they set the price and often won't consider negotiating.
- You'll be certain of your investment.** If you purchase cattle from a live auction, the animals come with health papers. This allows you to rest assured knowing the cattle you buy are in good health. These papers aren't required when selling cattle privately.
- You'll be able to network.** Attending a cattle auction will give you the opportunity to get to know other people and organizations in the agricultural industry. This can be useful for promoting and expanding your business.

If you're still hesitant about attending a live cattle auction, don't be afraid to ask the more seasoned farmers in your area for their advice.



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# WINTER SURVIVAL

## Auto interior maintenance and cleaning tips

A number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

- Remove any trash. Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.
- Vacuum the interior. Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning. Pay attention

to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don't have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.

- Scrub floor mats. Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be shampooed using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry. All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.
- Clean the upholstery. Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone, which can



stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

- Address glass surfaces. Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a store-bought glass cleaner on these

surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

- Consider lingering odors. If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air filter may need

to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell. A thorough deep clean-

ing can be done at least once a month to keep a vehicle's interior fresh and clean. However, keeping up with interior cleaning and maintenance by doing small jobs regularly will reduce the need for routine deep cleaning.

## Common car noises and what they might be indicating

ALTHOUGH there are many drivers who understand what goes on under the hood of a vehicle and the inner workings of car mechanics, there are plenty of others who might not know a spark plug from a dipstick. For

the latter group, random noises when driving can be a cause for immediate alarm.

Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is

coming from can help vehicle owners identify the problem. Here's a list of some common sounds and what the causes might be, courtesy of Firestone, Geico and Nationwide.

### High-pitched squealing

Screeching or squealing coming from the tires when stepping on the brakes likely means that brake pads are wearing down and the indicator is rubbing against the ro-

tor. Although this is not an emergency situation, it does mean that brakes will need to be replaced sooner than later.

### Rattling in the wheel

If you hear rattling inside of a wheel at low speeds which stops as you drive faster, it could mean there is a loose lug nut inside of the hub cap. That wheel wasn't tightened properly the last time it was removed and replaced. Bring the

car to a mechanic as soon as possible.

### Clicking

If you try to start the car and only hear a clicking sound instead of the car turning over, a dead battery is likely the cause. Such a noise also may indicate corroded battery terminals that are preventing the current from flowing. Terminals need to be cleaned. The battery should be checked and jumped, if necessary. If a battery is not holding a charge, a new one is needed.

### Squeaky or scraping windshield wipers

Squeaking and scraping means the windshield wipers are wearing down or the windshield is dirty. Clean the windshield and inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are in working order. A bad wip-

er and dirty windshield can reduce visibility and make driving dangerous.

### Clunking sounds

Clunking sounds may indicate a few different issues. A clunking sound might indicate worn out shock absorbers, which absorb vibrations from the wheels. Damaged struts also can cause clunking. Worn out leaf spring shackles that help in off-roading conditions also can cause clunking when they bend or break.

### Humming, whining or whirring

These strange noises might have different origins. Check if the differential needs to be lubricated. A wheel bearing also could be worn out and produce a noise. In more severe cases, the transmission could be failing. The best course of action is to get a professional opinion from a mechanic.

### Flapping noise

A broken belt typically is the culprit when a vehicle makes a flapping or slapping noise. Something also may be interfering with the fan. Driving with a broken belt may cause severe engine damage, so it's important to address the issue.

### Squealing under the hood

Squealing can indicate worn or loose accessory belts. In newer cars it might be the serpentine belt. Belts are relatively inexpensive and easy fixes.

These are some of the sounds that vehicles can make when something is awry. Figuring out the issue can prevent further damage.

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