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**Vol. 105 • No. 89**

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

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**Hubs advance to  
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The RTHS boys basketball  
team defeated Woodstock  
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**See sports**

## WEATHER

**SUNDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**37 18**

**MONDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**44 28**

**TUESDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**49 38**

**WEDNESDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**45 29**

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## OBITUARIES

NONE

## INSERTS

• MENARDS

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8 52078 00112 6

## City working with IDOT on detention area at Hickory Grove property Tesreau: 'We currently have momentum...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its Feb. 10 meeting, the Rochelle City Council heard a presentation from Illinois Department of Transportation Studies & Plans Engineer Mike Kuehn regarding one or two detention areas that could be placed at the rear of the former site of Hickory Grove to assist with drainage as the state prepares to widen and reconstruct Illinois Route 251 on the north side of Rochelle.

The former site of Hickory Grove at 1127 N. 7th St. is owned by the city after it purchased it and demolished the building on the site in recent years with plans for future development by a buyer that has not yet been seen.

The state is currently slated to do the Illinois Route 251 work from south of Flagg Road to just south of Illinois Route 38. The deteriorating portion of the state-owned Illinois Route 251 will see



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its Feb. 10 meeting, the Rochelle City Council heard a presentation from Illinois Department of Transportation Studies & Plans Engineer Mike Kuehn regarding one or two detention areas that could be placed at the rear of the former site of Hickory Grove to assist with drainage as the state prepares to widen and reconstruct Illinois Route 251 on the north side of Rochelle.**

a widening to five lanes with bidirectional turn lanes and new signaling, lighting and pedestrian improvements. The city hopes to see construction start by 2027.

Kuehn said Feb. 10 there is a need for additional drainage in the area for rainfall events. He presented multiple options to the council for detention at 1127 N. 7th St. including one large detention jointly owned and used by IDOT and the city and a potential future developer, and two separate detention areas owned separately by IDOT and the city/potential future developer.

*See HICKORY GROVE page 8*



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its Jan. 27 meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a resolution designating a parcel for the future drilling and development of a new water well (Well 13).**

## City moving forward with Well 13 project to meet community's water needs

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Jan. 27, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a resolution designating a parcel for the future drilling and development of a new water well (Well 13). It also unanimously approved a \$356,000 engineering agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for the project.

Rochelle Municipal Utilities currently owns and operates five wells. When all are in commission, RMU has the capability to pump

9.6 million gallons of water per day. The city's max peak consumption is 4.5 million gallons per day. EPA guidelines require that with the largest pump offline, a city would be able to meet their peak demand.

Currently the city's largest pump, located at Well 8, is offline as it builds an iron filtration plant at that site. If another well pump or equipment experienced a failure requiring a well to go offline, RMU would narrowly meet its max peak demand.

*See WELL 13 page 3*

## Rochelle teachers recognized by ISBE program Local teachers Polz, Crystal, Mock honored for excelling in their craft

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Public School Districts are proud to announce that three of its teachers have been recognized as part of the "Those Who Excel" teacher recognition program through the Illinois State Board of Education. The three teachers honored this year are: Kelly Polz, school counselor at Tilton Elementary School; Theresa Crystal, math teacher a Rochelle Middle School; and Beth Mock, art teacher at Rochelle Township High School.

The "Those Who Excel" program acknowledges educators who have excelled in their craft as an educator and also made a positive impact on the school community as a whole through their ongoing efforts on behalf of students.

### Kelly Polz

Polz has been recognized by ISBE for Excellence in Education. The Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 is excited to support Mrs. Polz as she earns this recognition for the work she does as a school counselor at Tilton School.

"Mrs. Polz's continual efforts on behalf of the students and teachers at Tilton School and across the Rochelle District #231 is inspiring," Becky Cox, principal of Tilton School said. "She is committed to supporting students and staff with social emotional tools and skill building. Mrs. Polz is a patient and calming presence who truly goes out of her way to help within the school setting and beyond. Her extensive knowledge, training, and experience provide Tilton School with daily SEL lessons and building structures that support all students' SEL needs."

Mrs. Polz's daily duties encompass a wide range of responsibilities aimed at supporting students' academic, social, and emotional well-being. She provides individual and group counseling to address personal challenges, academic concerns, and social



**The Rochelle School Districts are proud to announce that three of its teachers have been recognized as part of the "Those Who Excel" teacher recognition program through the Illinois State Board of Education. Kelly Polz, school counselor at Tilton Elementary School; Theresa Crystal, math teacher a Rochelle Middle School; and Beth Mock, art teacher at Rochelle Township High School.**



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

conflicts. Mrs. Polz also collaborates with teachers, administrators, and families to develop intervention plans, monitor student progress, and offer guidance on behavioral issues. She plays a key role in crisis intervention, assisting students in times of emotional distress or emergency situations. Through these duties, Mrs. Polz creates a supportive environment that fosters student success and personal growth.

"Mrs. Polz cares about every student, staff member and family at Tilton School," Cox said. "She takes the time to build relationships. Her communication and work with her students are excellent and makes a lasting impact on the lives of those she counsels."

Mrs. Polz lives in Rochelle with her husband, Andrew, and two children, Adri-

an and Elianna. Mrs. Polz is a graduate of Kishwaukee College and Northern Illinois University. Mrs. Polz has been a counselor in Rochelle's elementary school district for six years. Before coming to Rochelle, Mrs. Polz was a counselor at Rosecrance Berry Campus. Congratulations to Mrs. Polz and her family for this well-earned recognition.

### Theresa Crystal

RMS is excited to congratulate Crystal on being recognized as an honoree through the Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" program. Mrs. Crystal is a seventh grade math teacher.

*See THOSE WHO EXCEL page 2*

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# LOCAL NEWS

## THOSE WHO EXCEL: Rochelle school teachers honored by ISBE

From page 1

“Mrs. Crystal is a data-driven teacher who consistently sets high expectations for all her students. She firmly believes that every student can learn and grow, regardless of their starting point, and this philosophy is evident in her teaching practice,” RMS Principal Jordan Young said. “What sets Mrs. Crystal apart is that her commitment to student growth is unmistakable, as her students consistently demonstrate significant improvement on standardized assessments.”

As an exceptional educator, Mrs. Crystal has consistently demonstrated

her commitment to student success, both academically and personally, and has had a profound impact on her students, colleagues, and our school community at Rochelle Elementary District #231.

“Theresa’s dedication to student success and high expectations make her a standout educator,” RMS Assistant Principal Katie Smith said.

Former students express their gratitude for the profound role she played in their academic journeys and personal growth. This connection is one of Theresa’s many strengths, as it fosters an environment where students are not only encouraged to learn

but also inspired to believe in their own potential.

Mrs. Crystal lives in Rochelle with her husband, Mickey. She has two children, Jacqueline and John, and two grandchildren, Josie and Fin. She is a former Army veteran and has also dedicated 20 years of experience in Rochelle District #231. Congratulations to Mrs. Crystal and her family for this commendable honor.

### Beth Mock

RTHS is proud to announce that art teacher Beth Mock has been recognized by Those Who Excel Awards with the Award of Excellence.

“Beth exemplifies out-

standing knowledge and performance in her field, teaching an impressive range of subjects, including 2D Art, 3D Art, Photography, Advanced Art, and AP Art,” RTHS Principal Dr. Chris Lewis said. “Her AP program averages an exam score of 3.6 over the last five years, showcasing Beth’s ability to challenge students and support high achievement.”

Throughout her tenure at RTHS, Mrs. Mock has consistently gone above and beyond to foster a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. She possesses an innate ability to inspire and engage students from

diverse backgrounds, instilling in them a passion for learning that extends beyond the classroom. Her students have won numerous awards for their outstanding artwork, including local RTHS Art Show, Conference Art Show, and Kishwaukee College Art Show. In addition, many of her students’ artwork is displayed in prestigious institutions such as the White House and former Representative Kinzinger’s office.

“Those who have had the privilege of learning from her or working with her know that her mark on RTHS reaches far beyond the classroom,” Lewis said.

Mrs. Mock also encourages students to participate in her department’s summer art camps and after school enrichment programs like Art Hub. Mrs. Mock is truly deserving of this recognition for her exceptional contributions to education and her profound influence on her students’ lives.

Mrs. Mock lives in Cherry Valley with her husband Matt. She is a graduate from University of Illinois and Western Governors University. She has dedicated 29 years of experience primarily in Rochelle District #212. Congratulations to Mrs. Mock and her family for this well-deserved honor.



### RTHS choir students work with WIU’s Hawkins

The Rochelle Township High School Choir Program and Midnight Voices had the pleasure of ending their day Feb. 25 working with Dr. Jason Hawkins, associate professor of Choral Music Education at Western Illinois University. He listened to all of the groups and gave helpful feedback and tips to help elevate their performance for the upcoming Choral Pops Concert. (Courtesy photos)

## Extension program March 11 to delve into agricultural research

**FREEPORT** — Join the University of Illinois Extension for an engaging evening as we delve into the rich history of agricultural research at the University of Illinois. This

informative event will take place on Tuesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport.

Attendees will have

the unique opportunity to hear from Andrew Margenot, PhD, associate professor of Soil Science and Director of the Morrow Plots. Dr. Margenot will take us on a historical

journey, exploring the inception of the Morrow Plots, the oldest experimental agricultural field in the United States. He will discuss how these plots have evolved over the years and how the University has adapted its campus to preserve this vital resource.

In addition to the Morrow Plots, Dr. Margenot will share insights into the Illinois Centennial Soil Archive Project. This project has significantly impacted Illinois agriculture throughout the 20th century, providing invaluable data for researchers and farmers alike. Also, he will share an update about the new Alma Mater plots, which will research soil management practices. The evening starts with a meal and fellowship, followed by the presentation. Registration is required to attend the Morrow Plots and Illinois Centennial Soil Archive Project Event. Registration can be completed on-line at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw) or by calling University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125.

nois.edu/jsw or by calling University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125.

### Phosphorous

The University of Illinois Extension invites farmers and agronomists to attend an important informational session on the Phosphorus and Potassium Omission Trials being conducted statewide by the University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences Soils Lab. This session will feature researcher Dr. Andrew Margenot, who will discuss the ongoing study in collaboration with KSI Laboratories.

As part of a project funded by the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC), this research aims to provide critical updates to soil test values for phosphorus and potassium, as outlined in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook. These updates are essential for optimizing crop nutrition and enhancing farming practices across the state.

The session will focus on the specific requirements for participating in the field trials and will detail what the researchers are looking for in potential cooperators. This is a unique opportunity to learn how your farm may fit into this vital on-farm trial.

We encourage all interested farmers and agricultural professionals to attend and learn how they can contribute to this significant study. Your participation could play a pivotal role in advancing our understanding of soil nutrient dynamics in Illinois.

The Informational Session on Phosphorus and Potassium Omission Trials will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport.

Registration can be completed on-line at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw) or by calling University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## O’Connell named regional CEO of American Red Cross of Illinois

**CHICAGO** – The American Red Cross of Illinois proudly announces Kellie O’Connell as its new regional chief executive officer. While her responsibilities include the entire Illinois Red Cross region, O’Connell will be primarily based at the Greater Chicago headquarters.

An accomplished and inspiring leader, O’Connell brings a wealth of experience that aligns closely with the Red Cross mission, emphasizing community engagement, equitable access to resources, and diversity initiatives.

With more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit and governmental roles, O’Connell has dedicated her career to ensuring access to vital resources for underserved communities. Most recently, she served as chief executive officer of Nourishing Hope (formerly Lakeview Pantry). During her tenure, she expanded the organization’s food storage and distribution capacity, launched an innovative online market program, grew its mental health and social service offerings, rebranded the organization, and forged collaborative partnerships across Chicago.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kellie to the Red Cross,” Judy Green, division vice president, North Central Division, American Red Cross, said. “Her leadership, vision, and deep commitment to helping communities in need will strengthen our ability to deliver the Red Cross mission across the Illinois region before, during, and after emergencies.”

As Regional CEO, O’Connell will lead a team of dedicated volunteers and staff, serving more than 12.2 million people in 88 counties across Illinois, and parts of Iowa, and Missouri.

“I am deeply honored to join the Red Cross and lead this exceptional team of volunteers and staff,” O’Connell said. “Together, we’ll build on the region’s strong legacy of service while exploring new ways to expand our impact and bring hope to those who need it most.”

O’Connell holds a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University and a master’s degree in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago. She is also a 2019 graduate of Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit

Management Executive Education Program. Since 2020, she has been a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and is an active member of the Engagement Committee of the Economic Club of Chicago. O’Connell also serves on the executive committee of the board of Guitars Over Guns.

O’Connell joins the Illinois Red Cross following the departure of former Regional CEO Celena Roldán Sarillo. The American Red Cross of Illinois serves communities through a network of five chapters: Central Illinois, Greater Chicago, Illinois River Valley, Quad Cities & Northwest Illinois, and South & West Central Illinois. Our mission is to help people prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
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## ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On Feb. 22 at 10:22 a.m. Danielle N. Schmitto, 25, of Ashton was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 22 at 11:29 p.m. Aidan M. Rodriguez, 19, of Rochelle was cited for use of communication device. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 23 at 11:14 a.m. Diane E. Johnson, 62, of Rockford was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m. Lindsay Beyer, 30, of Iowa City was cited for disregarding a stop sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 23 at 3:12 p.m. Adaleiah X. Villalobos, 18, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant. She paid \$456 and was released.

On Feb. 23 at 6:22 p.m. Jose M. Esquivel-Medina, 28, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

**OREGON** — On Feb. 25 at approximately 1:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After investigation deputies placed Ethan Rogers, 55, of Leaf River, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Rogers was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Rogers was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 5:35 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Lowden Road and Nashua Road. After further investigation John Strader, 36, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked and an outstanding Lee County warrant. Strader was also cited for an equipment violation. Strader was transported to the

On Feb. 24 at 8:02 a.m. Jaqui Becerra-Hernandez, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 53 in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 24 at 12:37 p.m. Joseph Gridley, 61, of Malta was arrested for battery. He was released on a notice to appear with a March 21 Ogle County court date.

On Feb. 25 at 1:14 a.m. Israel Centeno, 41, of DeKalb was cited for speeding 80 in a 55 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 25 at 10:49 a.m. Timothy Hendrickson, 38, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 25 at 1:22 p.m. Jose Barraza, 58, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 67 in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 25 at 8:43 p.m. Spencer Contreras, 28, of Rochelle was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and

was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 25 at 10:37 p.m. Robert Molinaro, 54, of Rochelle was cited for a registration violation and operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 26 at 1:01 a.m. Tyler J. Nalley, 24, of Silver Creek, Nebraska was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle.

On Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. Aleja Hueramo Fulgencio, 50, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 21 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 28 at 3 a.m. Zachary R. Richards, 39, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant. He paid \$90 and was released.

On Feb. 28 at 3 a.m. Samantha C. Nelson, 35, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery, criminal damage to property, home invasion and unlawful use of a weapon and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

was additionally issued citations for possession of cannabis-driver, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, and speeding. Reillo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Feb. 25 at approximately 2:26 p.m. deputies were dispatched to 8725 N. Illinois Route 2 in reference to an accident. After an investigation, deputies arrested Cynthia Swanson, 64, of Byron, for driving under the influence of alcohol, having no insurance, and leaving the scene of an accident. Swanson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was processed on her charges and released on a notice to appear court date. Swanson’s vehicle was towed from the scene.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## RTHS’s Smith attends UD’s Second Century Scholars Day

**DUBUQUE, Iowa** – Around 50 high-achieving high school seniors attended the University of Dubuque’s annual Second Century Scholars Day on Friday, February 14, 2025, on campus.

Among them was Jackson Smith of Rochelle Township High School.

Supported by generous investors, the Second Century Scholars program awards two renewable

full-tuition scholarships and several one-time Distinguished Scholar awards to incoming first-year students who show a wide-ranging curiosity about their world, a strong capacity for self-discipline, and a passion for academic excellence in service to their communities.

To be eligible for the scholarships, invited students with a 3.75 or

higher GPA were on campus to participate in the Second Century Scholars Day. They completed a series of interviews and a writing exercise, learned about UD’s Scholar-Leader Honors Program through an informational session, met with UD faculty and students, and attended a dinner where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean’s List

honors. Students earning a perfect 4.00 grade point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean’s List honors.

## Hale makes Dean’s List for Fall 2024 at Millikin

**DECATUR** — Payton Hale of Rochelle has made the Dean’s List for Fall 2024 at Millikin University.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean’s List

honors. Students earning a perfect 4.00 grade point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean’s List honors.

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

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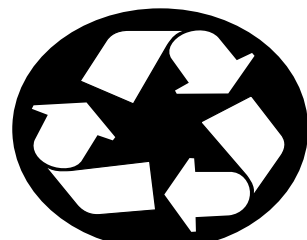
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Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

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.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## LSSI provides crisis intervention for Ogle County youth

**OGLE COUNTY** — Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has provided its Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) program to youth in Ogle County for over 35 years. The CCBYS Program assists Ogle County with intervention services for youth ages 11-17 by responding to local law enforcement for youth who have been locked out of their homes by their family or who have run away from home. These youth are typically at high risk for involvement with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the juvenile justice system. CCBYS provides emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A specialized LSSI crisis worker

can de-escalate the conflict and work toward helping the youth remain at home. Once CCBYS is involved with a family, the program continues to offer outpatient counseling services and family support to prevent future crises. CCBYS also provides discretionary services, such as counseling and support to youth who are referred by school personnel, community providers, or family members who recognize that an adolescent is at risk of delinquency or family disruption. CCBYS also provides this service in-home, at school, or any environment least restrictive, as long as confidentiality is upheld. The CCBYS program works hard with local law enforcement in Ogle County to make a difference in the communities

we serve. We would like to recognize the Polo Police Department for their tremendous efforts in helping youth in their community. Polo Police Chief Matthew Coppotelli works closely with CCBYS and provides the necessary services to youth in the community. “In a city where resources are limited, the partnership between the Polo Police Department and CCBYS has been essential in providing services and a safer environment for the youth in our community,” Chief Coppotelli said. “Having the assistance of trained advocates allows for constructive dialogues, which leads to a more supportive environment for the children in our community, who often face a variety of challenges.” LSSI thanks the Polo Police



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**Front row left to right: Cassie Bushman, Chief Matthew Coppotelli, CCBYS and Supervisor Kindra Short. Back row left to right: Angelica Davis, Ciara Dickson, Karen Lonkert, and Daniel Ramirez.**

Department for their hard work helping youth in the community. For CCBYS services, office at 815.284.7796 and community members may ask to speak to someone in contact the Nachusa LSSI the CCBYS program.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Ashton Bible Church**, corner of Main and Paddock in Ashton. Pastor Farrel Stauffer, church phone is (815)453-2190, church website [www.ashtonbible.org](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@calvalrylighthouse.com](mailto:staff@calvalrylighthouse.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@faithlchrochelle.org](mailto:Pastor@faithlchrochelle.org) for more information. All are welcome to join us!

**First General Baptist Church**, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: [fgbcrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:fgbcrochelle@gmail.com). Website: [www.fgbcrochelle.org](http://www.fgbcrochelle.org). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle](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.. [f](https://facebook.com/lwccr)

**New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN)**, 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m., (815)561-8400, [www.NHFchurch.net](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: [stpatricksrochelle.com](http://stpatricksrochelle.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

## XX, XY, and the transgender culture war

**P**RESIDENT Trump wasted no time in targeting transgender people on his first day back on the job. He issued an executive order stating that the federal government will recognize only two sexes, male and female. The effects of this and other executive orders will be broad and deep.

The federal government will refuse to identify transgender people as such on its documents, including passports. Supportive programs at school, military service, and sports are to be a thing of the past for them. Federal insurance will no longer cover them for their condition. Federal prisons will move transgender women to male prisons. Opponents to the transgender movement are meanwhile pushing for restrictions on their bathroom access and their ability to revise their birth certificates.

It's important to be

clear, in this emotionally charged situation, about the difference between sex, which refers to the organs for making babies, and gender, which reflects how people see themselves and their place in society. Transgender people feel that their psychological, emotional, and/or erotic make-up don't line up with the sex identified in their birth certificates. The Trump administration's policies imply that such people are deluded, dishonest, or simply immoral.

Science can help resolve this conflict by explaining how it is that we become men and women. It can be surprisingly complicated, as revealed by J. Ben Morton in the Feb. 6 Huffington Post (huffpost.com). He's by all appearances a male, but he learned from genetic testing at age 32 that his cells contain, not the XY chromosome combination that produces a male, but instead the XX

chromosome pairing of a female.

This came about in his mother's womb, when part of his Y chromosome moved to the X chromosome. He grew up with the sexual organs of a male on the outside but, in his words, "my internal functioning was more blurred, including irregular hormone production and likely infertility."

His diagnosis provided an explanation for his health issues: "I couldn't build muscle as quickly, I was usually tired, and my brain seemed to operate differently." It also enabled him to receive appropriate medical treatments, and made him more sympathetic to those who "don't fit the typical molds."

Claire Ainsworth, in the Oct. 22, 2018 Scientific American magazine, explained that Mr. Morton's condition is one of

many variations of mixed male and female anatomy that can occur. They result from genetic mutations, mixed-up hormonal signals, and even exchanges of genes between the mother and the fetus in the womb.

It's possible, as a result, for people to have complete or partial organs of both sexes. They may, for example, develop testicles on the inside, but female genitals on the outside, and are identified as females at birth. Ms. Ainsworth reported, in a similar vein, that one man, who had fathered four children, discovered at age 70 that he had a womb.

These people aren't transgender, and they make up a tiny percentage of the population. But they demonstrate that sex and gender aren't necessarily a simple matter of XX vs. XY. Their exist-

tence also suggests that there's much we still don't know about sex and gender regarding transgender people — and the rest of us as well. Common sense tells us that some heterosexual men can at times seem more feminine than some females, and vice versa. Sexual organs and the brain don't always make for a perfect match.

It makes sense, given these uncertainties, to be cautious with judgments about transgender people, as well as those who consider themselves to be gay, lesbian, or otherwise outside the sexual norm. Science provides a useful frame of reference, but it can take us only so far. The question is, in the end, not as much about scientific fact as it is about how we want to treat people who are different.

We might want to exclude or punish them if we see them as threats to beliefs and values that we hold dear. It's an ancient and natural tendency. The

better alternative, also ancient and natural, is to treat them with the kindness and understanding that we offer to everyone else.

Transgender people and their advocates must in like manner offer kindness and understanding to their opponents, if we're to reach a consensus on this issue. Their beliefs and fears are sincere. Everyone must be willing to compromise, whenever possible.

President Trump's executive order isn't kind or understanding. It's judgmental and punitive, and it won't bring a lasting resolution to the culture war over transgender people.

*Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who 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>.*



Lowell Harp

## Letter: Response to Harris column

**D**EAR editor, This is in response to the opinions of Reed Harris published in the Sunday, Feb. 23 issue of the Rochelle News-Leader. Harris writes: "So, what is Elon doing cutting and gutting our federal government?" Reed's response: "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)."

Here are examples of why the current president is attempting to cut certain programs from our federal government according to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/02/at-usaid-waste-and-abuse-runs-deep/>:

- \$1.5 million to "advance diversity equity

- and inclusion in Serbia's workplaces and business communities."
- \$70,000 for production of a "DEI musical" in Ireland.
- \$2.5 million for electric vehicles in Vietnam.
- \$47,000 for a "transgender opera" in Colombia.
- \$32,000 for a "transgender comic book" in Peru.
- \$2 million for sex changes and "LGBT activism" in Guatemala.
- \$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt.

Hundreds of millions of dollars for a non-profit linked to designated terrorist organizations.

Millions were sent to EcoHealth Alliance, which was involved in research at the Wuhan lab in China where COVID-19 originated.

Hundreds of thousands

of meals went to al Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria.

Funding to print "personalized" contraceptive birth control devices in developing countries.

Hundreds of millions of dollars to fund "irrigation canals, farming equipment, and even fertilizer used to support the unprecedented poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan," benefiting the Taliban.

These are some examples of government programs that the current president has identified as not helpful to the U.S. and must be investigated and cut. Harris appears to be supporting such programs.

Harris states, "And why does President Trump want peace between Ukraine and Russia so

badly?" He theorizes, "Since Russia is now feeling the squeeze on their economy, the President would like to make sure that Russia is saved from the trauma." President Trump has repeatedly said in many live speeches and interviews over various media that he wants peace in order to stop the killing. It is helpful to hear his assertions live without the distortions from replays by the mainstream media.

Harris states, "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 stay-

ing 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."

It is difficult to predict at this time what effect some shake-ups will have. If fuel prices drop due to more drilling, this will help farmers and help reduce grocery prices.

Harris argues, "Funding cuts will also impact 19 land-grant university-based innovation labs in 17 states." Time magazine had an article on ridiculous research at universities. Some studies they cite are "Depressed Individuals May Fail to Decrease Sadness," "Being Homeless Is Bad for Your Health," and "Scientists Discover a Difference Between the Sexes," among others. This is the

type of research that the current administration is looking to cut.

Harris concludes, "How did some of us not see these changes coming?" In his opinion, "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." Perhaps Harris was not hearing both sides but was only getting a one-sided view of the news. It was clear to most people who viewed his live speeches what the current president said before being elected: drill baby drill, close the border, stimulate the economy, and root out waste in government operations.

**Chuck Roberts**  
Rochelle

### 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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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

## RMS math team advances to state

**ROCHELLE** — On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Rochelle Middle School math team competed in the regional MathCounts competition. Students participated in the events: the team competition, the individual competition, and the “Countdown” competition.

The RMS team (Daphne Wise, Arabella Maruffo, Brisa Nambo, Edison Rodriguez) took first place and will advance to the state level competition in March.

The top four scorers on the individual exam progress to the state competition. All four were from RMS: first Edison Rodriguez, second Arabella Maruffo, third Daphne Wise, fourth Brisa Nambo. Sixth place Yazmin Cruz will go as an alternate. Jae Goodrich placed seventh as an individual and will also be an alternate.

According to the Math-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Back row: Coach Dr. Desiree Rones, Jae Goodrich, Edison Rodriguez, Daniela Garcia and Esmeralda Brizuela. Front row: Daphne Wise, Bella Maruffo, Brisa Nambo and Yazmin Cruz. Not pictured: Lillian Wenglewski and Gavin Koellig.**

Counts website, the state meet will be on Saturday, March 8 in Oswego.

In the Countdown round, Mathletes go head-to-head to solve math problems in front of an audience. Six of the eight

contestants were from RMS, including Cruz, Nambo, and Jae Goodrich. Those who placed in the finals were Wise (second), Rodriguez (third), and Maruffo (fourth). The Countdown competition is

a regional event only and does not progress to the state level.

All students who competed represented Rochelle Middle School well and are to be commended for their participation.



- Feb. 4 - Justin Otte, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 5 - Julie Mann, Chana, \$25
- Feb. 6 - Chrissy Smardo, Steward, \$25
- Feb. 7 - Kailey Pifer, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 8 - Sharon Watkins, Sycamore, \$25
- Feb. 9 - Roger Meyer, Mt. Morris, \$50
- Feb. 10 - Elsie Johnson, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 11 - Xoe LeMay, Dixon, \$25
- Feb. 12 - Tom Myrick, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 13 - Juan Luna, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 14 - Bill Cash, Roscoe, \$25
- Feb. 15 - Alyssa Perez, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 16 - Eva Chu, Rochelle, \$50
- Feb. 17 - Rocio Belmonte, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 18 - Bridget Schott, Dixon, \$25
- Feb. 19 - Mark Wanner, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 20 - Leslie Ramsey, Roscoe, \$25
- Feb. 21 - Rajiji Sud, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 22 - Doris Parks, \$25
- Feb. 23 - Tracy Alford, Rochelle, \$50
- Feb. 24 - Shelly Crouch, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 25 - Patti Doyle, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 26 - Ashley Lawrenz, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 27 - Jessica Huerta, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 28 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Mar. 1 - Gary Tarvestad, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 2 - Danica Rogers, Rochelle, \$50

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 2 Addison Perkins	March 16 Christy Oleson	March 25 Chaz & Kathy Conant (anniversary) Liz Danekas Shaun Rosenbach
March 5 Briggs Bridgeman	March 19 John Overstreet	
March 6 Nicole King	March 20 Jesse Lopez Rachelle Phillips	March 26 LeeAnn Komadina Kim Dougherty Bernie & Anna Sexton (anniversary)
March 8 Chaz Conant Donna Sassaman	March 22 Wakely Peterman	March 30 Grace Olson
March 9 Minia Waters	March 23 Kristi Gonzales	
March 13 Veronica Lopez	March 24 John Wooten Lanie McPherson	

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



## Coffee Break

### MAGIC MAZE

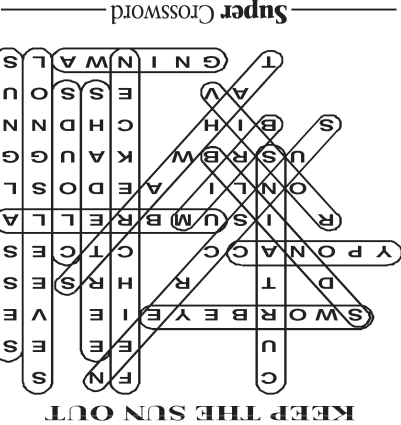
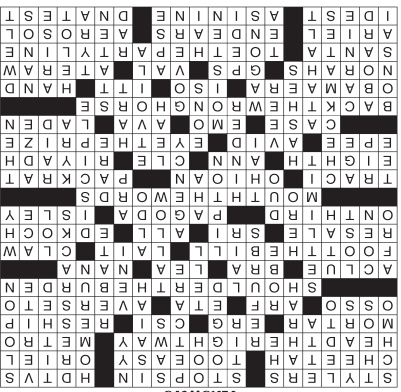
### KEEP THE SUN OUT

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: THE MOON BLOCKING THE SUN

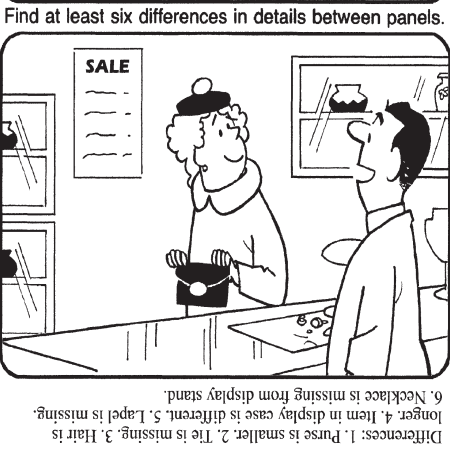
- |        |              |             |           |
|--------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Awning | Clouds       | Neckerchief | Sunscreen |
| Blinds | Curtains     | Shade tree  | Umbrella  |
| Brim   | Eyebrows     | Straw hat   | Visor     |
| Canopy | Long sleeves | Sunglasses  |           |

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Purse is smaller. 2. Tie is missing. 3. Hair is longer. 4. Item in display case is different. 5. Label is missing. 6. Necktie is missing from display stand.

## Super Crossword

### BODILY ACTIVITY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                  | <b>DOWN</b>                                   |
| 1 Hair salon workers                           | 1 Joe —                                       |
| 8 Visits briefly                               | 2 Baltimore ball team, for short              |
| 15 Sharp-image flat-screens, e.g.              | 3 Decade parts                                |
| 20 Very fast cat                               | 4 Caused                                      |
| 21 Not challenging enough                      | 5 Jazz singer                                 |
| 22 Balcony window, perhaps                     | 6 Enthusiastic                                |
| 23 Be on track                                 | 7 Hen or heifer                               |
| 25 D.C.  | 8 Mix together                                |
| 26 Bricklayer's blend                          | 9 Wearing dapper duds, with "out"             |
| 27 Unit of work                                | 10 "— -la-la!"                                |
| 28 2015-16 CBS "Cyber" series                  | 11 Dog or cat owner's concern                 |
| 29 Send again, as a parcel                     | 12 Toothy tools                               |
| 30 — buco                                      | 13 Bible book before Jeremiah                 |
| 31 Kin of "Ruff!"                              | 14 Big Apple team, on sports tickers          |
| 33 Greek "H"                                   | 15 Four-bagger                                |
| 35 Repulsed by                                 | 16 Fixtures for displaying wedding gowns, say |
| 37 Assume an onerous duty                      | 17 Donated 10%                                |
| 40 "I haven't —" ("No idea")                   | 18 Cinema — (filmmaking technique)            |
| 44 Strapped garment                            | 19 Apply messily                              |
| 45 Meadowland                                  | 24 Renovates, in brief                        |
| 46 Pop's mama                                  | 29 Partial refund                             |
| 47 Pay   | 32 Judge's garb                               |
| 50 Café addition                               | 34 Notify                                     |
| 52 Lobster limb                                |   |
| 56 Second purchase                             |   |
| 57 — Lanka                                     |   |
| 58 Everyone                                    |   |
| 59 1978-89 New York mayor                      |   |
| 61 Like a player who has hit a triple          |   |
| 63 Chinese temple                              |   |
| 66 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)        |   |
| 67 Do speaking motions voicelessly             |   |
| 71 Actress Bingham of "Baywatch"               |   |
| 75 Akron native                                |   |
| 76 Collector of useless items                  |   |
| 81 12.5% fraction                              |   |
| 83 Actress Sothorn                             |   |
| 84 Cavaliers, on sports tickers                |   |
| 87 Capital of Saudi Arabia                     |   |
| 88 Fencing sword                               |   |
| 89 Enthusiastic                                |   |
| 91 Focus on what you'll get if you win         |   |
| 93 Bulk beer buy                               |   |
| 95 Angry music genre                           |   |
| 97 Film director DuVernay                      |   |
| 98 Weighed down (with)                         |   |
| 99 Support one who ultimately fails            |   |
| 105 2009-17, politically                       |   |
| 106 Equal: Prefix                              |   |
| 107 "The Addams Family" cousin                 |   |
| 108 Poker holding                              |   |
| 112 "Nick and — Infinite Playlist" (2008 film) |   |
| 113 Car navig. aid                             |   |
| 115 Actor Kilmer                               |   |
| 117 Consumed no cooked food                    |   |
| 119 Kriss Kingle                               |   |
| 120 Conform to one's political group           |   |
| 123 1989 Disney princess                       |   |
| 124 Captivates                                 |   |
| 125 Kind of spray                              |   |
| 126 Latin "that is"                            |   |
| 127 Really foolish                             |   |
| 128 Paternity prover, perhaps                  |   |
| 36 "—, vidi, vici"                             |   |
| 37 Fixed maximum                               |   |
| 38 Forest den                                  |   |
| 39 Fatty tissue of animals                     |   |
| 40 — -Cuban (jazz genre)                       |   |
| 41 Joel or Ethan of film                       |   |
| 42 Misplaced state                             |   |
| 43 Ogden's state                               |   |
| 48 Male lead                                   |   |
| 49 Brand of 120-Down                           |   |
| 51 Actor — Ray                                 |   |
| 53 Email giggle                                |   |
| 54 Superb serve                                |   |
| 55 "How come?"                                 |   |
| 58 Bureau                                      |   |
| 60 Apostle                                     |   |
| 62 Couple                                      |   |
| 64 "I've got it!"                              |   |
| 65 Dadaist Jean                                |   |
| 68 Bangkok native                              |   |
| 69 Impede                                      |   |
| 70 Take a risk                                 |   |
| 71 No-frills shirt                             |   |
| 72 Split                                       |   |
| 73 Census stat                                 |   |
| 74 King-trapping situations                    |   |
| 77 Actress Sedgwick                            |   |
| 78 FBI attack                                  |   |
| 79 Wood-shaping tool                           |   |
| 80 At that time                                |   |
| 82 Discusses in detail, with "out"             |   |
| 85 Actress Remini                              |   |
| 86 French "Ta-da!"                             |   |
| 90 Zig or zag                                  |   |
| 91 Vast time spans                             |   |
| 92 Former senator Gary                         |   |
| 94 On hold                                     |   |
| 96 Make damp                                   |   |
| 99 Tiny tree                                   |   |
| 100 On a train or plane                        |   |
| 101 Singer Wilson of Phillips                  |   |
| 102 Farm carts                                 |   |
| 103 Rule over                                  |   |
| 104 — Island Ferry                             |   |
| 108 Ancient serf                               |   |
| 109 Come to light                              |   |
| 110 Thin iPods                                 |   |
| 111 Resided                                    |   |
| 114 Mani- —                                    |   |
| 116 Church nook                                |   |
| 118 Model Banks                                |   |
| 120 Steeped drink                              |   |
| 121 "Bali —"                                   |   |
| 122 "Super cool!"                              |   |



# LOCAL NEWS

## HICKORY GROVE: City working with IDOT for potential detention pond

From page 1

Options also included the detention areas to have a dry bottom or constant water with a potential water feature. The hypothetical plans also included the placement of trees and a possible walking path.

The plans would still allow for future development of the front of the currently-vacant Hickory Grove site off Illinois Route 251, with a hypothetical 7,742 square foot building shown Feb. 10 along with parking. City officials provided feedback on the project and more detailed plans will be brought back by IDOT in the future.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader Feb. 18 regarding the project. Tesreau said the city council provided crucial feedback on Feb. 10.

“Clearly, we heard the council’s desire to go with a dry-bottom pond and the idea that we need to incorporate landscaping around the perimeter of the facility too and maybe some other ancillary items such as a walking path to provide for the community,” Tesreau said. “I believe we can make a nice looking facility in the middle of an area that was blighted before, while also

maintaining a portion of the property for commercial development up front along Illinois Route 251. We want to see development along there. We don’t want those vacant spaces along that corridor. It’s crucial and it’s a critical entrance to the city.”

The city has been working in conjunction with IDOT on the Illinois Route 251 reconstruction project for years in hopes of seeing it come to fruition as soon as possible. Tesreau believes the project will enhance the corridor and entice businesses to invest along it.

The issue with stormwater exists at the intersection when high-intensity storms take place and city public works employees have responded to the area in the past to attempt to get water moved out of the area. The Hickory Grove detention area is one of a few areas that are being considered for stormwater detention along the corridor, Tesreau said.

Tesreau said he’d like to see one large dry bottom detention area shared by the city and IDOT to allow for as much space as possible for a future development on the front of the property. He said the footprint of the eventual development space would be similar in size to the nearby property

occupied by Great Clips and T-Mobile.

Next steps on the project will include revising the plans for the detention area and development portion including the addition of more parking spaces. The plan would go back before the city council for approval and intergovernmental agreements for drainage and storm sewer easements to connect the area to Illinois Route 251 would be voted on.

Fiegenschuh said the city feels confident about getting a developer for the front of the Hickory Grove lot in the future.

“We haven’t had a lot of interest lately, but the council made it very clear when we took that property over, that the top priority was clearing the blight, which we’ve done,” Fiegenschuh said. “Then they made it abundantly clear that we want to make sure we get a project that the community can be proud of. However long it takes for that project to come to fruition, we’re willing to wait.”

Tesreau said the city is motivated to work quickly with the state on the detention project to help move the overall Illinois Route 251 project along. Tesreau has worked for the past 20 years in hopes to see the project happen and said the current momentum



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The plans would still allow for future development of the front of the currently-vacant Hickory Grove site off Illinois Route 251, with a hypothetical 7,742 square foot building shown Feb. 10 along with parking.**

behind it is the most the city has seen.

The city council recently dedicated \$3.7 million for the city’s portion of the project that will include water main replacement and relocation, lighting, and its share of streetlights and pedestrian facilities like sidewalks and a shared-use path that will run to the existing path at Flagg Road.

“We’re making a pretty significant investment,” Tesreau said. “The last I checked, the overall project is estimated at about \$15 million for that corridor improvement. We’re

committed and we want to try to help the state where we can to facilitate items such as this detention area to address some of the issues we’ve got and keep it moving forward.”

One of the concerns the city hears most often from residents is the condition of the stretch of Illinois Route 251 that will be reconstructed by the state.

“We’ve been working with IDOT for most of my time here pushing this project forward,” Fiegenschuh said. “To see them taking that on and understanding the importance of it to our community is

a positive step. When this project moves forward and construction starts it’s going to be one of the largest road projects this community has ever undertaken. It’s going to be an intrusive project to say the least. We’re going to work with folks to make sure businesses are accessible as possible. I’m excited to be part of it because this will be the most complex road improvement project I’ve been part of in my 20 years as a city manager. To see the fruits of everyone’s labor and seeing it completed will be great.”

## OCSWMD releases battery information

**OREGON** — Battery-containing devices seem to be everywhere and are becoming a major topic in the solid waste and recycling industries. Everything from small handheld items to vehicles, rechargeable batteries are a common part of everyday life for almost everyone.

Like every other product, rechargeable batteries have an end of life (EOL) and must be managed safely and responsibly when

that time comes. Batteries though, unlike other items, can be dangerous and pose safety threats if their EOL is not managed properly. Regular single-use alkaline batteries are non-hazardous and may be disposed of in the regular trash, but there are also mail-back programs for these batteries as well.

First, rechargeable batteries or other battery-containing devices, should never be placed into regular curb-side recycling

carts, recycling drop-off bins, or garbage cans with trash destined for landfill disposal. Doing so will expose the battery to conditions which may cause the battery to overheat and could lead to a fire. Recent incidents involving waste-hauling trucks and recycling processing facilities are well documented and are now commonplace in the news.

Second, always charge batteries according to the manufacturer’s in-

structions, use the proper charging devices, and monitor devices and batteries for damage, charging ability, overheating, and deformation and/or bulging.

Third, when the EOL comes for your rechargeable battery, be sure it gets recycled properly. Here in Ogle County rechargeable batteries can be brought to the monthly residential electronics collections, and are also accepted from businesses and

institutions through a separate program. There are also mail back programs for batteries and some home improvement and electronic stores take back rechargeable batteries as well. You can also check with the manufacturer of the device for proper recycling and take back options.

In regards to small battery containing devices such as vapes, toll transponders, and other small sealed electronics,

check with the manufacturer or the generator of the device for proper recycling. Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will take these items also at their monthly residential electronic collections.

For more information about battery safety and proper recycling, call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020 or visit [www.ogle-countyil.gov](http://www.ogle-countyil.gov) and head to the Solid Waste tab.



**RTHS Student Council visits Liberty Village**

The Rochelle Township High School Student Council visited Liberty Village in Rochelle on Feb. 20 to play volleyball with some of the residents. The students assembled and donated goody bags for all the residents. (Courtesy photos)



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SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## DANCERS HONORED

The RTHS dance team held its awards banquet on Tuesday evening.

See page 2 for more details

### RTHS Boys Basketball

# Hubs knock off Woodstock

Lewis surpasses 1,000 points as Rochelle wins regional semifinal game 83-60

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**FREEPORT** — Senior guard Carson Lewis achieved a historic milestone Wednesday evening, when the Rochelle Hubs faced Woodstock during the IHSA 3A Freeport Regional Semifinals.

Lewis scored a team-high 20 points, 15 coming in the first half, and surpassed 1,000 points for his career as the Hubs knocked off the Blue Streaks 83-60 to advance to the regional finals on Friday evening. It's the second consecutive season that Rochelle (13-19, 3-7 Interstate 8) has eliminated Woodstock (20-12, 12-4 Kishwaukee River) from regional championship contention. The Hubs will face Rockford Boylan on Friday at 6 p.m. for their first regional title since 2022.

"I wasn't sure I would be able to hit it," said Lewis, who missed mul-

tiples games earlier this season with an injury. "I kept practicing and once I got healthy, I started shooting the ball well at the right time. My coaches believe in me and my teammates pass me the ball. We've had great chemistry and I know that, when my teammates get me the ball, I'm going to make the shot."

While Rochelle dominated the second half with its pace, it was Woodstock who controlled the tempo during the first half, where Blue Streak guards Max Beard and Collin Greenlee each drilled a trio of triples to spark the Woodstock offense. The Blue Streaks controlled the glass in the first half, particularly on the offensive end, and their longer offensive sets prevented the Hubs from opening up the floor and pushing the ball for easy layups or transition points.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

See **BASKETBALL**  
page 2

Freshman Cohen Haedt drives toward the free-throw line during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Woodstock on Wednesday evening.

### RTHS Girls Basketball



## Lady Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards during team banquet

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team held its season-ending awards banquet on Wednesday evening. Several Lady Hub student-athletes earned RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards. Academic All-Conference winners were Savanna Wilson (Honorable Mention), Jaydin Dickey (Honorable Mention), Kendyl Darby (Honorable Mention), Abby Metzger, Payton Cesarone (Honorable Mention), Riley Doyle, Abby Bozinovich, Rose Luxton, Mary Chadwick (above from left to right). RTHS awards went to Riley Doyle (Coach's Award), Abby Metzger (Most Improved), Kendyl Darby (MVP), Dylan Etes (Toughness Award) and Carmela Bright (Defensive Award) (below at left). All-Conference awards went to Jaydin Dickey (Honorable Mention) and Kendyl Darby (below at right).



# SPORTS

## RTHS Dance

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



**RTHS dancers earn awards during team banquet Tuesday night**  
The Rochelle Township High School dance team held its season-ending awards banquet Tuesday evening. Damaris Macias and Paige Harris (left) were named the RTHS Dancer of the Year and Most Improved Dancer Award winners. Three girls including Julia Livingston, Alayna Smardo (Honorable Mention) and Alessandra Bonilla (Honorable Mention) (above) received Academic All-Interstate 8 awards.

## BASKETBALL: Hubs advance to IHSA 3A Regional Finals

From page 1

Rochelle, meanwhile, struggled from the perimeter during the first half, where the Hubs took the bulk of their shots from range rather than attacking the interior of the Woodstock defense. That changed toward the end of the second quarter, where Lewis used a trio of aggressive drives to score six points, four of which came on free throws. The late flurry of points allowed the Hubs to erase as much as a seven-point deficit and bring Woodstock within two, 33-31, at halftime.

“We were shooting bad shots in the first quarter and they weren’t falling,” Lewis said. “We knew that we had to play as a team, take good shots and run fast. We started to score

after that.”

The Hubs took control of their regional semifinal matchup early in the third quarter, where Rochelle went on an 11-4 run that included a corner triple from freshman guard Cohen Haedt as well as a pair of layups through contact from sophomore forward Brody Bruns and junior forward Brode Metzger. On the other end, Woodstock went cold from range and the Hubs crashed the glass, which allowed Rochelle to send the ball up the floor quickly and create more offense.

The increased pace led to a 3-pointer and a transition layup from senior guard Elijah Harley, who scored 12 of his 17 points in the third quarter and forced the Blue Streaks to burn multiple timeouts in

their attempt to quell the momentum. Rochelle out-scored Woodstock 30-11 in the third quarter, where the Hubs held the Blue Streaks to one 3-point basket, to take a 61-44 lead.

“They were getting more offensive boards than us in the first half,” said Metzger, who chipped in eight points on Wednesday. “We had to box out and get more rebounds and we had to push the ball off of that. It’s a huge confidence boost and I think we have a good chance to beat Boylan. We just need to practice hard tomorrow and come out on Friday ready to push the ball.”

Haedt helped the Hubs ice their victory in the fourth quarter, drawing multiple fouls as the Blue Streaks attempted to extend the game and fight their way back. But Haedt showed



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Elijah Harley attacks the basket during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Woodstock on Wednesday.**

tremendous poise from the free-throw line, where the freshman point guard went 8-for-8 to cap off a 13-point scoring performance. Bruns added 10 points for the Hubs, who finished with four players in double figures on Wednesday. Junior guard Van Gerber totaled nine points in the victory.

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Basketball

# Defense and rebounding highlight eight-win season

## Interstate 8 All-Conference forward Darby headlines departing senior players

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Defense and rebounding were among the biggest strengths of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team during the 2024-25 season. With the program's top three frontcourt players set to graduate after this school year, head coach Jon Gehm said that improved shooting will be the top priority as the Lady Hubs work through the offseason.

Rochelle finished with an 8-23 overall record and a 1-9 record in the Interstate 8 Conference. The Lady Hubs started the season with a fifth-place showing at the Oregon Thanksgiving Tournament, where Rochelle went 3-1 and earned wins over Genoa-Kingston, Richmond-Burton and Ashton-Franklin Center. The Lady Hubs recorded their biggest home victory of the season in late January, when Rochelle took down Sycamore for the first time in over a decade.

"The girls showed a lot of perseverance this year," Gehm said. "The record wasn't what we wanted to be, but it never felt like we were all healthy at the same time. We persevered through that and girls stepped up in different moments. We had a hard time getting wins, but we saw a lot of individual improvements from the girls and that's something we can be proud of them for."

Rochelle collected nonconference wins over Rock Falls, East Moline United, Belvidere North and Mendota. The Lady Hubs concluded their season with a loss against Sterling at the IHSA 3A Sterling Regional Semifinals in February. Rochelle will graduate four seniors from the varsity roster, three of which were starters. Kendyl Darby led the Lady Hubs in scoring and rebounding, averaging 11.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Darby also led the team in blocks this year.

"I thought we became a much better offensive rebounding team as the season went on," Gehm said. "The girls crashed the boards really well, especially at the guard position. I thought our interior passing improved and we were able to attack better out of the low post. We were moving better and we were able to play more inside-out basketball. Our shooting was a struggle, but our movement was a lot better, so if we can improve our shooting, we can build on that next year."

Darby will be one of three forwards departing from the varsity roster after this season. The other two are reserve forward Riley Doyle and starting forward Abby Metzger, who turned in averages of 7.8 points and 4.8 rebounds per game this season. Senior guard Payton Cesarone will be the only backcourt player graduating from the varsity roster. Junior



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Abby Metzger is one of four players who will depart from the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team after the 2024-25 season. Rochelle finished with an 8-23 record this season.**

guards Carmela Bright and Jaydin Dickey are two starters Rochelle will look to build around for the 2025-26 campaign.

"Shooting is the big one for us," Gehm said. "We have to be able to hit some threes because those can help us make up for defensive mistakes or turnovers. We didn't really have that this year. We need our returning girls to step up and become better shooters over the summer. The girls need to keep working on their form and shooting with confidence, even

when their shots aren't falling. That can be huge for our program if we can become a better shooting team."

Despite missing time to a shoulder injury, Dickey ranked second on the team in scoring average with 9.4 points per game and first in steal average with 2.2 steals per game. Bright took on the majority of the ball handling duties this season, posting averages of 5.9 points, 3.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.6 steals per game. Freshman guard Audrina Rodriguez, who averaged

5.6 points, 5.0 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game, will be another player to watch for next year.

"It starts with Jaydin and Carmela," Gehm said. "We need each of them to step up as leaders and we need them to step up on the floor as well. Both of them had really good moments as juniors and Jaydin has been with me for two years now. The girls will be looking to them for leadership next year. Audrina had a really productive year as a freshman and we'll be looking for her to

continue adding to her repertoire. We want to continue seeing growth from her."

Junior guards Rose Luxton, Mary Chadwick and forward Abby Bozinovich are three reserves who could see bigger varsity roles next year. Sophomores Reese Kissack and Dylan Etes, as well as freshmen Natalie Foster and Gianna Olguin, are four underclassmen who could also emerge in more significant varsity roles when the Lady Hubs return for the 2025-26 season.

## St. Paul Lutheran School

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### St. Paul Lutheran School sixth-graders take third at 58th Annual St. Paul Invitational

The St. Paul Lutheran School sixth-grade boys basketball team took third with a 2-1 record during the 58th Annual St. Paul Invitational this past weekend. St. Paul defeated the Immanuel Dundee B team and ended the tournament with a 32-29 win over the Immanuel Dundee A team. The team (above at left) is coached by Tim Hayden and Paul Chadwick and the roster includes Noah Hayden, Jimmy Chadwick, Gavin Smith, Riley Heal, Noah Osborne, Jack Olson, Charlie Chadwick, Caden Hatfield, Ivan Olson and Owen Smardo. Above, St. Paul's Gavin Smith (above at right) shoots the ball. Below, St. Paul's Ivan Olson (bottom left) grabs a rebound and Jimmy Chadwick (bottom right) puts up a shot.



# SPORTS

## St. Paul Lutheran School

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### St. Paul Lutheran School fifth-graders compete at 58th Annual St. Paul Invitational

The St. Paul Lutheran School fifth-grade boys basketball team competed in the 58th Annual St. Paul Invitational this past weekend. St. Paul went 1-2 over three games, defeating AFC 33-24. Above, St. Paul's Grant Rowley (top left) attacks the basket and Danny Johnson (top right) puts up a jump shot. Below, Silas Alsop (bottom left) shoots over AFC defenders. The team (bottom right) includes Hayden Capes, Xavier Mueller, Keilon Salar, Silas Alsop, coach Henry Bunger, Grant Rowley, Danny Johnson, Jackson Noble, Lucas Bunger and Caleb Johnson.

## NIU Athletics

# Huskie sports moving to Horizon League in 2026-27

## Fourteen NIU teams maintain regional connections, football moving to Mountain West

**DEKALB**— Northern Illinois University will join the Horizon League as a full member with 14 sports set to begin competition in the League for the 2026-27 seasons, NIU and the Horizon League announced Thursday (Feb. 27). The announcement came following a meeting of the NIU Board of Trustees. "We are delighted to be joining the Horizon League. The league will be a wonderful home and a great fit for Huskie Athletics," said NIU President Lisa C. Freeman. "The regional footprint of the league provides NIU student-athletes with the opportunity to compete at a high level in cities throughout the Midwest while maintaining the high academic standards that have become a hallmark of NIU Athletics."

NIU teams will compete in the Horizon League in men's and women's basketball, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, women's cross country, women's indoor and outdoor track and field, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, baseball and softball. "We are looking forward to a great partnership with the Horizon League and are excited about the opportunities for NIU student-athletes to continue our legacy of success" said NIU Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean T. Frazier. "Thanks to Commissioner Julie Roe Lach and the membership of the Horizon League, and to President Freeman and others in the NIU administration, who have been alongside as we chart the course for the future of NIU Athletics. This move continues our strategic approach to embracing a national model for our programs while preserving a regional base and returning to a league where Huskie

Athletics can continue to thrive." NIU, which is celebrating its 125th season of intercollegiate athletics in 2024-25, was previously a member of the Horizon League – then known as the Midwestern Collegiate Conference – from 1994-97. Five different Huskie teams won eight league titles during that time. NIU won the McCafferty Trophy, awarded annually to the league's all-sport champion, following the 1995-96 academic year. Headquartered in downtown Indianapolis, the Horizon League, is celebrating its 46th season of operation in 2024-25. Nine of the current league member institutions are located in top 70 media markets throughout the Midwest's major metropolitan cities. NIU becomes the 12th full member of the Horizon League, joining Cleveland State University, the University of

Detroit Mercy, Indiana University-Indianapolis, Northern Kentucky University, Oakland University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Robert Morris University, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wright State University and Youngstown State University. "We are thrilled to welcome Northern Illinois University into #OurHorizon in a major move for our League and member institutions," said Horizon League Commissioner Julie Roe Lach. "The university's commitment to holistically developing students for their future aligns closely with our mission, vision and core values and we look forward to the major experiences and impact this will create for our student-athletes." The move to the Horizon League marks



another step in NIU Athletics' ongoing effort to maximize revenues in order to ensure the sustainability – and the level of excellence – of all Huskie programs amidst considerable and ongoing changes in the intercollegiate athletics landscape. On January 7, NIU accepted an invitation for

its football program to join the Mountain West Conference beginning with the 2026 season. For more on the Huskies' move to the Horizon League beginning in 2026-27, read the Q&A below and watch the press conference on the NIU Athletics Official YouTube Channel.

## Kishwaukee College Athletics

# Kish College hires John Karpowicz as head golf coach

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College hired John Karpowicz as the next head coach of the Men's and Women's Golf teams. Karpowicz will start the Spring 2025 season at the helm of the Kougars' program. With more than 30 years of coaching experience across various sports, Karpowicz arrives at Kish having coached at youth, high school and collegiate levels. Former coaching stops include Benedictine University, Driscoll

Catholic High School (Addison) and Glenbard West High School, where he has worked for the past 26 years. While he has coached football, baseball, and track and field, Karpowicz recently pivoted his focus to golf as the head coach of the Glenbard West girl's team. Karpowicz plans on retiring from Glenbard West this spring and saw Kish's program as an option to stay connected to the game. "I am looking forward

to the opportunity and am interested in seeing what we can build and create here. We have students looking to play at four-year schools, and I want to help them learn, develop and reach their goals," Karpowicz said. Karpowicz said an initial goal is to continue adding local talent to the Kish roster as the program builds on past success. In recent years, the men's and women's programs have had individual qualifiers for

the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship, and the women's team placed 15th in the nation for the 2021-2022 season. "We will focus on recruiting and let people know that Kishwaukee College is on the map and a viable option for people looking to play golf at the collegiate level. Kish is a quality, affordable option for anyone looking to advance their game," Karpowicz said.

With a focus on player development, Karpowicz also stressed the importance of academics for Kish student-athletes. "It's important to teach these athletes to manage their time and schedules. Success in the classroom is paramount. If they want to continue playing golf at a four-year school, they will need the grades. The better grades they get, the more opportunities they will have after Kish," Karpowicz said. For more informa-

tion on the Men's and Women's Golf programs at Kishwaukee College, contact John Karpowicz at [jkarpowicz@kish.edu](mailto:jkarpowicz@kish.edu) or 815-825-9412 or visit [kishkougars.com](http://kishkougars.com). Learn more about Kishwaukee College at [kish.edu](http://kish.edu).







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



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# Ogle County's



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### CATCH OUR FISH FRY!

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**4-8 pm**  
during Lent

**Fish Fry Buffet**  
(All You Can Eat) - \$20  
Every Friday during Lent

(Multiple dishes, Baked Cod, Pollock, Perch, homemade hush-puppies, shrimp fried rice, cheesy potatoes, soup and salad bar, vegetables and more! \*Fish will vary each week)



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money  
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**Friday Night  
Fish Dinner**  
\$17 Perch/\$15 Cod  
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salad bar

Other seafood available / Full menu available

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Maxsons.net

03032025

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Post 8739



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**815-732-6851**



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& Shrimp Dinners

**Served Fridays 4pm-8pm**  
Open to the Public, Dine-in or Carry-out.

03032025



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CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
ROCHELLE, IL

### 2025 Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

St. Patrick Parish Center 236 Kelley Drive

#### Fish Dinner

ADULT (11YRS+) \$15.50  
SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$14.50  
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$10.50

Includes 2-3 pieces of baked or hand breaded  
fried cod and everything on the menu  
excluding pizza

#### Pizza Dinner

ADULT (11YRS+) \$13.50  
SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$12.50  
CHILDREN (4-10YRS) \$8.50

Includes 2 slices of pizza (1 slice for  
children's dinner) and everything on the menu  
excluding fish

**FAMILY RATE - \$50**

Parent(s) and children 18-under - DINE IN ONLY

**3-UNDER - FREE**

50/50 RAFFLE - HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE - CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

#### Friday's Dates

MARCH 14, 21, 28

APRIL 4, 11

5:00-7:00 PM

#### MENU

Baked & Hand Breaded  
Deep Fried Cod  
Tartar Sauce & Lemon Slices  
Alfano's Cheese Pizza  
Macaroni & Cheese  
French Fries  
Potatoes w/Parsley  
Green Beans  
Cole Slaw  
Dessert & Beverages

Dinner proceeds support St. Patrick Cursillo Ministry.  
A special thank you to our Parishioners for their support of our ministry!

**Friday  
5pm-9pm**



**208 N. Walnut St.**  
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03032025



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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**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

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**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

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
A Mini Storage, LLC, A storage facility located at 117 Quarry Road Rochelle, IL hereby announces that the possessions of the following lessees will be disposed of by means of auction on March 19th 2025, at 9:00 AM. Disposal of personal property shall conform to the terms of the certified notice previously mailed to the lessee. The contents of the units can be pre-viewed online at www.bid13.com The preview and sale will take place at each individual unit listed below; in the order they appear.  
Unit# 220 Juan Olguin Plastic bags, Bikes, grill, kids car, kids car bed frame, toaster, TV, water cooler, window AC.  
No. 0301 (March 2 and 9, 2025)

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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## 305 GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE

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license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

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### PET SITTER WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

BOWL  
CARE  
CAT  
COMPANION  
DOG  
FAMILY  
FEEDING  
HELP  
HOME  
INSTRUCT  
LEASH  
MEDICINE  
OVERNIGHT  
PETS  
REFERENCES  
SITTER  
SNUGGLE  
TRAVELING  
TRUST  
VETERINARIAN  
WALKS  
WELFARE

### KIDZONE

## CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to pet sitting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = R)

**A. 26 22 10 4 12 2 9 4 10**  
Clue: Babysitter

**B. 6 21 6 6 8**  
Clue: Young dog

**C. 16 14 22 10 13 2 7 12**  
Clue: Overnight animal care

**D. 1 10 22 9 4 24**  
Clue: Vacationing

### MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE

### Amazing maze

Help the fairy get to the leprechaun.

### TWINZ

Which two are exactly alike?

### Match game

Add up all the matching images

### Sudoku 6x6

			◇	+	
+		○	△		
○		×			△
		□			+
		+		△	
	×			○	

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS. Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.

□	○	+	×	◇	△
◇	△	×	+	○	□
+	×	○	◇	△	□
×	○	◇	△	+	□
□	△	◇	+	×	○
○	+	◇	△	□	×





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# HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Eric  
Milan**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track*

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

*A: I've barely started my first year.*

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

*A: Being able to hang out with friends and working out my legs.*

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

*A: Personal fitness because I enjoy doing stretches, working out and becoming stronger.*

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

*A: Currently I don't have one.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: I don't have one.*

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

*A: I can't think of one right now.*

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

*A: To go to Spain or France because they are good countries and I've been wanting to go.*

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

*A: Working hard, hanging out with friends and gaining confidence.*



**Gavin  
Welter**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track*

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

*A: Two years.*

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

*A: It keeps me active and I enjoy running and competing.*

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

*A: LeBron James because he's a very popular basketball player.*

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

*A: Math because I'm pretty good at it and I don't find it difficult to pass.*

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

*A: My parents because they have taught me everything I know and they help me when I need them.*

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

*A: A nurse anesthetist because it's a job I would enjoy and it's a good paying job.*

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

*A: Tokyo because it's a beautiful city and I really like Japan.*

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

*A: Having something to look forward to and achieving my goals.*

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**GO, HUBS!**

Good luck to our local student athletes!

