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# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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## Nuyen sets new pole vault record

Andrew Nuyen of Rochelle  
set a new school record in  
the pole vault at a recent  
competition. **See Sports**

### WEATHER



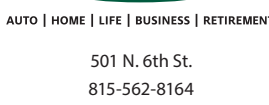
**SUNDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**45 30**



**MONDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**60 28**



**TUESDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**63 41**



**WEDNESDAY**  
HIGH LOW  
**59 36**

**OBITUARIES**

- JAMES EUGENE 'JR' REINTS
- ELIZABETH 'SUSIE' ANN DEAN
- DAVID FRANK BAKES

**See page 4**

### INSERTS

- MENARDS
- LIVING 50+

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Community.....7



## Preschool plan to utilize currently- vacant May School approved

Update on dual language program presented Tuesday

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education unanimously approved a Stepping Stones Preschool fiscal year 2026 transition plan that will see it expand the district's preschool offerings and utilize the currently-vacant May Elementary School building for that purpose.

Stepping Stones Preschool, located inside Lincoln Elementary School, currently serves 180 students and has a waiting list of about 40 kids. The district has a desire to serve students on the waiting list and recently received a preschool-for-all grant for two years (fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026) that made it consider expanding its offerings.

May School at 1033 N. 2nd St. was closed by the school board before the 2021-2022 school year as the district shifted to an attendance center model due to declining enrollment and an increase in the district's dual language program,



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education unanimously approved a Stepping Stones Preschool fiscal year 2026 transition plan that will see it expand the district's preschool offerings and utilize the currently-vacant May Elementary School building for that purpose.**

which was previously only offered at Lincoln and Central Elementary Schools. The district was facing a half-full May School before the decision was made.

The district has held meetings with stakeholders to determine what would be feasible and what would be required for preschool operations at May School. Increased bathroom, playground, furniture, parking, safety and staffing needs are among those that will have to be met for that to take place.

There are currently six preschool

classrooms at Stepping Stones Preschool and a seventh would be located at May School.

"Historically we've had somewhere in between 20-45 kids on the waiting list," Superintendent Jason Harper said. "Expansion means adding a seventh class to our program. It's also expansion in having another certified staff member to cover the mandated early childhood screeners, play-based assessments and IEP needs and documentation."

**See SCHOOL BOARD page 2**

## Tuesday fire in Rochelle claims dog shed, no injuries

Fire took place on Kelley Drive; shed valued around \$1,000-2,000

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — There were no injuries and a small dog shed was a total loss after a Tuesday afternoon fire, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Josh Lewis said.

On Tuesday afternoon at approximately 1:30 p.m., RFD responded to a shed fire at 247 Kelley Drive in a backyard. Firefighters arrived to find a fully involved fire with the tree above it and a nearby fence suffering burn damage as well. Firefighters then extinguished the fire. There were no injuries to residents, firefighters or pets, Lewis said.

Lewis said the dog shed was likely valued at around \$1,000-2,000. The pets were nearby on Tuesday but were a safe distance from the fire, he said. RFD was the only department called to the scene. Lewis said the cause of the fire was not



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**There were no injuries and a small dog shed was a total loss after a Tuesday afternoon fire, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Josh Lewis said.**

suspicious and was accidental in nature.

"There was possible danger to other exposed buildings in the area

of the fire while it was burning," Lewis said. "It caught the tree on fire and next in line to burn was the house and another shed nearby.

Luckily, that didn't happen."

See page 5 of the Rochelle News-Leader for more photos from the fire on Tuesday.

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Lucky Hub Dash held March 8

On March 8, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce held its annual Lucky Hub Dash at Flannigan Park. The event this year was presented by Holcomb Bank. The adult winners were Brent Ewald (first place), Kyle Macklin (second) and Ben Baar (third). Youth winners were Mayson Smardo (first place), Jamie Riddell (second) and Mike Foster (third). The most festive award winner was Rhonda Haffner. The chamber thanked all of its sponsors, racers and fans. (Courtesy photos)

## SCHOOL BOARD: Dual language program update presented Tuesday evening

From page 1

“It’s also expansion with having staff starting to engage with parents of children that are not yet three years old. It’s potentially expanding in the direction of birth to three services. We will have more robust services for our students. The big change for our public and our staff members is to have enough space, we would look to move the program to May School.” Harper said the grant program is all funded by state dollars, which would make it unaffected by current federal cuts to education.

### Dual language

The board heard an

update on the district’s dual language immersion program from District Language Services Director Celeste Canfield and Language & Culture Coordinator Kim Lumzy. The dual language program is in its eighth year and it is currently assessing its instruction. Canfield said the program began with the 2017-2018 school year. Dual language is now spread out through each district building. “We’ll continue to expand into Rochelle Middle School with our second section coming up in 2026-2027 with the hopes of having our first graduating class of dual language students from Rochelle

Township High School in May 2030,” Canfield said. There are about 50 dual language students each in fifth, sixth and seventh grades. There are 75-100 dual language students each at other grade levels. Prekindergarten currently has around 60 dual language students. “The program is still growing, evolving and changing,” Lumzy said. “We appreciate your support and patience with us as we continue to work hard to make this the best program we can offer to our community.”

### Dornink

The board and those in attendance at the meeting held a moment of silence

in honor of Rick Dornink, a longtime district employee that passed away Feb. 17 at the age of 62 after a sudden illness. Harper said Dornink had over 20 years of service at the district in multiple roles including administration, teacher, athletic director and coach. “He was an all-around great guy that had a positive impact on our students, district and community,” Harper said.

### Farewell

Harper wished Board President Trisha Vaughn and Board Member Dave Casey well as they will soon end their terms and won’t be seeking reelection on April 1.

### Personnel

The board unanimously approved yearly personnel changes, including

the resignations of Alva Valle (dual art at RMS) and Sam Volkert (sixth grade science, RMS) for the end of the school year. Numerous yearly employment renewals were approved Tuesday for first, second, third, fourth and non certified teachers.

### EOY

Harper provided details on the end of the 2024-2025 school year following some unscheduled days off school that have taken place. The eighth grade graduation ceremony will take place Friday, May 23. The district’s last day with students will be May 27 and its last day with staff will be May 28.

## Kish College to begin ‘all-in’ tuition in summer 2025

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College will include all fees and textbooks in the cost of tuition starting in the Summer 2025 semester. The college began eliminating fees in 2024 and will now focus on removing textbook fees. The new textbook initiative provides students with all required physical or digital textbooks as part of the cost of tuition. Students will see one charge on their financial statements, which includes tuition, fees and required textbooks. “The advertised cost of tuition is what students will pay to attend Kish. Cost transparency is im-

portant as students and families plan for the true cost of attending college. It also contributes to student success, as they will have the required books they need for their classes on day one without having to pay separately for books,” said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College. At the March Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved an \$8 per credit hour increase to the base-rate tuition to cover the costs of all required textbooks, digital books and access codes. Students can opt out of receiving their textbooks through Kishwaukee College.

When opting out, students receive a refund for the \$8 per credit hour cost. Students who pay for textbooks through tuition rather than independently buying them can save hundreds of dollars per semester. For example, an Associate in Arts student taking 15 credit hours in a semester can expect to save approximately \$165. Studies have shown that student success improves when textbooks are more affordable, and students can access course materials immediately. A 2023 survey by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois showed 69% of Illinois college stu-



(COURTESY PHOTO) Starting in summer 2025, Kishwaukee College will include all fees and textbook costs in the price of tuition to improve cost transparency.

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dents said textbook costs caused them not to buy required materials for class. “Kishwaukee College has made it a multi-year goal to examine and improve textbook affordability for our students. Affordability and access have been shown to improve student success while increasing savings for students and their families,” said Bob Johnson, chair of the Board of Trustees. The “all-in” tuition program is made possible in part by the Kishwaukee College Foundation. On average, the Kish Nursing program’s textbook costs are much higher than materials for other classes and programs. Due to the generosity of donors interested in the Nursing program, the Foundation Board has approved funding the additional textbook costs next year. Another initiative making the “all-in” model possible is the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) — free teaching and learning materials for instructors and students — to reduce the cost of textbooks. Since 2018, the College has tripled the number of courses utilizing OERs, saving students almost \$1 million in textbook costs. This initial work has significantly impacted the college’s ability to offer the “all-in” tuition model. Learn more about the textbook changes at kish.edu/textbooks.



# LOCAL NEWS

## HILLCREST: Trustees discuss hydrant hit that knocked out water to village

From page 1

“Their thought in the next year or so is to put new storage units there.”

### Hydrant

During the meeting, the board discussed a car-versus-fire hydrant accident that took place Tuesday afternoon that saw a hydrant damaged and water service being knocked out to the village for a short time before a boil order was put in place for about a day.

Village officials said Wednesday that they will make sure to take the steps to get reimbursed for the damage and expenses incurred Tuesday.

Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright said the village followed proper protocols following the accident.

“You isolated the break, contacted your water operator, had a contractor come and put on a new hydrant, issued the boil order and did the testing,” Wright said. “That met all requirements for the situation.”

The damaged hydrant had to be replaced and was part of the recently-completed Priority 1A water main project.

That project had a \$1.2

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

### Lead

Wright said during the meeting that the village has made recent progress on identifying the remaining 50 percent of water lines running into homes in the village amid ongoing state-mandated lead service line inventory work.

The village must check to see if water lines running into homes are possibly made of lead or galvanized pipe. The inventory has an April 15, 2025 submission deadline.

A village representative has been going door-to-door and attempting to schedule visits with homes that have not reported the material their service line



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

During the meeting, the board discussed a car-versus-fire hydrant accident that took place Tuesday afternoon that saw a hydrant damaged and water service being knocked out to the village for a short time before a boil order was put in place for about a day.

is made up of. Wright said that work has yielded 60-80 completed surveys.

### Compliance

Village President Rick Rhoads said during the meeting that the village is looking to hire a compliance officer to enforce that village’s code and ordinances including illegal parking, grass height, and inoperable vehicles.

“Their job would be to go around and make sure that village residents are doing what they are sup-

posed to be doing as far as our ordinances and stuff,” Rhoads said. “Hopefully we can get an ad out next week and get as many applications as we can.”

### Remodel

Moore said during the meeting that he’s been asked by the new ownership of the former Masterbend building at 221 Powers Road about permits for and inspection of upcoming remodeling. Remodeling will be done on office spaces and bath-

rooms.

At its February meeting, the board unanimously approved a special use permit for the new owner to allow the property to be used as a wireless communication facility. The zoning of the property did not need to be changed for the use.

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

will be used for office space and truck and fiber line storage.

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

### Egg hunt

Trustee Pam Pittman said the village will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12.

## NIU law of business practices program now available to guide small business owners

**DEKALB**—Northern Illinois University’s Continuing and Professional Education department is proud to announce our new Law of Business Practices Certificate in partnership with the College of Law, designed to equip professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks that govern business operations. This program is tailored for individuals aiming to enhance their legal acumen in the business realm, providing them with the tools to navigate complex legal landscapes effectively.

The Law of Business Practices Certificate offers an in-depth exploration of various legal aspects pertinent to busi-

ness, including contracts, corporate governance, compliance, and intellectual property rights. The certificate is comprised of two full modules and eight half-modules that can be completed in up to one year. Participants will engage with a curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring they are well-prepared to address legal challenges in today’s dynamic business environment. Petee Borisova, director of the Northern Illinois University Continuing and Professional Education department stated, “We are overjoyed to provide professionals with the essential legal knowledge necessary to navigate to-

day’s complex business landscape. This program has been created to bridge the gap between law and business, and we feel confident that we will empower participants to make informed decisions with confidence.”

This certificate program is ideal for a diverse range of professionals seeking to enhance their expertise in business law. Business professionals, including managers, executives, and entrepreneurs, can benefit from a deeper understanding of the legal aspects of business operations. Legal practitioners, such as attorneys and paralegals, may find this program valuable for specializing or updating their knowledge in business

law. Compliance officers responsible for ensuring organizational adherence to laws and regulations will also gain essential insights.

Additionally, recent graduates with degrees in business, law, or related fields can use this program to strengthen their credentials and improve their employment prospects. “At NIU College of Law, we are committed to providing innovative educational opportunities that empower professionals across industries. Taught by expert law faculty and practicing attorneys with extensive legal and business industry experience, this program offers valuable knowledge and practical insights to enhance stra-

tegic decision-making, support career growth, and expand your professional network,” expressed Cassandra L. Hill, dean of Northern Illinois University College of Law.

The program offers several key benefits for professionals looking to expand their knowledge of business law. Participants will gain enhanced legal expertise, allowing for more informed decision-making and effective risk management. The curriculum emphasizes practical application, enabling learners to apply legal concepts directly to real-world business scenarios and build the connection between theory and practice. Furthermore, acquiring

specialized legal knowledge can lead to career advancement, making participants more valuable to employers seeking expertise in business law. The program also provides valuable networking opportunities, allowing individuals to connect with peers, instructors, and industry professionals, strengthening their professional relationships within the legal and business communities.

By enrolling in NIU’s Law of Business Practices Certificate Program, participants will position themselves at the forefront of business law expertise, ready to tackle the legal challenges that businesses face today.

## Ogle County Sheriff’s Office launches St. Patrick’s Day enforcement

**OREGON** — St. Patrick’s Day will be here before we know it, bringing with it parades, parties, green beer and more to communities throughout the state. To remind motorists of the dangers of impaired driving and to help keep our streets safe, The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and Illinois

Department of Transportation for a stepped-up traffic safety campaign.

“With St. Patrick’s Day falling on a Monday this year, we expect increased celebrations throughout the weekend prior,” said Sheriff Brian VanVickle. “We urge everyone to celebrate responsibly. Please plan ahead for a sober ride home before you leave the house — your safety

and the safety of others depends on it.”

In addition to looking for alcohol- and cannabis-impaired drivers, Deputies will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced.

Whether you’re at-

tending a party, hosting friends or going out to a bar, keep safety at the forefront of your day and night. When it’s time to leave, make sure your designated driver is sober. Remember that walking impaired can also be dangerous, so designate a sober friend to walk home with you. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers

who may not obey street signs. It’s not about luck, it’s about smart decisions.

Other important tips: Drunk or high, it doesn’t matter. It is never okay to drive impaired. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.

Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and plan to get your friend home safely.

Always buckle up!

The St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### James Eugene 'JR' Reints

**ROCHELLE** — James Eugene Reints, "JR", age 88, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 surrounded by family. James was born in Kings, IL on February 26, 1937, to Raymond and Frances (Terviel) Reints, the youngest of four children, two of whom preceded him in death. He married the love of his life, Margie L. Turner, to whom he was married for 66 amazing years. Together they had three children: Jim, Jeana and Randy. They settled and raised their children in Rochelle, IL.

JR started his work career as a diesel mechanic working for Swift & Company, eventually he became an electrician as a member of IBEW 364 in Rockford, IL. JR had a passion for working on cars, racing them, tearing them up then rebuilding them just to do it all over again. He was a very talented mechanic and electrician as well as a jack-of-all other trades. There was nothing he couldn't do. JR was, what they called in his early age, a "greaser", but Margie had a big bar of soap and cleaned him up and made him presentable in more ways than one.

Over the years, he, his friends and eventually his children built several houses that became homes for their families. Jim and Margie had the gift of hospitality and always opened their homes up to all to plant seeds of our Lord and Savior in everyone's lives as they lived out their faith. They enjoyed boating, snowmobiling, and motorcycling.

For years, they would hop on the Gold Wing and travel together exploring the country. Margie retired from biking long before JR, but gave him her full blessing as he continued his grand adventures with a friend. After he retired, they enjoyed working on many, many mission trips where he was able to use his mechanical ability to serve others. JR retired from the electrical industry at the age of 62, he walked in the office, threw his hard hat at his boss and said I quit; then he hugged his boss who happened to be one of his kids. A couple of years later, the Lord set them on a path to what he called his highest accomplishments. They bought a RV and started mission work with the Assembly of God RV MAPS group, (Mission American Placement Service). Every winter they would load the RV up with tools and material and head for generally "a warmer" climate. Thru MAPS they would go to work to build and/or remodel churches, parsonages, and Christian organizations such as Teen Challenge. MAPS took them to Florida, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, Alaska and even to Hawaii twice, unfortunately for Hawaii they had to leave the RV behind. They continued their mission work until the age of 80.

JR leaves behind his wife, Margie; son, Jim (Kathy) Reints, daughter, Jeana (Xavier) Valdivieso, and son, Randy (Karen) Reints; seven grandchildren: Josh Valdivieso, Ben (Megan) Valdivieso, Gabe (Larissa) Valdivieso, Eli



(Alison) Valdivieso, Tyler (Madison) Reints, Justin Reints and Shelby (Ulysses) Pinedo; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Chas Reints and plenty of nieces and nephews.

A huge thank you to Davita Dialysis for keeping him going the past 5-1/2 years and the entire team at Serenity Hospice care, specifically Kacey. You are all angels in our eyes and in our hearts.

JR insisted that we celebrate our time together on this earth and the trip he took to Heaven, where we believe Jesus himself met him at the pearly gates and said "Well-done good and faithful servant." Visitation will be held at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle, IL on Sunday, March 16, 2025 from 2:00 -5:00 P.M. Funeral service will be held at New Hope Fellowship Church, 1501 10th Avenue, Rochelle, IL on Monday, March 17 starting at 10:30 A.M. with Pastor Dan Sergeant officiating. Burial will immediately follow the service at Trinity Memory Gardens. A luncheon will be provided at New Hope Fellowship. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Elizabeth 'Susie' Ann Dean

**ASHTON** — Elizabeth "Susie" Ann Dean, 84, of Ashton, IL passed away Friday, March 14, 2025 at Allure of Mendota nursing home in Mendota, IL after a lengthy illness.

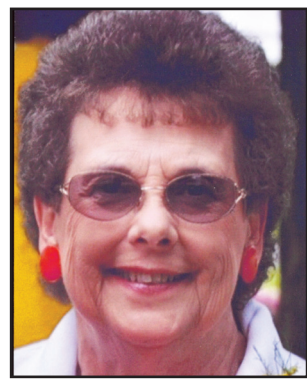
Susie was born on May 14, 1940 to George T. and Ila (Thelo) Wixom in Mendota, IL. She attended Mendota schools and graduated from MHS class of 1958. Susie worked for GTE in Mendota for many years and Rochelle when GTE moved there. Susie met and married Ron Dean on September 15, 1973, spending over 50 years together.

She was a member of Ashton United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Susie enjoyed reading numerous books a week. Ron always made sure she was well stocked with books. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, making afghans for the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Susie is survived by her son, Jeff (Teri) Spitz of Sublette, IL; three grandchildren: Cory (Julie) Spitz of Mendota, IL, Erin (fiancé, Jake) Spitz of Dixon, IL and Dallas (girlfriend, Allyssa) Spitz of Sublette, IL; five great grandchildren: Carmen, Piper, Liam, Bennett and Bentley; her brother, George (Ruth) Wixom of Mendota, IL; brother-in-law, Norm Dean of Winnebago, IL; sister-in-law, Nancy (John) Woodin of Cincinnati, OH; many nieces and nephews, cousins and many great friends.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Ron, on June 9, 2024; grandson, Tyler Spitz and sister-in-law, Melanie.

The family would like to thank the staff of Stonecroft Village, Allure Nursing Home and the Unity Hospice care team for their wonderful care of Susie.



The visitation will be from 9:00 - 10:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Ashton United Methodist Church, 906 Richardson Ave., Ashton, IL. The service will follow at 10:30 A.M., Tuesday with Pastor Jan Shaulis officiating. The burial will be at Ashton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Ashton Fire Department or the Ashton United Methodist Church. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On March 9 at approximately 12:08 p.m. deputies responded to the area of South Ridge Road and Pines Road for a report of a vehicle driving northbound on Ridge Road in the southbound lane. It was also being reported that the vehicle, a grey Chevrolet, was going in and out of the ditches and causing other traffic to leave the roadway to avoid being struck. The vehicle was reported to have turned around and was now traveling south on Ridge Road in the northbound lane. The vehicle was located by deputies in the 2,000 block of South Ridge Road. The driver continued south in the northbound lane ignoring the squad car behind it. The vehicle went

into the ditch and came to a stop in the 2,900 block. After an investigation the driver, Kathy A. Brooks, 66, of Kings was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was also charged with illegal transportation of alcohol and improper lane usage. Brooks was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing where she was released with a court date to appear in Ogle County court later this month.

On March 9 at approximately 10:14 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and South Moore Road. After a brief investigation, Carlos A. Carpio Miranda, 59, of Chicago, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license.

Carpio Miranda was additionally cited for speeding and expired registration. Carpio Miranda was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was issued a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 10 at approximately 9:50 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 38. After investigation, deputies placed Pedro Caballero, 43, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Caballero was additionally cited for no insurance. Caballero was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear pending a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

### ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

On March 7 at 9:54 p.m. Adriana N. Figueroa, 20, of Mlata was cited for disregarding a stop sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 7 at 10:34 p.m. Robert C.D. Rhodes, 47, of Rochelle was cited for disregarding a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 7 at 8:53 p.m. Yordani Leyva Alvarez, 36, of Rochelle was cited for suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 12:02 a.m. Yilian Castanon Soler, 32, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 7:16 a.m. Heather C. Evers, 52, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 12:15 a.m. Kenneth E. Milliron, 68, of Rochelle was cited for improper passing of an emergency vehicle and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 12:37 p.m. Hiram J. Steele, 40, of DeKalb was arrested for driving while license suspended and cited for no insurance and speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 12:08 p.m. Alec J. Seebach, 28, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 9:27 a.m. Heather A. Lent, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 6:58 p.m. Stephanie Taylor, 60, of Creston was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle and expired driver's license. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 9 at 12:18 p.m. Amandamarie Sarabia, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended and cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply

and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 9 at 9:02 p.m. David C. Nesemeier, 54, of Ashton was arrested for driving under the influence. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 9 at 8:45 a.m. James D. Clark, 60, of Poplar Grove was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 10 at 2:05 a.m. Trayvion T. Walker, 34, of Chicago was cited for disregarding a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 9 at 11:36 p.m. Damion A. Phillips, 20, of Rochelle was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 10 at 2:58 a.m. Diego Herrera Carrillo, 22, of Aurora was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 10 at 1:21 p.m. a 15-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for driving without a license. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 10 at 3:22 p.m. Tina Rains, 54, of Steward was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### David Frank Bakes

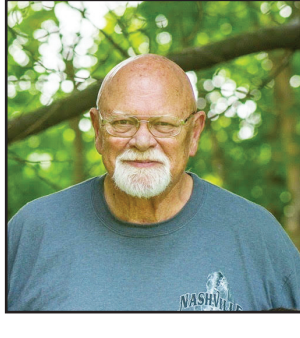
**ROCHELLE** — David Frank Bakes, 75, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at his home in Rochelle, Illinois. Dave was born on June 11, 1949 to Frank W. and Bernice (Oldenburg) Bakes in Elmhurst, IL. He served with the United States Army for two years. On June 22, 1968, he married Cheri Hoefle at Mary Queen Of Heaven Church in Elmhurst IL. She preceded him in death on May 16, 2004.

Dave enjoyed spending most of his time with Susan doing all the things they loved together. He loved his motorcycle rides, camping with his friends and family, working on projects and yard work. He always wanted to help

others and talk to everyone. His utmost favorite thing to do was spending quality time with his grandchildren he loved and cherished dearly.

Dave is survived by his two daughters: Sarah Lindaman of Seguin, TX and Dr. Emily (Wade) Raymer of Pendleton, IN; long time special friend, Susan Andracke of Rochelle; three brothers: Dan (Karen) Bakes of Schaumburg, IL, Jeff (Ana) Bakes of Bartlett, IL and Ron (Jeanette) Bakes of Warrenville, IL; sister, Dale Burgess and five grandchildren: Riley, Elijah, Eadan, Elliott and Emmett.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he is preceded in death by his son, Nathan; brother, Russell Bakes and



sister, Joann Bakes.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M., Friday, March 21, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle with military honors provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

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**ROCHELLE News-Leader**  
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(815) 562-4171

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Tuesday afternoon fire at Kelley Drive in Rochelle claims dog shed, no injuries

On Tuesday afternoon at approximately 1:30 p.m., RFD responded to a shed fire at 247 Kelley Drive in a backyard. Firefighters arrived to find a fully involved fire with the tree above it and a nearby fence suffering burn damage as well. Firefighters then extinguished the fire. (Photos by Jeff Helfrich)

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church**, 126 E. South Street, Creston. Phone 815-384-3720, Email: [StJohnsLutheran@aol.com](mailto:StJohnsLutheran@aol.com), members of NALC/LCMC. Worship is led by **Pastor Terese Whitten** 231-878-4150. St. John's Lutheran Church is a part of God's Family, planting hope, nurturing faith and harvesting love. Coffee or Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m. Sunday school is conducted during worship service except during the summer.

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

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





# LOCAL VIEWS

## OFCB's Ron Kern: The facts on bird flu

THERE'S plenty of talk in the media these days about Avian Influenza or the "bird flu." Let's get consumers some real information and let's get farmers up to speed on what to do if there is an infectious situation on their farm.

Q. Can I get avian influenza from eating poultry or eggs?

A. No. Poultry and eggs that are properly prepared and cooked are safe to eat. Proper food safety practices are important every day. In addition to proper processing, proper handling and cooking of poultry provides protection from viruses and bacteria, including avian influenza. As we remind consumers each and every day, there are four basic food safety steps to follow: CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK, and CHILL.

Q. How can USDA assure consumers that avian influenza infected meat will not enter the food supply?

A. The chance of infected poultry entering the food chain is extremely low. As part of the USDA highly pathogenic avian

influenza response plan, infected birds do not enter the food supply. Additionally, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service inspection program personnel are assigned to every federally inspected meat, poultry and egg product plant in America. All poultry products for public consumption are inspected for signs of disease both before and after slaughter. The "inspected for wholesomeness by the U.S. Department of Agriculture" seal ensures the poultry is free from visible signs of disease.

Q. Does proper food handling prevent avian influenza?

A. Avian influenza is not transmissible by eating properly prepared poultry, so properly prepared and cooked poultry and eggs are safe to eat. The chance of infected poultry or eggs entering the food chain is extremely low because of the rapid onset of symptoms in poultry as well as the safeguards USDA has in place, which include testing of flocks, and Federal inspection programs. USDA works to educate the public about safe food handling

practices in response to numerous questions from the public about the human risk associated with avian influenza.

Q. What does proper food handling mean?

A. Proper handling and cooking of poultry provides protection against all avian influenza.

Q. What does proper food handling mean?

A. Proper handling and cooking of poultry provides protection against all avian influenza viruses, as it does against other viruses and bacteria, including Salmonella and E. coli. Safe food handling and preparation is important at all times. USDA continually reminds consumers to practice safe food handling and preparation every day. Cooking poultry, eggs, and other poultry products to the proper temperature and preventing cross-contamination between raw and cooked food is the key to safety. You should: Wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling



Ron Kern

raw poultry and eggs; Prevent cross-contamination by keeping raw poultry and eggs away from other foods; After cutting raw meat, wash cutting board, knife, and countertops with hot, soapy water; Sanitize cutting boards by using a solution of one tablespoon chlorine bleach in one gallon of water; and USDA Questions and Answers: Food Safety and Avian Influenza April 2015; Use a food thermometer to ensure poultry has reached the safe internal temperature of at least 165 °F to kill foodborne germs that might be present, including the avian influenza viruses.

Q. Where can I get more information about safe food handling?

A. Consumers with questions about the safe storage, handling, or preparation of meat, poultry, and egg products, can call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline at: 1-888-MPHotline, that's 1-888-674-6854. The hotline is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Also, "Ask Karen" is the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day to answer your questions at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

For Farmers:

What types of birds are affected by bird flu?

Bird flu most commonly affects waterfowl like ducks, geese, and swans, but can also infect other birds like chickens, turkeys, quail, guinea fowl, pheasants, pea fowl, and partridges. Some pet birds like parrots and finches can also be susceptible.

How can poultry get bird flu?

A. Poultry can get bird flu if they come into contact with infected wild birds or share food, water, and environments with them.

What should I do if I suspect bird flu on my farm?

If you suspect bird flu on your farm, you should: Report it. Isolate sick or exposed animals. Contact your veterinarian, state animal health official, or the APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge. Monitor yourself and your workers for respiratory illness

symptoms for 10 days after exposure

How do I prevent bird flu on my farm?

You can try these measures to prevent bird flu on your farm: Repair holes and tears in barn walls. Remove unnecessary ledges or horizontal surfaces. Install exclusionary netting, screens, and perch deterrents. Before nesting season, wash away or remove old nests.

What should I do if I have a bird flu outbreak on my farm?

If you have a bird flu outbreak on your farm, you should: Depopulate all affected and exposed poultry. Clean and disinfect your site. Keep your site empty for at least 14 days. Allow the USDA to collect and test environmental samples from your property.

"I done wrestled with an alligator, I done tussled with a whale; handcuffed lightning, thrown thunder in jail; only last week, I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalized a brick; I'm so mean I make medicines sick." -Muhammad Ali

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

## Managing your every day stresses and anxieties

EVERYBODY deals with stress and anxiety, however the key is to know what to do when your stressed out. It is not always easy to keep your feelings from getting the best of you.

With this in mind, here are seven tips that a person can use to help manage their daily stresses and anxieties before they get out of control.

1. Get all of the facts of the situation: Gathering the facts of a certain event can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can

rely on what is reality and what is not. Most importantly, do not focus on your fearful thoughts when your stressed out.

2. Take a break: Sometimes, we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, a person should take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get their mind off of the problem. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.

3. Carry a small notebook of positive statements

with you: Another technique that is very helpful in managing fear is to have a small notebook of positive statements that makes you feel good. Whenever you come across an affirmation that relaxes you, write it down in a small notebook that you can carry around with you in your pocket. Whenever you feel depressed, open up your small notebook and read those statements.

4. You can't predict the future: While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and

can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

5. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking: When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or depressed, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense. Focus on the reality of your situation and not on your thoughts. Your fearful thoughts can make things

worse so try to focus on something positive when you get anxious.

6. Divide your activities into separate steps: When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one step at a time. Completing these smaller activities will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

7. Take advantage of the help that is available around you: There are many individuals who have

been expertly trained in the field of psychology to help you find ways to manage fear and anxiety. Seek out someone whom you trust to provide sound advice and guidance. This same professional can also help you create an action plan for dealing with your fears and anxieties in the future.

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

## Rochelle News-Leader Political letter policy

THE Rochelle News-Leader has implemented a new political letter policy.

We accept election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a 200-word letter and 10

cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers and exact addresses are not published. We have the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid

endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free advertising. As these

letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

We still publish letters complaining about the county board or school

board? But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words.

Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters:

The primary election is Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Wednesday, March 26, 2025 issue of The Rochelle News-Leader and must be received by noon on Monday, March 24, 2025.

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at [jhelfrich@rochelle-news-leader.com](mailto:jhelfrich@rochelle-news-leader.com).

### 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

#### Rochelle City Council

*John Bearrows	<a href="mailto:jbearrows@rochelleil.us">jbearrows@rochelleil.us</a>
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	<a href="mailto:kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us">kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us</a>
Bil Hayes	<a href="mailto:bhayes@rochelleil.us">bhayes@rochelleil.us</a>
Rosaelia Arteaga	<a href="mailto:rarteaga@rochelleil.us">rarteaga@rochelleil.us</a>
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Tom McDermott	<a href="mailto:tmcdermott@rochelleil.us">tmcdermott@rochelleil.us</a>
Benjamin Valdivieso	<a href="mailto:bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us">bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us</a>

#### Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Trisha Vaughn	<a href="mailto:tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net">tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net</a>
Dave Casey	<a href="mailto:dcasey@d231.rochelle.net">dcasey@d231.rochelle.net</a>
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Ashley Jackson	<a href="mailto:ajackson@d231.rochelle.net">ajackson@d231.rochelle.net</a>
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Jennifer Thompson	<a href="mailto:jthompson@d231.rochelle.net">jthompson@d231.rochelle.net</a>

#### Rochelle Township High School Board

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Bill Ravnaas	<a href="mailto:bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org">bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org</a>
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Bobby Chadwick	<a href="mailto:bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org">bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org</a>
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Joel Thompson	<a href="mailto:joel.thompson@rthsd212.org">joel.thompson@rthsd212.org</a>

#### Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

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Dale Wells	<a href="mailto:dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org">dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org</a>
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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

## Northwest IL Bird and Nature Alliance to screen ‘Moved by Waters’ March 18

**FREEPORT** — Film-makers Kelly and Tammy Rundle of Fourth Wall Films turned their lens on the Upper Mississippi watershed in Iowa and Illinois for their award-winning documentary “Moved by Waters”. The film will be presented by Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance (formerly Northwest IL Audubon Society) on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:15 p.m. at the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas St. The Rundle’s other film “Places to be Wild” will also be screened.

What unites us is more important than what divides us. “Moved by Waters” is an uplifting and inspirational new documentary that depicts collaborative projects involving organizations and diverse groups of students, teachers, artists, farmers and volunteers of all ages. Setting aside political or other differences, all are working toward improving the quality of water in the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

We all need water that is clean and safe to drink, and the people and projects in “Moved by Waters” model a way forward that benefits people and the environment.

“The national narrative tells us that Americans are too divided politically to work together on anything,” said director-writer Kelly Rundle of Fourth Wall Films. “The diverse groups and individuals we met and talked to while making “Moved by Waters” showed us the opposite.

“Moved by Waters” was made possible by a grant from Roger Ross Gipple. The film was nominated for an Emmy Award, won Best Documentary Short at the 2025 Oneota Film Festival, Best Documentary at the Alternating Currents Film Festival, and is a winner of the Iowa Motion Picture Award.

The screening and short discussion afterwards is open to the public.



**Kiwanis Pancake Day is April 5**

**Kiwanis Golden K will host a Pancake Day Breakfast on Saturday, April 5 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle. The cost is \$9 for ticket. Children 14 and under with adults eat free. For more information call 815-884-9240. Members look forward to serving you at our pancake breakfast.**

**Tickets will be available at the door but can be purchased prior to the event. Please contact your favorite member for a ticket, call the number, or email us at rochellegoldenk@gmail.com. (Courtesy photo)**



- 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
- Mar. 3 - Jim Neisel, St. Charles, \$25
- Mar. 4 - Stacey Ansteth, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 5 - Zoey Schabacker, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 6 - Heather Lara, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 7 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 8 - Brock Sutton, Mendota, \$25
- Mar. 9 - Kelly Johnson, Rochelle, \$50
- Mar. 10 - Joe McKinney, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 11 - John Conley, Waterman, \$25
- Mar. 12 - Deanne Ponto, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 13 - RMTD, \$25
- Mar. 14 - Larry Hageman, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 15 - Mariah Coffey, Dixon, \$25
- Mar. 16 - Rick McConaghie, Rochelle, \$50

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| March 16<br>Christy Oleson                   | March 23<br>Kristi Gonzales  | March 26<br>LeeAnn Komadina<br>Kim Dougherty<br>Bernie & Anna Sexton<br>(anniversary) |
| March 19<br>John Overstreet                  | March 24<br>John Wooten<br>Lanie McPherson   | March 30<br>Grace Olson   |
| March 20<br>Jesse Lopez<br>Rachelle Phillips | March 25<br>Chaz & Kathy Conant<br>(anniversary)<br>Liz Danekas<br>Shaun Rosenbach | April 1<br>Theresa Crystal  |
| March 22<br>Wakely Peterman                  |  |   |

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



## Coffee Break

### MAGIC MAZE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR MR. —

Alice Aunt Sue Barney Ben	Cowboy Bob Gina Henry Hot Dog	Joey Margaret Martha Ruff	Tommy Uncle Al Walt
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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Lid tag is reversed. 2. Clip is added to lunch box. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Stair railing is different. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Window panes are different.

**Super Crossword**

**DENNIS THE MENACE**

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Swing by
- 6 Sop up
- 12 Fez or beret
- 15 General — chicken
- 19 Preface
- 20 "Hello" singer
- 21 Santa — winds
- 22 Eight, in Berlin
- 23 Alternative to potstickers
- 26 Trevi
- 27 Fountain city
- 28 Golf prop
- 28 Requiring lots of attention
- 29 L-P linkup
- 30 "Up My Heart" (1997 "NSYNC song)
- 32 Call before the court
- 35 Touchy topic
- 37 Skit-filled NBC show, in brief
- 38 Texas-Louisiana border river
- 41 Three, in Paris
- 42 H.G. Wells' Doctor Moreau, e.g.
- 46 Penetrating
- 47 Get older
- 50 Give off
- 51 Shaggy's nickname for his dog
- 52 Pollen lover
- 53 Actress
- 54 "Life Is Good" rapper
- 55 Letter after pi
- 56 212 degrees Fahrenheit, for water
- 61 "Yup"
- 63 Big Apple sch.
- 66 Alpha Sig, e.g.
- 67 Speaks from a soapbox
- 68 Right after being baked
- 72 Fake: Prefix
- 75 Stalagmite site
- 76 Camera type, in brief
- 77 Acting award
- 81 Brand of hard cider
- 84 Google Play download
- 86 Tokyo sash
- 87 Prefix with byte or ton
- 88 Suffix with Euclid
- 89 An ex-Trump
- 92 Fix typos, say
- 93 Plus more: Abbr.
- 94 \$5 bills, in slang
- 96 Intense controversy
- 99 "That doesn't ring —"
- 101 Regressed
- 102 — -la-la
- 103 Group of warriors in "Kung Fu Panda"
- 106 Church part for the clergy
- 110 Chant
- 111 Boxing great
- 112 Flummoxed
- 115 Suffix with Motor
- 116 British prep school
- 117 Oxidizer in liquid rocket propellants
- 122 Swedish soprano
- 123 '50s prez
- 124 — Mae (HUD corp.)
- 125 Yo-yo part
- 126 Lucy's guy
- 127 Toon
- 128 Villains' looks
- 129 What nine key words in this puzzle are synonyms of
- 36 Dutch artist
- 38 Jan
- 39 — -Cat
- 40 Lettuce type
- 42 Option list
- 43 East Asian nanny
- 44 Platter
- 45 — Lodge (motel chain)
- 46 Actor Harvey
- 48 Heredity unit
- 49 Wolves down
- 52 Malaise, with "the"
- 53 Horse colors
- 55 Little — (the Ocean State)
- 57 Proposal
- 58 Original NYC subway line
- 59 State exec.
- 60 Before surgery, in brief
- 62 "Star Trek" lieutenant
- 64 Agave plants
- 65 Salt Lake City native
- 69 Additionally
- 70 Fertilizable gametes
- 71 Champ's kin
- 72 Book division
- 73 Vexed state
- 74 Dairy case containers
- 78 Musical finale
- 79 Somewhat
- 80 Act of liturgy
- 82 Film units
- 83 Uses a trowel
- 85 Noodles in peanut sauce
- 90 Battle (for)
- 91 Additionally
- 92 Israel's Abba
- 94 Vast stretch
- 95 Large tuna
- 96 Wild rants
- 97 Gorilla, e.g.
- 98 Historic time
- 100 Olympic swimmer
- 101 Matt
- 101 Actress
- 103 Taylor
- 103 Grazing land
- 104 De-knot
- 105 Renowned
- 106 Asteroid found in 1801
- 107 Chocolate drink
- 108 T-man Ness
- 109 Big dipper
- 112 Comic
- 113 Meara
- 113 Rake prong
- 114 Mix, as paint
- 118 Luau guitar, for short
- 119 Martini liquor
- 120 Longtime
- 121 CBS series
- 121 30-day mo.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Chautauqua at the Flagg Township Museum is March 24-27

**ROCHELLE** – The Flagg Township Museum will host a series of informal talks – Chautauqua – on March 24 through March 27 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the museum and it’s all about making connections and building community. Historically, a Chautauqua was a cultural and social movement that started in upstate New York in the 1870s and flourished until the mid-1920s. During this time, hundreds of touring chautauquas presented lectures, dance, music, drama and other forms of “cultural enrichment”. This year’s schedule of Chautauqua speakers is focusing on community in celebration of the museum’s year-long theme, “Making Connections.”

On Monday, March 24 we connect with the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. Director Tricia Herrera will share more about what a Chamber of Commerce does for a community and for our community. Tuesday we hear from Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to learn more about how the city manager manages our city. We’ll get the scoop about media from Rochelle News-Leader Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich along with the challenges for newspapers



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Flagg Township Museum will host a series of informal talks – Chautauqua – on March 24 through March 27 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the museum and it’s all about making connections and building community.**

today on Wednesday. Sarah Flanagan and Ashley Capes from the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library will be on hand on Thursday to share just what it takes for our

library to be the “place to gather, learn, and grow.”

Our series has always been a way to promote informal learning about interesting topics, sometimes

historic and always informative. We hope you’ll attend this year at the museum, Monday through Thursday, March 24 to March 27 at 7 p.m. each evening. It’s free

and light refreshments will be available.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg

Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

## OCSWMD to host residential electronics recycling event March 28

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and

a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email [solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov](mailto:solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov) and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 27.

Accepted items include all televisions and com-

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

holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted. Limit seven (7) large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month.

Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make

an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov), or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

## State Treasurer Frerichs opens 2025 Cream of the Crop photo contest

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is encouraging young Illinois photographers to submit photos for the 2025 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, which provides students with a creative opportunity to share their vision of agriculture in our state. Students ages 8 to 18 may submit contest entries until the deadline of June 13, 2025.

Bright Start scholar-

ships of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be awarded to students who place first, second or third in each of the three age categories.

“I’m excited to announce the opening of the contest because it’s a great opportunity for students to go out, explore, and use their cameras to highlight the beauty of Illinois agriculture,” Frerichs said. “Illinois is a leader in the agricultural industry because of our skilled, hard-

working farmers, millions of acres of rich farmland, and diversity in products.”

The Treasurer’s Office is accepting electronic submissions for the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest at [www.CreamoftheCropContest.com](http://www.CreamoftheCropContest.com). Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Each student may submit up to two photos by June 13, 2025.

To read the rules, terms,

and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit our website at [www.CreamoftheCropContest.com](http://www.CreamoftheCropContest.com) or contact Teri Whitfield at 217.900.0075.

Now in its 13th year, the photo contest offers Illinois students an opportunity to showcase their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. More than 750 students have participated in the contest since it

debuted in 2013, and they have submitted over 1,400 photos.

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Ag Invest program. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and next year’s Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation’s largest agricultural linked deposit programs,

celebrating 42 years in 2025. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The Treasurer’s Office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses operating lines of credit and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses and livestock purchases.

## Illinois spring trout season opens April 5 at 58 locations statewide

**SPRINGFIELD** – The 2025 Illinois spring trout fishing season will open Saturday, April 5 at 58 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

Local locations include: Ogle County’s Pine Creek at White Pines

Forest State Park (denotes sites open for catch-and-release early spring season fishing). Stephenson County’s Yellow Creek in Krape Park, Freeport. Winnebago County’s Baumann Lake, Cherry Valley; and Four Lakes,

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

An early opportunity at select trout sites – the spring catch-and-release fishing season – will open Saturday, March 22. No trout may be kept during the catch-and-release pe-

riod, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 5. The daily harvest limit for each angler is five trout.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program receives funding support by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the fall trout season, which begins in

October.

For the 2025 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any stocked sites between March 15 and the season opening at 5 a.m. April 5. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites are open for trout catch-and-release season and not all sites open at 5 a.m. opening day.

The spring trout season offers opportunities for

families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. Resources are available online for taking youth fishing. All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 5, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless they are younger than 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Fishing licenses and trout stamps can be purchased by using a credit card online. Visit [ifishillinois.org](http://ifishillinois.org) for more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities.



**FREE & Open To The Public**

**Free Hot Dogs, Chips & Drinks**

**Hot Dogs To Follow The Egg Hunt**

**Separate Egg Hunt For Smaller Children**

**Golden Egg Prizes**

**Egg Hunt Throughout The Club For Older Children**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm sharp**  
*Please arrive at least ten minutes early*

**Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club**  
3501 S. Sweeney Road, Chana 61015



The QR code is to RSVP or email to [rwcc\\_bod@hotmail.com](mailto:rwcc_bod@hotmail.com)

## Rochelle’s Adams participated in Spring Performance March 3

**LEBANON** — Students from McKendree University’s wind ensemble, percussion ensemble and concert band took to the stage to perform beautiful music for the crowd on Monday, March 3 at the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts on campus. A resident of Rochelle, Faith played euphonium in the concert band.

The wind ensemble, under the direction of Dr. John Bell, performed “March Tumbao” by James M. David. Following a brief interlude, the percussion ensemble, under the direction of Andre Sonner, played “Three Scenes from the Desert” by Alex Stopa. Finally, the concert band, under the direction

of Dr. Jen Moder-Bell, performed “Alchemy: Spirit into Sound” by Gary Gackstatter, “The Parting Glass” by Matt Conaway, and “Women of the Podium” by Virginia A. Allen. Senior music education majors Faith Olds and Riley Wuebbers conducted “Alchemy” and “The Parting Glass,” respectively.



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SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## SECOND IN SYCAMORE

The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team took second at the Sycamore Invite.

See page 4 for more details

### RTHS Boys Track

# Hub vaulter sets new record

## Nuyen clears 16 feet to finish second at 2025 Windy City Pole Vault Summit

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROLLING MEADOWS** — Two school records in two meets have Rochelle Township High School track and field standout Andrew Nuyen off to a soaring start to his junior season.

Returning from a stellar sophomore campaign where he won the Illinois Top Times Indoor State Championship and medaled in third at the IHSA State Championship, Nuyen set a new school record during the Windy City Pole Vault Summit on Saturday, when he cleared 16 feet and took second in a field of 16 elite high school athletes from around the state. It was the second record-setting vault of the young season for Nuyen, who cleared 15 feet 11 inches during the Auburn Indoor Invitational in late February, shattering his record from last year by 10 inches.

“It’s amazing and I’m happy that I’m consistently hitting 16 feet,” said Nuyen, who works out at RISE Pole Vault in Joliet over the offseason and owns a pole vault pit at his home in Creston. “I’m hoping for better things this season, too. I drive to

Joliet three times a week and I work out there for two hours each day. Even at home, I’m doing things for mobility and stretching.”

Nuyen has set three school records in the pole vault since he burst onto the scene during his sophomore season. His first record came during the 2024 Ogle County Championship at RTHS, where he eclipsed 15 feet 1 inches to break a then 41-year-old record of 15 feet established by John Place in 1983. Nuyen, who won eight meets last season including the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional, continues to progress after improving his PR by over 6 feet from 2023 to 2024.

“I’d say it’s probably harder in the beginning because there are a lot of technical things and it’s not so much about strength,” Nuyen said. “At my level now, the only thing I can do is get faster and stronger, which takes a lot more time. Last year, I got a lot taller, stronger, faster and I think my speed had a major role... My goals over the offseason were primarily to get stronger and faster. There was a lot of technical work as well, but strength metrics were the main focus.”

Nuyen, who has already

qualified for the ITT Indoor State Championship this season, will travel to Boston later this week and compete for the first time at the New Balance Indoor Nationals, where the junior will test his skills against the top high school pole vaulters in the country. Speed and strength have been core focuses for Nuyen, who said that exercises including 30-meter flies, sled pulls and Olympic lifting movements for explosiveness highlight his training routine.

“Speed plays the most major role in pole vaulting because the faster you are, the bigger the pole you can get on and the higher you can jump,” Nuyen said. “Strength also plays a big role, but it’s mostly about the lower body. This will be my first time at nationals so I’m just looking to have a good time... My biggest goals are to have fun, hit my cues and be consistent.”

Nuyen is among the top returning athletes who are back in action for the Rochelle Hub track and field team, which will continue its indoor season at the Byron Indoor Preview on Saturday before heading to Sycamore for the Gary Egler Invitational next Wednesday. While Nuyen



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Junior Andrew Nuyen cleared 16 feet to finish second at the 2025 Windy City Pole Vault Summit last weekend. Nuyen has set three Rochelle Township High School records in the pole vault over the last two seasons.**

said he’s keeping broad goals for this season, he said that reaching 17 feet is a realistic opportunity.

“I’m mainly focusing on hitting the positions

I need to,” Nuyen said. “Our team looks great this year. We have a lot of good field event guys and we have some distance runners who’re

doing pretty good this season. Our sprinters are doing the best they’ve ever done. As a team, I’m looking forward to our season.”

### RTHS Boys Basketball

# Bruns earns Interstate 8 All-Conference honors

## Senior guard Lewis receives Honorable Mention, eclipses 1,000 career points

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Sophomore Brody Bruns turned in 22 double-doubles and snatched the second most rebounds in a single season (372) for the Rochelle Hubs during their 2024-25 varsity basketball campaign. The 6-foot-5 forward, who led the Hubs in both points and rebounds this season, received Interstate 8 All-Conference recognition for the second consecutive season.

Bruns averaged 17.5 points and 11.3 rebounds for Rochelle during his sophomore campaign. The talented forward helped lead the Hubs to a 13-20 record and a trip to the IHSA 3A Regional Championship. While Bruns nearly averaged a double-double as a freshman, his scoring load increased significantly this winter, as he improved his scoring average by roughly seven points.

“It’s a great accomplishment and I improved a lot from last year,” Bruns said. “There are a lot of improvements still to make. I thought I made good strides from last year, but I know my game still needs to get a lot better. I thought my jump shot improved

significantly and teams had to guard my jump shot more this year, which led me to drive more and get open looks down low.”

Bruns scored 21 points and snatched 11 rebounds to lead the Hubs during their IHSA 3A Regional Championship appearance against Rockford Boylan late last month. The sophomore forward posted 30 points and 20 rebounds during a win over UIC Prep at the Peca-tonica Martin Luther King Jr. Tournament in January. Bruns collected 21 rebounds when Rochelle defeated Fenton at the Strombom Thanksgiving Tournament at Sycamore High School in late November.

“Coach [Thompson] and coach [Johnson] are expecting more and more from me each year,” Bruns said. “They asked me to be more of a leader this year and they’ll ask me to be more of a leader next year. I’m hoping to get better from here so I can help the losing stop. I think my jump shot still needs to get better and my defense needs to get better. We have unfinished business.”

Senior guard Carson Lewis was named an All-Conference Honorable Mention after averaging



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

**Sophomore Brody Bruns earned All-Conference honors from the Interstate 8 for the second straight season. Bruns averaged 17.5 points and 11.3 rebounds during the 2024-25 season, posting 22 double-doubles.**

ing 12.7 points and 4.3 rebounds per game during the 2024-25 season.

Lewis, who eclipsed the 1,000-point mark this winter, will be one of two

senior starters departing from the varsity team after this school year. Rochelle

tied for fourth in the Interstate 8 with a 3-7 record this season.







# SPORTS

## RTHS Wrestling

# Losoya medals in third at IWCOA Sterling Sectional

## Rochelle sophomore advances to state tournament in Springfield this weekend

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING**—Sophomore Hadley Losoya will represent the Rochelle Hub wrestling program during the IWCOA Fresh/Soph & Girls State Championship at the Bank of Springfield Center.

Losoya won four of his five matches and medaled in third during the IWCOA Sterling Sectional over the weekend. Losoya, who started wrestling in eighth grade and split time between varsity and JV for the Hubs this winter, is taking advantage of the extra mat time after the season.

“A lot of kids start wrestling when they’re young, but I didn’t start until eighth grade,” Losoya said. “My biggest downside right now is experience and I need more of that... I think the experience of competing at a high-level tournament will bring out a lot of confidence in me.”

Wrestling at 138 pounds, Losoya cruised into the semifinal round of

his weight bracket, scoring an 18-3 technical fall against Geneseo’s Dawson Hull before pinning DeKalb’s Kameron Sims during the quarterfinals. Despite a loss against Amboy’s Caiden Heath in the semifinals, Losoya fought back through the blood rounds, snatching two takedowns during his 12-6 decision over DeKalb’s James Brown in the consolation semifinals to punch his ticket to the state meet.

“I stayed in it, even after a loss, and I didn’t get in my head,” Losoya said. “I wrestled to the best of my ability... My coaches want me on the varsity mat and I feel like this experience will bring my confidence up and I feel like I can perform on the varsity mat. I know that it’s OK to lose because it makes me better and as a wrestler, I want to perform at a level that I’m proud of.”

Losoya clinched third place with an 11-4 decision over Rock Island’s Elijah King, who the Hub sophomore defeated

twice during the IWCOA Morrison Regional earlier this month. Losoya, who also finished third in the regional tournament, has won seven total matches over his last two tournaments. During the high school season, Losoya earned the Interstate 8 JV title at 144 pounds and was a brief contributor at the varsity level, where Rochelle went 21-7 overall.

“I stay in the match and I don’t get in my head too much,” Losoya said. “Wrestling is a mental battle. A lot of wrestlers try to lure me across the mat, but I’ve learned to stand my ground.”

Losoya went 3-1 over four matches to medal in third at the IWCOA Morrison Regional on March 2. The sophomore scored two decisions over Rock Island’s Elijah King, including one in the third-place match, while adding a second-period fall over Peru St. Bede’s Nicholas Del Pilar. The IWCOA State Championship will run Saturday and Sunday at the Bank of Springfield Center.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sophomore Hadley Losoya medaled in third place during the IWCOA Fresh/Soph & Girls Sectional in Sterling this past weekend, going 4-1 over five matches.

## Kishwaukee College

# Kougar baseball team begins spring trip in Tennessee

## Lady Kougar softball team continues spring trip with two games on Monday

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College Baseball team continued their early season travel to warmer weather Monday, by starting their annual spring trip to Tennessee, against Volunteer State CC in Tennessee. Game one saw Kish lose 10-2. Freshmen Jonathan Hartline (Pecatonica HS) went 3-4 with a home run for the Kougars as teammate Victor Flores (Prairie Ridge HS) went 2-3.

On the mound, freshman PJ Jasinski (Oswego HS) went 3 1/3 innings giving up 1 ER and striking out 4. Volunteer State took game 2 by the score of 8-2. Freshman Jack Okun (Lake Park HS) picked up a double while Freshman Bryce Feit (Dixon HS) punched the only other

hit for Kish as sophomore Will Baumgartner (Sycamore HS) and Hartline scored the runs. Sophomore Sam Genslinger (Indian Creek HS) went 4 innings allowing 3 hits and 4 ER.

Kishwaukee will play a DH Tuesday versus Motlow State CC.

## Softball

After going 3-1 over the weekend in Winter Haven, Florida as part of their annual spring trip, the Kougars softball team split two games Monday. In game one, Kish was able to tie the game 2-2 in their half of the sixth inning but Iowa Lakes CC plated two runs in the top of the seventh inning to win 4-2. Ana-Kate Phillips (2 runs 1 RBI), Kyra Johnson,

Haley Von Schnase and Lili Delhotal had hits for Kish. Alyssa Wilkerson went all 7 innings allowing 2 ER while striking out 3 in the loss.

Kishwaukee would bounce back in the second game of the day with a big 5 run fourth inning to eventually win 8-2 over Ellsworth CC. Kyra Johnson, Kailley Goetz, Phillips (4 runs scored) and Delhotal each had 3 hits while Tyra Smith and Lillie Gebel both scored runs. Kyra Johnson got the win going seven strong allowing 2 ER and striking out two.

The Kougars (7-3 overall) will play their final two games of the southern Florida trip on Wednesday versus Cuyahoga CC and Mott CC.



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# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Track



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team finished second at the varsity and JV levels during the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday evening. Above are Rochelle's Arline Villanueva, Rose Luxton, Emma Metzger, Gianna Olguin, Zoey Schabacker, Kaliyah Cathina, Vivian Worthington and Elyse Manning (top left to bottom right).

## Lady Hubs finish second at Sycamore Invitational

### Manning, Murphy win field events; 1600-meter relay team wins varsity race

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**SYCAMORE** — The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team opened the 2025 season at the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday evening. Both the varsity and JV teams took second place out of six competing schools, with the varsity team scoring 82 points and the JV team totaling 90 points. The Lady Hubs will return to action at the Byron Indoor Preview this coming Saturday.

### Varsity

The Lady Hubs earned two victories in the field

events. Sophomore Elyse Manning won the triple jump with a distance of 9.90 meters, while senior Erin Murphy won the shot put with a heave of 9.91 meters. Junior Rose Luxton took sixth in the long jump with a distance of 3.79 meters and senior Dempsey Atkinson finished fifth in the high jump with a height of 1.42 meters.

Rochelle's 1600-meter relay team (Kyrie Cragin, Jasmine Walsh, Gwendolyn O'Dell and Rose Luxton) won with a time of 4:47.80 to bring home the team's lone relay victory on Tuesday. The Lady Hubs finished fifth in the 640-meter relay

(Katie Toczykowski, Rylee Bogle, Zoe Malley and Marianna Saldana) with a time of 1:38.86. Sophomore Jasmine Walsh led the Lady Hubs in the 55-meter hurdles on Tuesday evening, taking third with a PR time of 11.08 seconds.

Sophomore Elyse Manning led Rochelle in the sprints, finishing second in the 55-meter dash with a time of 8.11 seconds. Senior Alex Neece took fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 30.55 seconds. Juniors Kyrie Cragin and Rose Luxton spearheaded the charge in the middle distance events, with Cragin running a 1:06.69 to take

second in the 400-meter dash and Luxton clocking in at 2:47.72 to take second in the 800-meter run on Tuesday evening.

Senior Bridgett Ramirez ran an 8:11.38 to finish third in the 1600-meter run, while sophomore Vivian Worthington crossed the finish line in 14:45.61 to take fourth in the 3200-meter run. Rochelle did not record a result in the 3200-meter relay or the pole vault at the varsity level.

### Junior Varsity

Freshman Zoey Schabacker and sophomore Elena Daugherty went

first and second in the JV triple jump with distances of 8.82 and 8.31 meters. Freshman Mackenzie Bybee finished third in the long jump with a distance of 3.88 meters and eighth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.07 meters. Senior Sienna Seebach took third in the shot put with a heave of 7.61 meters.

Rochelle's fastest JV relay was the 3200-meter group (Arline Villanueva, Brisa Zepeda, Bridgett Ramirez and Carol Carpenter), which placed second with a time of 13:24.83. Freshman Emma Metzger led the

Lady Hubs in the 55-meter hurdles at the JV level, taking third with a time of 12.05 seconds. Sophomore Vivian Worthington won the 1600-meter run with a time of 7:04.50.

Freshman Gwendolyn O'Dell brought home Rochelle's lone JV win in the sprints, taking the 55-meter dash with a time of 8.13 seconds. Sophomore Dylan Etes finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 31.73 seconds, while senior Arline Villanueva took fourth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:23.62 to lead Rochelle in the middle distance events Tuesday.



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101  
LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENT R. BRADLE, Deceased.**  
NO. 2025-PR-17  
**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of KENT R. BRADLE, of Stillman Valley, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 4, 2025, to DAN DELANEY, whose address is 2634 Park Pl., Madison, WI 53705, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than September 9, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.  
FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for DAN DELANEY, Administrator of the Estate of KENT R. BRADLE, deceased  
No. 0308  
(March 09, 16 and 23, 2025)

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice Hub City Self Storage located at 961 S 7th Street Rochelle, IL 61068 intends to hold an Auction of storage units listed below to enforce its privilege against the following parties at the facility for default of payment of Rent. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 03/27/2025 at 10:30 AM. Travis Nicholson unit #234 and Larry Ellis Gee unit #331. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.  
No. 0309  
(Mar. 09 and 16, 2025)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

On Monday, April 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. a joint meeting of the following school districts: (Amboy, Ashton/Franklin Center, Creston, Eswood, Forrestville Valley, Kings, Meridian, Oregon, Polo, Rochelle Elementary, Rochelle Township High School, and Steward) will take place at the Ogle County Educational Cooperative office, 417 N. Colfax, Byron, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss each district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private, or parochial schools or are home-schooled within one of the local public school districts for 2025-2026 school year. If you are a parent of a private, parochial or home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of one of the named local public school districts you are urged to attend. To register please call Tammy Moser at the OCEC office 815-234-2722 ext. 1017. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Matt Zilm, Director of the OCEC at 815-234-2722  
No. 0311  
(March 16, 2025)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Education of the Ogle County Education Cooperative will hold a public hearing on April 17, 2025 at 9:15 am at 417 N. Colfax St. Byron, IL 61010 regard-

ing a Life Safety Amendment for paving repairs to the Chana Education Center parking lot. Work to be funded under Amendment Number#1, Replace parking lot and driveway per Public Act SB-251, modified August 6, 1993. Whereas, pursuant to the approval of Life Safety Amendment #1 by the Illinois State Board of Education and subject to the conditions of the Illinois School Code as amended by Public Act SB-251, August 6, 1993, Section 17-2.11, the Ogle County Education Cooperative, Ogle County, Illinois wishes to use residual Life Safety Funds to complete this Amendment.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** said the Ogle County Education Cooperative, Ogle County, Illinois, by its Board of Education has caused this resolution to be signed by the President and Secretary of said Board of Education, and to be filed with the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools, and the aforementioned amendment submitted March 10, 2025.  
Board Secretary - Tammy Moser  
Ogle County Education Cooperative Board President - Dr. Jason Harper  
Ogle County Education Cooperative No. 0312  
(March 16, 2025)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (REZONE)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given to all persons in the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rochelle City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North 6th Street relative to the following:  
Petition of John Ethan Gruben to rezone the property located at 334 N. 14th Street in Rochelle, IL. The subject property is currently zoned I-2 General Industry, and the petitioner is requesting to rezone the property to R-4 Multi Family Low Density Residential. The property has a legal description of:  
PIN No.: 24-23-476-002  
LOT ONE (1) IN BLOCK TWO (2) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF GEORGE E STOCKING'S THIRD ADDITION IN THE CITY OF ROCHELLE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK A OF PLATS, PAGE 109 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLAGG, COUNTY OF OGLE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.  
The petition is on file and available for examination in the office of the Community Development Director, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois during normal business hours. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact Michelle Knight at [mknight@rochelleil.us](mailto:mknight@rochelleil.us) or call 815-562-6161 to make arrangements.  
Rose Hueramo, City Clerk  
City of Rochelle No. 0318  
(March 16, 2025)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (SPECIAL USE FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given to all persons in the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00

p.m. in the Rochelle City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North 6th Street relative to the following:  
Petition of The City of Rochelle and Rochelle Municipal Utilities for a special use to build public infrastructure for Well #13 in a B-2 zoning district.  
The subject property is zoned B-2 Highway Commercial and has a legal description of:  
PIN No.: 25-17-100-010  
Outlot A of Rochelle Business and Technology Park, Phase 2, being a subdivision in part of Section 17, Township 40 North, Range 2 East of the Third Principal Meridian, subdivision recorded May 21, 2008, in Plat Book "D", Page 18 as Document No. 0805023 in the Ogle County Recorder's Office, located in the County of Ogle, State of Illinois.  
The petition is on file and available for examination in the office of the Community Development Director, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois during normal business hours. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact Michelle Knight at [mknight@rochelleil.us](mailto:mknight@rochelleil.us) or call 815-562-6161 to make arrangements.  
Rose Hueramo, City Clerk  
City of Rochelle No. 0319  
(March 16, 2025)

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ) HELEN WHEELER, Deceased.**  
NO. 2025PR20  
**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of HELEN WHEELER, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 11, 2025, to TERRY L. WHEELER, whose address is 105 W. North Ave., Cortland, IL 60112, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than September 16, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.  
FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for TERRY L. WHEELER, Executor of the Estate of HELEN WHEELER, deceased  
No. 0320  
(March 16, 23 and 30 2025)

**105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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**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

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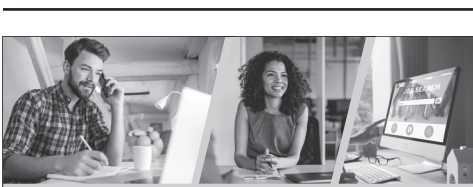
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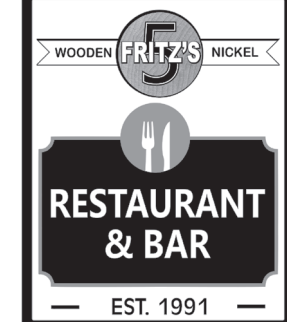
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# AG WEEK

## USDA posts interim climate-smart agriculture guidelines

BY TAMMIE SLOUP  
FARMWEEK

USDA published an interim rule establishing guidelines for climate-smart crops used as biofuel feedstocks, as well as a Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator.

Announced Jan. 15, the 83-page interim rule establishes guidelines for quantifying reporting and verifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the production of biofuel feedstock commodity crops grown in the United States.

The rule includes three primary feedstock crops: field corn, soy and sorghum. It also covers climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices that could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or sequester carbon.

Notably, the interim rule allows for adoption of CSA practices both individually or in combination, providing farmers the flexibility to adopt the CSA practices that make sense for their operation.

“(The rule) reinforces the important role climate-smart agriculture plays in our rural economy, including in fueling clean transportation solutions, as well as the importance of providing pathways for unbundled, science-based accounting of the carbon benefits of climate-smart practices that help farmers earn more for what they grow,” said John Podesta, White House senior adviser for international climate

policy.

The covered CSA practices include reduced till, no-till, cover crops, and specified nutrient management practices, such as nitrification inhibitors, no fall application of nitrogen, and split in-season application of nitrogen.

Farmers can calculate farm-specific carbon intensity (CI) scores in line with the standards of the interim rule using the USDA Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator (USDA FD-CIC), which is a sub portion of the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies (GREET) model. The calculator was published in its beta version with USDA collecting feedback before it’s finalized.

Data that must be input into the calculator, which can be found at bit.ly/4jfkjq2, includes farm location, crop type, yield, acreage and information on CSA measures on covered crops.

“Establishing quantification and verification standards for climate-smart practices helps to ensure that the net GHG emissions reductions from these practices are real, thereby improving credibility and confidence, which could facilitate market opportunities for U.S. farmers growing biofuel feedstocks,” according to a USDA news release.

The interim rule includes guidelines on the following:

Biofuel feedstock crops and entities in the biofuel supply chain

Quantification of farm-



(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON, ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU)

**USDA published an interim rule establishing guidelines for climate-smart crops used as biofuel feedstocks as well as a Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator.**

level crop-specific carbon intensity

Chain of custody standards for entities in the biofuel supply chain, including traceability and recordkeeping standards

Auditing and verification requirements

Climate-smart agriculture practice standards for the biofuel feedstock crops included under the rule.

The interim rule establishes voluntary guidelines that may inform the development of requirements for programs that incentivize low-carbon feedstocks. On Jan. 10, the U.S. Treasury Department announced its

intent to propose rules for the Clean Fuel Production Credit, often referred to as 45Z, with plans to utilize USDA’s proposed interim rules for climate-smart agriculture.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack told reporters the Trump administration has additional work to do on 45Z, and the expectation is they follow through on the guidance. He added that the incoming administration can use USDA’s new guidelines and calculator in finalizing tax credit rules.

The interim rule also lays out verification requirements, including ac-

credited third-party verifiers auditing a sample of the farms supplying reduced CI crops. All entities from the first point of aggregation to the biofuel refiner must hire a third-party verifier to conduct an audit annually.

In the case of markets for transportation biofuel feedstocks, this traceability and verification system could allow entities such as farmers, elevators, other intermediary storage facilities and biorefineries to sell products with environmental attributes such as reduced emissions.

“In some cases, selling a product with an envi-

ronmental attribute could enable these entities to earn a premium price for growing, handling and otherwise helping to move reduced-CI biofuel feedstock through the supply chain,” according to the rule.

USDA is opening a public comment period for 60 days. Read the interim rule at bit.ly/3DXDeWb.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

## Demand, HPAI drive record egg prices up

BY RHIANNON BRANCH  
FARMWEEK

CONSUMERS are experiencing the highest egg prices in history driven by increased demand and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which could keep the market elevated for a while.

The latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the average retail egg price at \$4.90 per dozen nationwide.

“That’s an all-time high and a lot more expensive than what consumers are typically dealing with,” Brian Earnest, lead animal protein analyst for CoBank told FarmWeek. “I think back 10 years ago when it

was pretty common to see \$1 per dozen or less.”

He said HPAI is one of the main causes, noting the current outbreak has had more of a year-round impact than the previous outbreak in 2015.

“Now it has been found in all 50 states and has had an impact to supply every month since February of 2022,” Earnest said.

As a result, there are 8% fewer egg laying hens in U.S. production compared to two years ago, and Earnest said consumer demand has also shifted in that time frame.

“We’ve seen big growth in demand of cage free eggs,” he said, using California as example of a state that has elected to go com-

pletely cage-free.

“There’s roughly 39 million residents in California and there were roughly 9 million table egg laying hens that were depopulated as a result of bird flu in California,” he said. “Their ability to feed their residents eggs that were produced within the state was severely impacted.”

But Earnest said even without HPAI, a boost in demand would still have prices somewhat elevated, noting that eggs have become a staple item for innovation in quick-service restaurant entrees, and consumers have latched on to emerging trends like all-day breakfast.

“We moved from consuming roughly 275 eggs per capita annually in the

U.S. in the 2015-time frame to nearly 300 by the time we got to 2020, so that’s a pretty big increase in consumption,” Earnest said.

He said lingering impacts from demand could prolong the higher price environment through Easter and even Mother’s Day.

“We may be seeing a peak in terms of shelf prices here in the next 3-4 months, but the summer months typically bring softer demand to the egg case,” he said. “That’s when I think the industry has an opportunity to get caught back up.”

The decrease in supply has left shelves temporarily bare in some regions.

“I think the West Coast might be feeling a little bit more of an impact than what

the Midwest would be seeing just due to proximity of where major production is,” Earnest said.

But eggs are still being produced, he said optimistically.

“Overall, the system works pretty well,” Earnest said. “If it can work through these market deficiencies, I think we’ll start seeing price ration demand a little bit and then work towards inventorying where there are empty shelves.”

As poultry producers ramp up biosecurity measures and migration season winds down, he is hopeful concerns will ease in the summer months.

“But for now, we’re continuing to monitor a very difficult situation for farm-



(PHOTO BY ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU)

**Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and demand are driving up egg prices to historical highs.**

ers and consumers alike,” Earnest said.

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## NASA invests in U of I doctoral student's grassland research

BY HANNAH SPANGLER  
FARMWEEK

A University of Illinois doctoral candidate received a \$150,000 investment from NASA to create a detailed grassland map using remote sensing. Wendy Dorman, the recipient of the prestigious three-year research grant, plans to map grassland habitats across Illinois — where 99% of the prairies have vanished. Her goals include finding out which habitat features are most important for endangered birds to protect them in the small amount of grassland available. “I’ve been really frustrated by the lack of available data to use when trying to understand what’s happening to birds,” Dorman said, adding that current research is not at the level needed for making management

decisions and conducting effective modeling. Dorman will use remote sensing, which involves using satellite imagery to collect information, to produce a high-quality map of the cold and warm season grasses in grasslands across the state. She believes this will help provide targeted support to individual bird species based on their survival needs. “It’s important for conservation and for management and wildlife or other environmental reasons that we have a good idea of where grasslands are and what their qualities are,” said Mike Ward, U of I professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES). The research can also benefit farmers enrolling in conservation programs and help enhance habitats for birds like quail and pheasants, Ward explained. The

detailed maps can show where to place grasslands to maximize agricultural and new environmental benefits. Ward told FarmWeek that the use of remote sensing in grasslands is a lot like the use of precision technology in agriculture. They are working with small amounts of grassland and using technology to optimize conservation practices. “A strategic placement of habitat can go a long way,” he said. “Right now, it’s kind of overwhelming to have so much information and so much data. But as we go on, all this information will keep on coming in and we’ll be able to do a better job of managing our resources.” Research has already started on a small scale, and Dorman and her team are preparing to ramp things up. This semester, she will work with students from natural resources and environmental sciences,



(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON OF FARMWEEK)

**A University of Illinois doctoral student plans to map the grassland habitat across Illinois.**

computer science and physics to bring together the different disciplines needed for the project. She hopes to have preliminary results around March or April before moving into fieldwork throughout the spring and summer. The fieldwork

will help compare satellite data with real-life observations. “You need to actually physically go into the field and see what is on the ground,” Dorman said. “We don’t just trust the models that we produce, we compare them against

what’s actually in the field.” This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

## Tight global supply keeping fertilizer prices elevated

BY RHIANNON BRANCH  
FARMWEEK

As farmers enter another year of predictably tight margins, it does not look like fertilizer prices will grant much relief to the balance sheet. “The problem is we’re starting 2025 with nitrogen and phosphate values looking fairly firm on tight supply and demand,” Josh Linville, vice president of fertilizer at StoneX, told FarmWeek. “We’re worried about what that means for our prices going into the spring.” Chinese exports and European production of urea are both falling, which means global prices could push higher.

“That should result in a situation where we have to start doing a lot of work to get the imports coming in that we very desperately need,” Linville said. “We’re going to have to move our price up quite a bit to make that relationship happen.” He said prices for urea ammonium nitrate and anhydrous ammonia, which are more commonly used in Illinois, usually follow the urea market. One fertilizer that is well supplied globally and therefore mildly priced is potash, but that could change after President Donald Trump takes office this month. “We have to worry about the threat of 25% tariffs against Canadian goods,” said Linville, who noted Canada is the world’s large-

est producer and exporter of potash. “These tariffs will have real effects on the farm side if they get implemented.” Linville said Trump is known for using tariffs as an “economic weapon,” but for a commodity market like fertilizer the benefits aren’t likely to outweigh the consequences. “A lot of times, the farmer of the country that implements the tariff is really the one that pays the price,” he said. “We are going to have to watch that because it could have an adverse effect on our pricing.” On the other hand, Linville said the world “enjoyed a sense of peace” during Trump’s first term with fewer wars and global conflicts from 2016 to 2020,

compared to recent years. “On the flip side, I am very hopeful that if he can bring back a period of tranquility, we can see markets start to calm down, trade flows return back to normal and get prices back to historic norms,” he said. Linville said as always it will be important for farmers to convey their fertilizer intentions to suppliers in 2025 so they can plan accordingly. “I understand it’s easy to want to bury your head in the sand in these kinds of times, but we need to have more information flowing than less,” he said. And despite a hefty delay to the fall 2024 fertilizer application season, Linville expects the number of spring applications to be



(PHOTO BY ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU)

**Declining production of urea in China and Europe could pressure prices for fertilizer, including anhydrous ammonia, in the U.S. in the months ahead.**

about normal. “It was probably one of the most unorthodox fall application seasons we’ve ever seen,” he said. “The first several weeks of November, hardly anybody across the Midwest turned a wheel.” But he said the weather opened a window around Thanksgiving and Midwestern farmers took advantage of it. “We surveyed the industry, and I think we hit about 90% of what our expected fall run was,” Linville said. “So that is fortunately keeping that horror story that we were talking about for springtime off the table.” Fertilizer prices in Il-

linois averaged between \$650 and \$775 per ton for anhydrous ammonia as of Dec. 27, up an average of \$9.46 from the previous two weeks, according to the Illinois Production Cost Report. Prices ranged from \$679 to \$760 per ton for diammonium phosphate (up \$3.33), \$400 to \$525 for potash (down slightly) and \$525 to \$554 for urea (unchanged) as of the same date. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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