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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 \$1.25

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St. Paul names 3Q Honor Roll

St. Paul Lutheran School named its third quarter Honor Roll students.
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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
53 29	45 32

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OBITUARIES

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- EARL 'BUSSIE' MARLER

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Rochelle Hiring Expo held March 13 at RTHS

‘We just continue improving upon the things we learn every year’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, March 13, the Rochelle Hiring Expo, presented by the City of Rochelle, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Kishwaukee College and Rochelle Township High School was held at RTHS at 1401 E. Flagg Road.

The event was free for employers, job seekers and RTHS students. RTHS seniors and juniors participated in the event for an hour before it opened to the public. The public hiring expo event began in recent years after a workforce shortage was seen post COVID-19 and it melded well with the yearly RTHS career fair, causing the events to be combined.

Employers with booths at the event included: IBEW, State of Illinois, Zekelman Industries, PeopleLink Staffing Solutions, Clark Dietrich, Forge Resources Group, Liberty Village of Rochelle, Etnyre International, Rochelle Foods, Highlight Health-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, March 13, the Rochelle Hiring Expo, presented by the City of Rochelle, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Kishwaukee College and Rochelle Township High School was held at RTHS at 1401 E. Flagg Road.

care of Rochelle, both Rochelle school districts, 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care, Stillman Bank, CDH Educational Center, Rochelle Community Hospital, Foundation for Focus House, Momentum Healthcare, Good Will Northern IL, Lassiter Agency, Maplehurst Farms, Athletico, TOMY International Inc., Express Employment Professionals, StaffQuick, Illinois Army National Guard, Kishwaukee College, Silgan Containers, City of Rochelle Police & Fire Departments, Kunes Auto Group and Addus Home Care.

Kishwaukee College takes the lead on logistics and registration for the event. Kish Associate Vice President of College Relations LaCretia Konan said the event started off “great” with over 220 RTHS students attending, with employers impressed with students’ levels of engagement.

See HIRING EXPO page 8



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard an update from Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger on a potential future Helms Park redevelopment project.

Helms Park project to go out to design firms to assess options

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard an update from Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger on a potential future Helms Park redevelopment project.

Over the past two years, the park district has been gathering input on the project at the former Rochelle Township High School outdoor athletic complex to fit it more to a park district-like use. The grounds were acquired by the park district in 2002 after they were no longer

utilized by RTHS.

Public meetings have been held on the project to solicit feedback. In the past, the park district circulated a survey locally on what the community would like to see at the site, which received around 700 responses. Potential additions mentioned in the past have included a fitness area, a multi-sport court with a rubber surface for soccer, volleyball and basketball, a universal play space, a skate park, tennis courts and pickleball courts, a pavilion and restrooms, new parking, batting cages, a walking path and green space.

See PARK page 2

Rochelle Fire responds to electrical issue at BP station

Chief Sawlsville: No injuries, minimal damage after Sunday incident

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — There were no injuries or significant damage after the Rochelle Fire Department responded to an electrical issue at the BP station in Rochelle on Sunday evening, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

RFD and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District stations of Creston, Hillcrest, Steward and Flagg Center were called to 1180 N. 7th St. at 5:43 p.m. on Sunday for a report of smoke coming out vents in the awning over the gas pumps.

“There was some electrical shorting out up there,” Sawlsville said. “We couldn’t isolate the issue, so they had to close. There wasn’t much fire. There was just a lot of smoke. We were on scene for about an hour in an effort to find the issue and keep the place open. We were unable to find it and they had to close until they could get it fixed the next day.”



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

There were no injuries or significant damage after the Rochelle Fire Department responded to an electrical issue at the BP station in Rochelle on Sunday evening, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

Sawlsville said a lot of response was seen Sunday in case of the small electrical fire becoming a larger issue.

“A fire at a gas station obviously is something that makes us

nervous,” Sawlsville said. “There was smoke and electrical arcing next to a gas pump at one point. That could have been an issue if there had been someone there at the time pumping gas. The part that we

were nervous about was the issue making its way down from the awning to the area of the pumps. There was no significant damage, mostly just the loss of income from having to close for a time.”

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LOCAL NEWS

RTHS Board: Purchase of band uniforms approved

Hiring expo held March 13 with students, public; graduation set for May 24

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School Board of Education unanimously approved a \$102,229.74 bid from DeMoulin for 150 new marching band uniforms.

RTHS Marching Band Director Keaton Shumard received two bids for new uniforms. DeMoulin was the low bid. RTHS will pay half of the cost this fiscal year and the remainder next fiscal year upon delivery. The new uniforms will be for the 2025-2026 marching band season.

Expo

During Principal Chris Lewis' monthly presentation at the meeting, he updated the board on a job fair that was held March 13 at RTHS that was available to junior and senior students as well as the public. The job fair was a partnership between RTHS, Kishwaukee College and the City of Rochelle.

The job fair saw over 40 vendors attend and meet with students. Lewis said 53 jobseekers attended from the public. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, RTHS held its own career fairs before merging it with

a hiring expo with the city due to the job market and number of employment opportunities available in the community.

Junior and senior students at RTHS attended a soft skills/job interview assembly during the school day before their dismissal to the job fair. Seniors assembled during seventh and eighth-hour periods, while juniors assembled during the ninth-hour period.

"It was a great experience for our juniors and seniors," Lewis said. "They worked on soft skills and talked to the different careers and looked for potential summer jobs and careers. It's been a nice collaboration and we really like how it's been going."

Graduation

The board unanimously approved an RTHS graduation date of Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 27 is the last day of final exams. Summer school will begin on Monday, June 2 and conclude on Thursday, July 10.

Employment

The board unanimously approved personnel matters including the resignation of Meagan Stoops (English teacher, end of 24-25 school year)



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School Board of Education unanimously approved a \$102,229.74 bid from DeMoulin for 150 new marching band uniforms.

and the employment of Krynn Hayward (district substitute bus driver/substitute aide) and Jake Major (volunteer assistant baseball coach).

The board also unanimously approved the yearly re-employment of teachers, including first year teachers Cody Denneau (Spanish), Abby Jamison (English), Christian Marigomen (choir), David Molgas Zepeda (bilingual

math) and Sumayya Staab (student growth coach). Retained second year teachers included Jonathon Gehm (social science), Kevin Hunt (social science), Sarai Orozco (special education), Colfay Pointer (student counselor), Scott Stevens (special education), and Edna Vazquez (foreign language). Retained third year teachers included Anna Adolph (English), Max Basler (special education),

Anna Birsas (Spanish), Anna Criswell (science), Justin Otte (science), Rachel Plock (math) and Keaton Shumard (music). Fourth year teachers retained to become tenured included Andrea DeKing (art), Holly Karner (social science) and Tony Wyatt (Focus House special education).

ACT

Lewis said RTHS stu-

dents will be taking the ACT and Pre-ACT tests on April 8. Juniors will take the SAT and freshmen and sophomores will take the Pre-ACT. Students are now taking the ACT after years of taking the SAT. Students took a practice exam in September.

"We've been working hard on this," Lewis said. "We'll be taking that test for state accountability and college placement."

PARK: 'This evaluation will help us determine what is financially feasible'

From page 1

"Now, with this groundwork in place, we are prepared to take the next step by requesting qualifications from design-build firms to assess the possibilities and bring a revitalized space to the Rochelle community," Ohlinger said. "As we move forward with the development of Helms North, we recognize the importance of taking a strategic approach to ensure the best use of our resources. Through years of operating The REC, we have gained valuable insight into what is effective, sustainable, and truly beneficial to our community. Our approach considers current and potential community needs, facility flow, and long-term sustainability."

Ohlinger said as the board begins the qualifications process for conceptual planning and design, it will explore both indoor and outdoor possibilities.

"This evaluation will help us determine what is

financially feasible within our current framework while ensuring that any future development aligns with our long-term goals and community needs," Ohlinger said. "By taking this step of a request for qualifications, we are positioning ourselves to make informed, responsible decisions that maximize the impact of Helms North for years to come."

Gonzales

Ohlinger said Monday that the meeting would be the last for Commissioner Kristi Gonzales, who is resigning from the board. Ohlinger thanked Gonzales for her time, input and work as a commissioner.

Easement

The board unanimously approved an easement in the area of Flannigan Park in Hillcrest for Rochelle Municipal Utilities. RMU has plans for an electrical infrastructure upgrade to improve reliability and allow for future growth that



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Over the past two years, the park district has been gathering input on the project at the former Rochelle Township High School outdoor athletic complex to fit it more to a park district-like use. The grounds were acquired by the park district in 2002 after they were no longer utilized by RTHS.

will see it place larger power poles near Scott Avenue and the park. The changes will not interfere with park amenities.

Maintenance

Superintendent of Parks & Facilities Shane Bays presented his monthly report during the meeting on a number of topics.

Recent work has included pressure washing at The REC Center and the splash

pad at Spring Lake, installing gutters at the shelter at Cooper Park, and crack filling at the Helms Park tennis courts. The park district will soon start work on Rochelle Little League baseball and softball fields.

Park district staff recently removed the playground equipment at VFW Park and the installation of new equipment is scheduled for mid-June. The park district recently approved new

playgrounds for Hillcrest, Sweeney, VFW and Skare Parks.

Basketball

Ohlinger said during the meeting that the park district's boys travel basketball league recently concluded on March 1. This year, there were 30 total teams across four different age groups. There were over 3,300 spectators at the games over eight weeks.

Spring Lake

Ohlinger announced during the meeting that there will be no fee increases for daily admission, pool passes, swim team or swim lessons at Spring Lake Pool for upcoming summer.

"Maintaining this affordability for families remains our top priority by continuing to provide a high quality, safe experience," Ohlinger said.

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At First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle

LOCAL NEWS

St. Paul Lutheran School names 3rd quarter honor roll students

ROCHELLE — St. Paul Lutheran School recently named its third quarter honor roll students for the 2024-2025 school year.

High honor roll: Lucas Bunger, Danny Johnson, Xavier Mueller, Grant Rowley, Naomi Bresson, Noah Hayden, Caden Hatfield, Ashley Carmichael, Charlie Frankenberg, Sophia Mueller, Axel Alsop, Joey Chadwick, Annaliese Cox, and Elijah Good.

Honor roll: Silas Alsop, Gwendolyn Good, Benediktas Grigaliunas, Caleb Johnson, Ayva King, Rilynn Larson, Henley Martinson, Jackson Noble, Ayla True, Michael Cox, Katie Suneson, Jack Olson, Ivan Olson, Leylani Farraj, Jimmy Chadwick, Leni Haedt, Reed Rowley, Taylor Thomas, Braxton Bruns, Gabe Bybee, Hailey Chapman, Owen Heitkamp, Mackenzie Johnson, Quinn Miller, Om Shah, and Kayl True.



St. Paul Lutheran School recently named its third quarter honor roll students for the 2024-2025 school year.

(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On March 15 at 3:13 p.m. Zaveon E. Young, 27, of Chicago was cited for expired registration and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 2:43 p.m. Emily Anderson, 29, of Mt. Prospect was cited

for speeding 90 in a 70 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 1:48 p.m. Kevin J. Wolf, 63, of Franklin Grove was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 2:22 p.m. Jovon J. Ducksworth, 23, of Plainfield was cited for speeding 87 in a 70 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 3:52 p.m. Kenneth E. Putzstuck, 64, of Rochelle was cited for a seat belt violation. He

signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 4:58 p.m. Jack A. Jensen, 33, of Malta was cited for operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 15 at 12:34

p.m. Jonathan Ruiz, 36, of Rochelle was cited for a registration violation. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 14 at 3:29 p.m. Samuel Lundquist, 43, of Oregon was cited for reckless driving and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. He signed a

promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

On March 16 at 7:16 p.m. Andrew J. Kettleson, 42, of Rochelle was cited for avoiding a traffic control signal. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 2 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Evelyn Marie Bearrows

EUREKA — Evelyn Marie Bearrows, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and cherished friend, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025 at the age of 95, at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, Illinois, surrounded by her family and special care givers. Evie was known for her loving and kind nature, and as a person who valued and cared for her family and friends alike. She was proud of her family and loved to spend time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She cherished her friends as well, staying close to her dear friends in the 'card club' over many years. Evie also enjoyed gardening and cooking, and her pies were well-known at gatherings with friends and family. She always looked forward to spending part of her summer with her family in northern Wisconsin, taking that first road trip to the Northwoods in 1959 and continuing every summer since.

Evie was born on November 1, 1929 in Ashton, Illinois, to Jurgen U. and Mary C. (Huhr) Greenfield, and was the youngest of nine children. Evie graduated from Ashton High School in 1947. On July 7, 1950, she married Robert E. Bearrows in Rochelle, IL, and they resided in Flagg Center

and later Rochelle. She was preceded in death by Robert "Bob" in 2011, her husband of 61 years. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her six brothers: Wilber, Elmer, Bob, Paul, Raymond and Hank Greenfield and two sisters: Ella Neckel and Elizabeth Parsley.

Evie was a homemaker, raising her five children, and later working outside the home for the City of Rochelle for over twenty years. She was a devoted member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and a strong supporter of St. Paul Lutheran School as well.

Evie loved her family, and was always there with a listening ear and a warm touch and embrace. She was a devoted mother, loving grandmother and great-grandmother, and she will be profoundly missed by everyone who knew her. Survivors include her daughter: Melinda (Tim) Kaufman of Metamora, IL; her sons: Thomas (Holly Hirst) Bearrows of River Forest, IL, Patrick (Sharon) Bearrows of Sycamore, IL, Jeffrey (Pamela) Bearrows of Dallas, TX and Michael (Beth Kucera) Bearrows of Cedar Rapids, IA; and sister-in-law, Nancy Krahenbuhl-Walters of Rochelle. She was a wonderful and loving grandmother to: Elli (Joseph) Barrow,



Paige (Riley) Frenette, Margaret (Jonah) Jelski, Peter (Veronica) Kaufman, Alison (Frank) Anderson, Harry Bearrows, Brett Bearrows, Sara (Tom Fernandez) Bearrows, Shelby (Alex Brown) Bearrows, and proud great-grandmother to Isabella Anderson, Emory Anderson and Henry Lockard.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 10:00 -11:00 A.M. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1415 10th Ave., Rochelle, Illinois. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 A.M. at St. Paul Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael D. Wolff presiding. Burial will be at Trinity Memory Gardens in Hillcrest immediately following the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran School of Rochelle, Illinois. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On March 11 at 8:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested passenger Jeremiah J.

Martin, 36, of Oregon on two Ogle County warrants (failure to appear for driving while license suspended and driving while license revoked), and a Winnebago County warrant (failure to appear

for driving while license revoked). Martin was additionally charged with possession of a controlled substance. Martin was released on a notice to appear on the possession of a controlled substance charge, and lodged on the outstanding warrants in the Ogle County Jail. The driver, Debbah N. Messenger, of Oregon was issued citations for operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended/mandatory insurance, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

On March 12 at 9:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Freepoint Road for speeding. After an investigation, Ivis Nahun Funez Meza, 32, of Columbus, Ohio was arrested for no valid driver's license. Funez Meza was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, expired registration, and speeding. Funez Meza was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Earl 'Bussie' Marler

PERRYVILLE, M.O. — Earl "Bussie" Marler of Perryville, MO passed away peacefully in his home with his family at his bedside on March 14, 2025

Bussie was born in Wardell, MO on September 28, 1941, and lived the majority of his youth in the Greenville, MO area. He moved to Rochelle, IL in the early 1960s where he and his former wife raised two children, Brad and Melanie Marler.

He married his lifelong partner and wife Janis (McDowell) Marler on July 4th, 1992. They returned to Missouri in 1995 where they enjoyed many happy years enjoying rural Missouri and exploring the many places he spent time as a youth and spending time with family.

Bussie worked at Rochelle Printing Company

for more than 30 years as a pressman until he retired in 1994.

He was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan, loved fishing, and wildlife. He was an avid storyteller of life in Missouri and his family and friends. He was a beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Melanie Ann Marler in 1992 and his six sisters, Pauline (Lloyd) Elder, Hazel Marler, Virginia (Eugene "Shin") Baker, Jewell Davis-Ward, Beulah "Bootie" (Bill) Gobtop, Lois (Jim) Utley/Walter Lee, and his parents George and Mary Marler.

Bussie is survived by his wife of 32 years Janis, son Bradley (Lori) Marler, Stepson Chris Chiavini, Grandchildren Courtney Bullock, Alec Marler, and



Kaitlin (Lourens) deBeer, Great-Grandchildren Dominick Bullock and Landon deBeer, Brother-in-law Bill Gobtop, and many special nieces, and nephews.

Bussie will be laid to rest at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Greenville, MO, next to his parents and sister. A graveside service will be held Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 1 PM to be officiated by Pastor Glen Crutchfield.

Online condolences can be made at www.rueggfuneralhomes.com

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On March 12 at 10:49 a.m. Ronald L. King, 73, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 67 in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 12 at 7:35 a.m. Mike N. Melco, 52, of Huntley was cited for speeding 72 in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 12 at 8:31 a.m. Marissa M. Williams, 27, of Huntley was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 12 at 2:11 p.m. a 14-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated battery and mob action. In the same incident, a 13-year-old juvenile and 15-year-old juvenile were also both arrested for aggravated battery and mob action. All three male juveniles were transferred.

On March 13 at 4:57 a.m. Terry M. Fogarty II, 56, of Rochelle was cited for disregarding a stop sign and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 12 at 10:55 p.m. Dylan C. Cobb, 26,

of Rochelle was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 13 at 10:45 a.m. Maria E. Correa Caballero, 44, of Aurora was arrested for an Ogle County warrant.

On March 13 at 12:48 p.m. Joshua E. Majcen, 28, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On March 13 at 1:52 p.m. Anmarie R. Kuntz, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for a Rockford Police Department warrant and transferred.

On March 12 at 4:06 p.m. a 14-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for driving unlicensed and cited for no insurance and passing a school bus loading/unloading. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 13 at 8:39 a.m. Jerry L. Elder, 81, of Rochelle was cited for passing a school bus loading/unloading. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 13 at 8:49 a.m. Gaston R. Santillan, 43, of Oak Park was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. He signed a promise

to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 14 at 12:59 a.m. Juan R. Garcia, 25, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and no valid driver's license, and cited for improper lane use, illegal transportation of alcohol and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 14 at 4:35 a.m. Alex Angell, 41, of Rochelle was cited for operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

On March 14 at 12:55 p.m. a 15-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for battery.

On March 14 at 1:18 p.m. Miguel Rojas Castano, 21, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa was arrested for driving while never issued a license. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 4 Rochelle court date. In the same incident, Inaki Abaroa Artolozaga, 19, of Cedar Rapids, and Juan E. Buitrago Correa, 20, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa were cited for no seat belt. Both signed a promise to comply and were given an April 4 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

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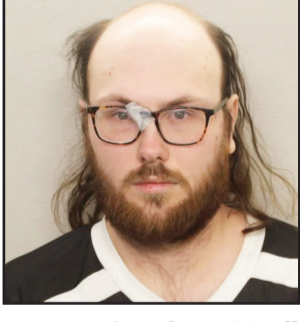
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Rochelle man arrested for indecent solicitation of a child

ROCHELLE — On March 6 at 9:45 p.m. the Rochelle Police Department was contacted regarding an adult male attempting to meet with a minor for sex in Rochelle. After an investigation by the RPD patrol division, Timothy J. O'Dell, 28, of Rochelle was arrested

for one felony count of indecent solicitation of a child and one felony count of failure to register as a sex offender. O'Dell was transported to the Ogle County Jail without incident. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Timothy J. O'Dell

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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AFC NEWS



AFC FFA places second at Career Development Event

The Section 2 Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event was held on Thursday, March 13 and Ashton-Franklin Center FFA finished second. Individual results were as follows: Second place chairperson - Jacob Warrenfeltz. Fifth place floor member - Kate Viall. Sixth place floor member - Elsie Viall. Eighth place floor member - Xavier Kloss. The team will compete at the District 1 contest on April 2. (Courtesy photos)



AFC students compete at IVCC Middle School Mania Competition
Ashton-Franklin Center middle school students had the opportunity to compete at the IVCC Middle School Mania Competition on Feb. 28. Students participated in a team challenge and tried mini versions of the agronomy, ag mechanics, and food science career development events along with taking an FFA quiz. (Courtesy photo)



AFC students learn about plane and drone uses
Ashton-Franklin Center students learned about plane and drone uses in agriculture and engineered planes in junior high STEM. Alejandro, Logan, and Archie won the contest. (Courtesy photo)

Ashton UMC to host Tractor Blessing on March 22

ASHTON – The Ashton United Methodist Church will host its annual Tractor Blessing on Saturday, March 22 at 8 a.m. The blessing will be followed by a light breakfast.

The event is open to all farmers in the area. We will gather in the parking lot at 8 a.m. Bring your tractor, a photo of your last or just yourself to be blessed for the coming planting season.

The church is located at 906 Richardson Ave. Please call the church at 815-453-2328 if you have any questions. Please leave a message and your call will be returned

Kuchen Coffee and Bake Sale is April 5

ASHTON—The United Women of Faith of the Ashton Methodist Church are hosting a Kuchen Coffee and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 5 from 8:30-11 a.m. Ashton is known for its delicious homemade kuchen in the favorites of cherry, peach, and prune. Kuchens will be available for sale in the bake sale area in addition to many other baked delights.

The church is located at the corner of North Richardson Avenue and North 4th Street in Ashton. There is ample parking and the church is handicapped accessible. See you on April 5 for kuchen, coffee and fellowship.

★
★

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent through the CLASSIFIEDS



AFC FFA officers attend Cultivating Connections event
Ashton-Franklin Center FFA Officers Jacob Warrenfeltz, Leah Cochrane, and Logan O'Brien attended Cultivating Connections on Friday. This was a morning to share the importance of agricultural education and FFA with school administration, counselors, school board, and alumni members. The officers participated in the Chapter Showcase, where they chose to focus on the last line of FFA Motto - Living to Serve. They shared about the community service opportunities that members participated in at AFC. (Courtesy photo)

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Schools
Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD #275
611 Western Ave., Ashton
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Go, Raiders!

Ashton-Franklin Center Jr/Sr High School
611 Western Ave., Ashton, IL 61006
815-452-7461 | Malinda Hart, Principal

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Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School
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815-456-2325 | Jenah Burkitt, Principal

LOCAL VIEWS

Hold the presses: The history of newspapers in Rochelle

THE day of the local newspaper may seem to be a thing of the past. If so, what a past it was. In the time before the internet, television, even radio, people had a need to know what was happening in the world around them. The local newspaper was the source of that information. Who does not remember the thrill of seeing their name in the paper? What family does not have a scrapbook with yellowed news articles from the past?

The first newspaper went to print as the “Lane Leader” in 1858. John R. Howlett was the owner, editor, print setter, and reporter. In a community with a population in the hundreds it was an uphill battle to make a living from a paper selling for pennies. John kept the paper going for three years before selling it to James A. Butterfield in 1861. The paper’s name was changed to the “Lane Patriot” but faced the same difficulties

as the prior owner, without subscriptions and advertising it was impossible to make a living. Mr. Butterfield closed the paper one year later in 1862. The type and presses were put into storage.

It was in 1863 that Elbridge Ottis heard of the unused equipment and decided that he was just the man to take on the responsibility bringing the news to the people of Lane. In a small room above the Clark and Dana Drugstore (later to become Barkers) Elbridge published the first issue of the “Lane Register”. Two years later in 1865 Mr. Ottis changed the name of the paper when the city was renamed. Lane became Rochelle and the “Lane Register” became the “Rochelle Register”. The motto of the paper was, “If you see it in the Register, it is so”. Strangely, E. L. Ottis is better remembered for his devotion to the fire department than his newspaper. He was instrumental in improving

the city’s water supply and upgrading equipment. The paper passed from owner to owner, J.C. Neff to H.C. Paddock to George Dicus then Emery Neff.

For a brief period, 1878-1879 Norman Rapalee published the “National Greenbacker” and “Rapalee’s Greenbacker”. The paper failed to flourish and was soon gone.

The “Rochelle Independent” was started by E. L. Derby in 1872. Ownership was later passed to Fred and Charles Lux. The Lux brothers sold the paper to Hemmingway and Wagner in about 1897. They in turn sold the paper to Walter Hohenadel in 1917.

For some reason there was a period when some felt that Rochelle could support two newspapers. The “Rochelle Telephone” went to press in 1879 under the ownership of J. M. King and his wife. The paper lasted three years and

in 1881 the presses shut down. The Norris family, G. W. Norris and his son Howard had managed two papers prior, the “Malta Mail” and the “Creston Times” were merged to become the “Rochelle Herald” in 1881. The “Herald” lasted for a while but it too failed.

The Lux brothers, Fred and William, joined with Elmer Heath and printed the “Rochelle News”. The “Rochelle Independent” was sold by Walter Hohenadel to John Millar in 1922. John also purchased the “Rochelle Register” and combined the two into one

paper. Another contender in the news arena was Chuck Stafford, editor of the 1923 paper, the “Rochelle Home Journal”. Competition was keen with many fighting for the limited advertising dollar. This was about to change. Floyd J. Tilton and his son John W. Tilton and

their corporation, Tilton Industries, would become the sole source for news in Rochelle.

The Tilton family began in the news business in 1932 with the purchase of the “Rochelle Home Journal”. The cost was \$10, and the check was post-dated one week. The paper became the “Northern Illinois Democrat” in 1933. In 1938 the paper became the “Hub City Leader.” The name was again changed, this time to “The Rochelle Leader”. The “Rochelle Leader” and the “Rochelle News” competed until 1943 when the Lux brothers and Mr. Heath sold their paper to Tilton Industries. With both papers in hand, John Tilton, published the “News” on Wednesdays and the “Leader” on Fridays.

Tilton industries left the newspaper business in 1975. John Tompkins, at the age of 21, purchased the Rochelle papers. John was an aggressive newspaper man. Over the years

he bought several papers across the United States. John owned and managed the Rochelle papers until 2023, when he passed. The paper stayed in the family and John Tompkins Jr. (JJ) took over the management of the “Rochelle News-Leader”.

The mission of a local newspaper is the same today as it was in 1850, to inform the public, allow varying opinions, and share stories that may be too small for larger media outlets. Will the local paper disappear? I hope not, but progress grinds on. Until that day we continue clipping out photos, saving articles, wedding announcements, obituaries, and other major life events. The internet may become the news source of the day, but it will be hard pressed to replace the smile on a child’s face when they see their history in a scrapbook.

Tom McDermott is a Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.

Letter: If not you, then who?

DEAR editor, We vote early. This is a result of my wife and I working as election judges, and as luck would have it, we weren’t assigned to be working in our home precinct. Rather than insult those who have fought and even died to make sure Americans have a right to vote by not voting, we went and voted early at the Ogle County Courthouse.

As part of the process, we had to do some candidate research so we could be informed voters. This meant looking up information on the candidates in the elections that we can vote on

and picking those who were aligned best with where we think the various offices should be heading.

We were both surprised at the lack of candidates for some offices. In Ogle County, we found that there were 47 offices with nobody filed to run for them. Think about that for a second—47 offices where people didn’t think of passing petitions to get on the ballot. Fortunately, people have stepped up in a few races and have done what is necessary to run as write-in candidates, but that is the exception, not the rule. There are a lot of offices with “NO CANDIDATE” in the blank.

In such cases, the government agency can then appoint who they want to fill these roles. That isn’t what our founding fathers expected, but it is how it works.

This brings me to the subject of this missive—we need people like you to run for public office. Yes, being on a city council, village council, township board, library board, etc., will take up some of your time and energy. However, I would ask that you look at yourself in the mirror—if you have even some time to help, wouldn’t it be better if YOU ran for one of these open offices?

Think of what you could

bring to the discussion. Most of the people in these offices are people that are literally just like you. They put their clothes on the same way, they shop at the same stores, they have the same education as you. You don’t have to be a doctor or a lawyer—you just have to be a citizen that is interested in becoming involved and willing to run, and if elected, attend the meetings and think about the subjects so you vote to reflect what your constituents would want.

Running for office starts with passing petitions. Our County Clerk, Laura Cook posts notices in the newspapers on when petitions can

be passed and when they have to be turned in to qualify. Follow the rules, walk and talk to your neighbors, and get them to sign your petitions. The numbers you need to be approved and placed on the ballot are available from the clerk’s office. If the race is uncontested, you can walk some more to make sure people vote for you. If the race is contested, you can walk a lot more to make sure enough people vote for you so that you can win.

It will take some effort, but isn’t it true of anything that is worth doing? Please, consider getting involved with your local government,

school, or township, and run for public office. We the People, need good People like you to step up and become part of the process that keeps our government running smoothly.

There are some who might say “No, I’m too busy,” or “I don’t know anything about running a library/village/city.” To be honest, the same can be said for most of the people who ran for office the first time. Consider stepping up to help—because after all, if not you, then who will run? And if not now, then when?

George Wilhelmsen,
Rochelle

New political letter policy for Rochelle News-Leader

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@rochellenews-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@rochellenews-leader.com

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

** Denotes Chairman/President*

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Rosaelia Arteaga	rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmodermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso	bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

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Ashley Jackson	ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White	swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
Jennifer Thompson	jthompson@d231.rochelle.net

Rochelle Township High School Board

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

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Brent Carmichael	bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs	jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells	dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden	thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart	jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
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Austin Gillis	agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller	dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms	jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4

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

Creston Village Board

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

Hillcrest Village Board

*Richard Rhoads	rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman	ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter	dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball	tbball@hillcrestil.us
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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.) 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



Pictured left to right: Grand Champion Public Presentation, Elizabeth Kennedy, Davis Junction; and Sara Blume, volunteer judge.

Ogle County 4-H Public Presentations winners announced

OREGON — This year's 4-H Public Presentations Contest was held Saturday, March 8, at the Ogle County Farm Bureau. Thank you to Anderson Feeds for sponsoring the Public Presentations award.

Top of Class Formal Speech – Beginner (aged 8-13): Delaney Byers, Forreston.

Top of Class Illustrated Speech – Beginner (aged 8-13): Shelby Harbaugh, Chana.

Top of Class Illustrated Speech – Advanced (aged 14-18): Immanuel Arellano, Mt. Morris.

Top of Class Oral Interpretation: Elizabeth Kennedy, Davis Junction.

Grand Champion Public Presentation: Elizabeth Kennedy, Davis Junction.

Reserve Grand Champion Public Presentation: Shelby Harbaugh, Chana.

The Illinois State 4-H Public Presentation Contest will be held on April 26 at Parkland College in Champaign.

State Public Speaking Contest Delegates: Alayna Doane, Illustrated Speech – Beginner (aged 8 – 13). Shelby Harbaugh, Illustrated Speech – Beginner (aged 8 – 13). Elizabeth Kennedy, Oral Interpretation.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

2025
From The Heart
Celebrating 47
Years of Giving

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

Mar. 17 - Jan Thompson, Rochelle, \$250

Mar. 18 - Dale Galland, Rochelle, \$25

Mar. 19 - Jeffrey J. Musselman, Rochelle, \$25

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Huck's raft-mate

4 Peeve

8 "Phooey!"

12 Docs' bloc

13 List-ending abbr.

14 Bassoon's kin

15 Dyeing vessel

16 Video-streaming brand

17 Radiate

18 Vulnerable spots

21 Physique

22 Youngster

23 "Taste!"

26 Chaps

27 Brit. sports cars

30 Stretches (out)

31 Polite address

32 Hawaiian coast

33 Speck

34 Aunt, in Mexico

35 Nodded off

36 Cyndi Lauper's " — Bop"

37 Tennis feat

38 Spinning disks used by ceramic artists

45 Latin love

46 Authentic

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DOWN

1 Coffee, slangily

2 Apple since 1998

3 Calc. or trig

4 Red wine

5 " — you so!"

6 Bogus

7 Befuddle

8 Thesaurus compiler

9 Competent

10 Hammer or sickle

11 Gives a darn?

12 Nile wader

13 Sweetie

14 "Dilbert" engineer

15 MGM rival

16 Still

17 Soccer's Hamm

18 "The Simpsons" barkeep

19 Econ. statistic

20 Plopped down

21 Western ranges

22 Swiss artist Paul

23 "That'll be — day!"

24 Drag

25 Vegas area

26 Cognizant

27 Fraction

28 Sharif of film

29 Author Morrison

30 Pants part

31 Physical

32 Classic Kinks song

33 Bath bar

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Weekly SUDOKU

1	4		8		3		6	
3	2	5	1	4		7	9	
	9				2			1
	5	4						
	1	9	3			4		
						5		9
4	3		6	1	8		5	
5		1				8		4
9			5	2				6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals M

IKTDC GFOG HV YPD'Y RTLK
IPZZPRKB O XOZCK OHPQDG
PL HPDKV LZPH HK, TY YFK
HV BKIGPZ-TD-XOR?

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King Crossword

Answers

9 3 1 2 4 5 8 7 6

2 8 7 3 6 1 9 5

4 5 6 8 1 9 2 3

6 7 1 5 7 4 3 8

2 8 4 7 3 6 1 9

3 9 6 8 2 4 5 7

1 3 4 1 2 5 7 9

8 6 7 9 1 4 2 3

5 2 6 3 9 8 7 4

Answer

CryptoQuip

Being that my son's wife borrowed a large amount of money from me, is she my debtor-in-law?

Answers

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

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Employers with booths at the event included: IBEW, State of Illinois, Zekelman Industries, Peoplelink Staffing Solutions, Clark Dietrich, Forge Resources Group, Liberty Village of Rochelle, Etnyre International, Rochelle Foods, Highlight Healthcare of Rochelle, both Rochelle school districts, 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care, Stillman Bank, CDH Educational Center, Rochelle Community Hospital, Foundation for Focus House, Momentum Healthcare, Good Will Northern IL, Lassiter Agency, Maplehurst Farms, Athletico, TOMY International Inc., Express Employment Professionals, StaffQuick, Illinois Army National Guard, Kishwaukee College, Silgan Containers, City of Rochelle Police & Fire Departments, Kunes Auto Group and Addus Home Care.

HIRING EXPO: Annual event catered to students, employers and job seekers

From page 1

"It was really great to see," Konan said. "It was packed. At the end of the job fair we'll get an evaluation from our employers that attended and they'll give us direct feedback on what they thought of the event and if there's anything we can do to improve it. Overall, there has been a steady flow of

job seekers today since we opened it up to the public. We had people that were waiting for it to open. We've already exceeded the number of job seekers in comparison to last year."

Konan said that now that the event has operated for the past few years, it has become a well-oiled machine. She thanked Kish Coordinator of Employment

& Job Placement Services Laura Gregory and leadership at RTHS, the City of Rochelle and the Chamber of Commerce.

"This day and seeing everyone in this room together reminds me that the City of Rochelle is a hub and a community of opportunity," Konan said. "The stakeholders here do a lot on behalf of their businesses and their community as a whole.

When you see people show up from students to employers to job seekers, it's a very well-rounded community and the event is very well planned. It's held for the purposes of, 'How do we grow the Rochelle area? How do we help our community? How do we support our businesses?'"

Konan said she was eager to hear feedback from employers, job

seekers and RTHS on how the hiring event went for them. Her hope is that hires were made and interviews were scheduled.

"Seeing all of these connections happen in real time just makes me want to work harder," Konan said. "Every time we see things like this happen and everybody gets something out of it, it just makes us want

to work harder next year. How can we make it bigger? How can we make sure more people attend? How can we make sure more people are aware of this event? Because now it's really an annual event. We're always excited to see this event come to fruition and we're really looking forward to hearing about the results and outcomes."

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HSTP meeting is March 28

MORRIS — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday March 28 at 10 a.m. at Grundy County Administrative Building – 1320 Union St, Morris, IL 60450. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged

to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15am-10:30am. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please con-

tact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinne at (815) 433-5830.

Kids fishing derby set for June 22

CHANA — The Northern Illinois Bass Masters Kids Fishing Derby is June 22 at 9 a.m. at the Rochelle Wildlife Conservation

Club at 3501 S. Sweeney Road in Chana.

The event is open to the public. There will be free food, drinks and bait.

Everyone will win a prize, from bicycles to fishing poles. All you have to do is bring your pole and go fishing.



Enjoyable ways for seniors to savor spring

AFTER a cold winter, there's often nothing better than the arrival of spring. From the moment those first crocuses and tulips peek their heads out of the soil to the days of cherry

blossoms in full bloom, spring is a time of sunshine, warmth and a renewed sense of vitality.

Seniors who may have spent much of the winter cooped up indoors often are inspired by warmer temperatures to venture outside once again when spring has sprung. According to UC Davis Health, time outdoors provides a host of health benefits, and seniors who embrace the great outdoors can reap those rewards. Studies show that nature has a positive effect on the body by reducing cortisol levels and demands on the cardiovascular system and relieving muscle tension. Being outside in sunshine (with the use of sunscreen) can increase vitamin D levels, which is important for a healthy immune system and strong bones.

Embracing the many ways to enjoy spring is relatively easy to do. The following are some ways seniors can make the most of spring.

- **Plant a garden.** Spring is a time when the ground has thawed and the soil is warm enough to begin planting a garden. Individuals should refer to their particular agricultural zones to determine when to plant. Certain plants need a specific number of hours of sunlight and minimum temperatures to grow. It's important to wait until the threat of overnight frost has subsided. Gardening can be a thorough workout, so it's important for seniors to go slowly as they acclimate to this type of activity.
- **Relax outside.** Seniors can soak up vitamin D and enjoy the sounds of nature by spending time on a deck



or the front porch. Any activity that was typically done indoors, such as reading a book, listening to music, engaging in a hobby, and more, can be moved outside.

- **Explore local wildlife.** Trees and flowers are not the only things renewed by spring. Many animals give birth in spring and there might be little ones frolicking. Seniors can look for bunnies, fledglings chirping in bird nests, spotted fawns, and young foxes around

their neighborhoods.

- **Attend an open-air event.** Whether it's a concert or an outdoor theater performance, seniors can look to local entertainment as a way to get outside and have a little fun.
- **Bike or walk the neighborhood.** Seniors can find serene paths to bike or walk. Dog owners can take their pooches for a stroll, or meet up with other friends and begin a walking club for camaraderie and exercise.

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RTHS Baseball

Hubs return to the diamond

Bruns, Metzger among varsity players back in action as 2025 season begins

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Head coach Jarrod Reynolds pointed to pitching depth and defense as two key strengths of the Rochelle Hub baseball team, which opened the 2025 season with its first official practice this past Monday. As the season moves forward, Reynolds will be looking for continued improvements on the offensive end, where the Hubs registered a .206 batting average last year.

Rochelle is seeking to improve on a 7-22 overall record last season, when the Hubs finished sixth in the Interstate 8 and went 0-15 in conference action. On the mound, Rochelle welcomes back several talented pitchers including sophomore left-hander Brody Bruns, who was named an All-Conference Honorable Mention after posting a team-low 3.02 ERA and 39 strikeouts.

“We have an interesting mix of seniors, sophomores and juniors,” Reynolds said. “I think we’re a bit more talented than we’ve been over the past couple of years. We did exit velocities last week and a lot of our varsity kids were in the mid 80s, which is an improvement. From a pitching standpoint, I think we’re going to throw the ball harder than we have the past few years.”

Seniors Carson Lewis, Ethan Goodwin and Brandyn Metzger are also expected to throw innings and play significant roles in the field for the Hubs, who will tee off their season with a road game against Genoa-Kingston on March 19. Among the top hitters returning from last season will be junior infielder Brode Metzger, who led Rochelle with a .321 average over 29 games last year.

“I think our pitching is deeper than we’ve been recently,” Reynolds said. “I think we have eight or nine guys who can go out there and be competitive for us. Brode was our leading hitter last year and he’s only a junior, which we’re really excited about... I think we have a lot of flexibility and I think we’re pretty athletic. Our pitching depth is a strength and we should be better on defense.”

Junior Van Gerber and a crew of sophomores, including Andrew Huerta, Dylan Manning and Jonathan Andrist, are newcomers to watch for as the Hubs take the field this season. Senior Ryan Senne returns from last season and will be a player to watch behind the plate at catcher. Rochelle will open the Interstate 8 slate with a three-game series against Sycamore on April 14.

“I really hope to see our offense improve,” Reynolds said. “That was a big struggle for us and I’d like to see that improve. We don’t talk about batting average much. We talk more about quality at-bats and getting on base and those are things we’re really going to emphasize... It’s a tough conference, but I think we should be able to do better than we did last year. We’re hoping that we’ll be able to play more of our nonconference games because I think that will help our record.”

Among the nonconference opponents on Rochelle’s schedule are Genoa-Kingston, Freeport, Boylan, Belvidere North, Marmion Academy, Belvidere, Princeton, Auburn, Streator, Guilford, Sterling, Forreston, Marengo, Dixon, Harvard and DeKalb. Rochelle will play 15 Interstate 8 games across five three-game sets with Sycamore, Kaneland, Morris, LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Brode Metzger will be one of multiple varsity players back in action for the Rochelle Hub baseball team this season. Rochelle is scheduled to play its first game of the season at Genoa-Kingston on March 19.

RTHS Girls Soccer

Lady Hubs welcome several newcomers in for 2025 season

Returning seniors Lara, Flores highlight varsity starters set to play this spring

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Fourteen freshmen are competing for the Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team this season, which opened with the team’s first official practice this past Monday. With a large group of newcomers in the mix, head coach Brad Male will look to his returning starters for leadership.

Rochelle will shoot to improve on its 3-20 overall record and 0-10 record in the Interstate 8 from last season. The Lady Hubs, who will kick off their 2025 season with a home match against the Harlem Huskies on Thursday, March 20, are reloading on the front line after losing a pair of key goal scorers, Kara Martinez and Sydney Thorne, from last season. Rochelle will also have a big void to fill in the net, as the Lady Hubs are replacing four-year starting goalkeeper Dani Ward.

“We’re going to be a pretty young squad,” Male said. “We have 14 freshmen on our squad and it’s always good to have that many players coming into the program, but we don’t have as many seniors coming back. It’ll be a transition period for some of our girls, but I think we’ll be OK.”

While the Lady Hubs are welcoming in several new players, Rochelle will have key starters back in the fold for the 2025 campaign. Senior defender Betty Flores returns after earning Interstate 8 All-Conference honors last season, while senior midfielder Makayla Lara has received honors from the Interstate 8 over all three years of her varsity career. Senior midfielder Emma Kennay is another returning player who will take on a significant role for the Lady Hubs this season.

“I’m looking for Emma, Makayla and Betty to lead our team and get our new girls acclimated to our style of play,” Male said. “Betty has been pretty integral to our defensive line and she leads us back there... Makayla’s integral in the midfield and we really build our midfield around her. Emma will play a big role in there as well and we have some new forwards we’re looking at.”

Junior Abby Bozinovich and sophomore Cali Zies are two more returning defenders for the Lady Hubs, who will open their Interstate 8 schedule with a home match against Sycamore on April 7. Rochelle will play a total of 10 conference matches, which will be divided into home-and-home sets with Sycamore, Kaneland, Morris, LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa. Rochelle finished last in the Interstate 8 in 2024.

See SOCCER page 2



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Makayla Lara will be a key starter returning to the field for the Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team this year. Rochelle is scheduled to open the 2025 season with a home match against Harlem on March 20.

SPORTS

RTHS Track & Field

Rochelle teams battle at Byron Indoor Classic

Hubs take second, Lady Hubs finish eighth in local meet Saturday afternoon

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BYRON — The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub track and field teams were both in action during the Byron Indoor Classic on Saturday, when the boys finished second out of eight schools with 94 points and the girls took eighth out of 14 schools with 30 points. The Hubs will return to action this coming Wednesday, when the team will travel for the Gary Egler Invitational in Sycamore.

Varsity Boys

Junior Jonathan Bearrows and senior Jack Tilton brought home Rochelle's two field event wins on Saturday. Bearrows won the long jump competition with a leap of 6.10 meters, while senior Jack Tilton won the high jump with a clearance of 1.88 meters. Juniors Wyatt Worthington and Victor O'Dell went second and fourth in the pole vault with heights of 3.13 and 2.82 meters.

Rochelle fared well in the relays, with two groups taking second and one finishing third. The Hubs ran second in the 800-meter relay (Hunter Bivins, Nathan Rosas, Caiden Redlarczyk and Mason Bolhous) with a time of 1:40.75 and the 3200-meter relay (Declan McGee, Elijah Mayen, Levi Waddle and Pedro Rosales) with a time of 9:06.66. Rochelle ran third in the 1600-meter relay (Pedro Rosales, Jackson Smith, Aaron DeClerck and Justin DeClerck) in 3:55.14.

Freshman Tyler John-



(PHOTO SUBMITTED)

Senior Jack Tilton leaps over the bar during the high jump competition at the Byron Indoor Classic on Saturday. Tilton finished first and helped lead the Rochelle Hub track and field team to second place out of eight schools.

son led the Hubs in the distance events, winning the 3200-meter run with a time of 10:39.07 and taking sixth in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4:57.91. Sophomore Hunter Bivins recorded Rochelle's best time in the 55-meter hurdles, taking fourth with a time of 8.84 seconds. Junior Elijah Mayen finished third in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:13.64.

Jack Tilton and freshman Nathan Rosas led Rochelle in the sprints.

Tilton finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.93 seconds and Rosas ran fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 6.92.

Varsity Girls

Sophomore Elyse Manning earned Rochelle's lone win in the field events, taking first in the triple jump with a distance of 9.73 meters. Senior Erin Murphy spearheaded the charge in the throws, placing second in the shot put with a heave of 10.35

meters. Senior Taelynn Rodeghero set a PR in the high jump, finishing eighth with a clearance of 1.38 meters in her second track meet.

The Lady Hubs ran three relay races during Saturday's meet. Rochelle finished seventh in the 1600-meter relay (Kyrie Cragin, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning and Gwendolyn O'Dell) with a time of 4:40.17 and eighth in the 3200-meter relay (Bridgett Ramirez, Brisa

Zepeda, Arline Villanueva and Marley Cherry) with a time of 12:46.00. Rochelle landed in 11th in the 400-meter relay (Kaliyah Cathina, Reese Kissack, Dylan Etes and Zoe Malley) with a time of 2:03.11.

Underclassmen led the Lady Hubs in the distance events, where sophomore Vivian Worthington took third in the 3200-meter run with a time of 14:54.64 and freshman Carol Carpenter placed fourth in the

1600-meter run with a time of 6:03.83. Junior Kyrie Cragin ran Rochelle's best time in the sprinting events, taking fifth in the 400-meter dash with a new PR time of 1:06.27.

Sophomore Elyse Manning and senior Alex Neece added strong finishes in the sprints, with Manning clocking in at 7.86 seconds for eighth in the 100-meter dash and Neece running a time of 29.91 seconds for 10th in the 200-meter dash.

SOCCKER: Rochelle to host Harlem for season opener on Thursday

From page 1

"We're working with some new players in goal, one of which hasn't played soccer before," Male said.

"Finding a goalkeeper who can fill the role Dani left will be the first priority for us. I think our defensive line will be good and I think we should be comfortable

in the midfield this season."

Among the nonconference opponents on the team's schedule are Harlem, Stillman Valley, Mendota, Sterling, Streator,

Genoa-Kingston, Indian Creek, DeKalb, Rockford Lutheran, Dixon and Rockford Auburn. Rochelle will play a tournament at Genoa-Kingston on Satur-

day, April 12.

"We're always looking to build our team chemistry and continuity," Male said. "Makayla, Emma and Betty will have a big influence on

building that continuity. We haven't had a lot of time outside yet, but we all want to know what we're doing on the field and what our strengths are."

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ROCHELLE News-Leader

2025 NCAA Men's Basketball
Tournament Bracket Guide



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NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament History

Year	Location	Result	Record	Winning Coach	MOP
1939	Evanston	Oregon 46, Ohio State 33	29-5	Howard Hobson	Jimmy Hull
1940	Kansas City	Indiana 60, Kansas 42	20-3	Branch McCracken	Marvin Huffman
1941	Kansas City	Wisconsin 39, Wash State 34	20-3	Bud Foster	John Kotz
1942	Kansas City	Stanford 53, Dartmouth 38	28-4	Everett Dean	Howie Dallmar
1943	New York City	Wyoming 46, Georgetown 34	31-2	Everett Shelton	Ken Sailors
1944	New York City	Utah 42, Dartmouth 40	22-4	Vadal Peterson	Arnie Ferrin
1945	New York City	Oklahoma A&M 49, NYU 45	27-4	Henry Iba	Bob Kurland
1946	New York City	OU A&M 43, North Carolina 40	31-2	Henry Iba	Bob Kurland
1947	New York City	Holy Cross 58, Oklahoma 47	27-3	Doggie Julian	George Kaftan
1948	New York City	Kentucky 58, Baylor 42	36-3	Adolph Rupp	Alex Groza
1949	Seattle	Kentucky 46, OU A&M 36	32-2	Adolph Rupp	Alex Groza
1950	New York City	CCNY 71, Bradley 68	24-5	Nat Holman	Sam Ranzino
1951	Minneapolis	Kentucky 68, Kansas State 58	32-2	Adolph Rupp	Bill Spivey
1952	Seattle	Kansas 80, St. John's 63	28-3	Phog Allen	Clyde Lovellette
1953	Kansas City	Indiana 69, Kansas 68	23-3	Branch McCracken	B. H. Born
1954	Kansas City	LaSalle 92, Bradley 76	26-4	Ken Loeffler	Tom Gola
1955	Kansas City	San Francisco 77, LaSalle 63	28-1	Phil Woolpert	Bill Russell
1956	Evanston	San Francisco 83, Iowa 71	29-0	Phil Woolpert	Hal Lear
1957	Kansas City	North Carolina 54, Kansas 53	32-0	Frank McGuire	Wilt Chamberlain
1958	Louisville	Kentucky 84, Seattle 72	23-6	Adolph Rupp	Elgin Baylor
1959	Louisville	California 71, West Virginia 70	24-4	Pete Newell	Jerry West
1960	Daly City	Ohio State 75, California 55	25-3	Fred Taylor	Jerry Lucas
1961	Kansas City	Cincinnati 70, Ohio State 65	27-3	Ed Jucker	Jerry Lucas
1962	Louisville	Cincinnati 71, Ohio State 59	29-2	Ed Jucker	Paul Hogue
1963	Louisville	Loyola-Chi 60, Cincinnati 58	29-2	George Ireland	Art Heyman
1964	Kansas City	UCLA 98, Duke 83	30-0	John Wooden	Walt Hazzard
1965	Portland	UCLA 91, Michigan 80	28-2	John Wooden	Bill Bradley
1966	College Park	Texas Western 72, Kentucky 65	28-1	Don Haskins	Jerry Chambers
1967	Louisville	UCLA 79, Dayton 64	30-0	John Wooden	Lew Alcindor
1968	Los Angeles	UCLA 78, North Carolina 55	29-1	John Wooden	Lew Alcindor
1969	Louisville	UCLA 92, Purdue 72	29-1	John Wooden	Lew Alcindor
1970	College Park	UCLA 80, Jacksonville 69	28-2	John Wooden	Sidney Wicks
1971	Houston	UCLA 68, Villanova 62	29-1	John Wooden	Howard Porter
1972	Los Angeles	UCLA 81, Florida State 76	30-0	John Wooden	Bill Walton
1973	St. Louis	UCLA 87, Memphis State 66	30-0	John Wooden	Bill Walton
1974	Greensboro	NC State 76, Marquette 64	30-1	Norm Sloan	David Thompson
1975	San Diego	UCLA 92, Kentucky 85	28-3	John Wooden	Richard Washington
1976	Philadelphia	Indiana 86, Michigan 68	32-0	Bobby Knight	Kent Benson
1977	Atlanta	Marquette 67, N. Carolina 59	25-7	Al McGuire	Butch Lee
1978	St. Louis	Kentucky 94, Duke 88	30-2	Joe B. Hall	Jack Givens
1979	Salt Lake City	Michigan St. 75, Indiana St. 64	26-6	Jud Heathcote	Magic Johnson
1980	Indianapolis	Louisville 59, UCLA 54	33-3	Denny Crum	Darrell Griffith
1981	Philadelphia	Indiana 63, North Carolina 50	26-9	Bobby Knight	Isiah Thomas
1982	New Orleans	N. Carolina 63, Georgetown 62	32-2	Dean Smith	James Worthy
1983	Albuquerque	NC State 54, Houston 52	26-10	Jim Valvano	Hakeem Olajuwon
1984	Seattle	Georgetown 84, Houston 75	34-3	John Thompson	Patrick Ewing
1985	Lexington, N.Y.	Villanova 66, Georgetown 64	25-10	Rollie Massimino	Ed Pinckney
1986	Dallas	Louisville 72, Duke 69	32-7	Denny Crum	Pervis Ellison
1987	New Orleans	Indiana 74, Syracuse 73	30-4	Bob Knight	Keith Smart
1988	Kansas City	Kansas 83, Oklahoma 79	27-11	Larry Brown	Danny Manning
1989	Seattle	Michigan 80, Seton Hall 79 (OT)	30-7	Steve Fisher	Glen Rice
1990	Denver	UNLV 103, Duke 73	35-5	Jerry Tarkanian	Anderson Hunt
1991	Indianapolis	Duke 72, Kansas 65	32-7	Mike Krzyzewski	Christian Laettner
1992	Minneapolis	Duke 71, Michigan 51	34-2	Mike Kryzewski	Bobby Hurley
1993	New Orleans	North Carolina 77, Michigan 71	34-4	Dean Smith	Donald Williams
1994	Charlotte	Arkansas 76, Duke 72	31-3	Nolan Richardson	Corliss Williamson
1995	Seattle	UCLA 89, Arkansas 78	31-2	Jim Harrick	Ed O'Bannon
1996	East Rutherford	Kentucky 76, Syracuse 67	34-2	Rick Pitino	Tony Delk
1997	Indianapolis	Arizona 84, Kentucky 79 (OT)	25-9	Lute Olson	Miles Simon
1998	San Antonio	Kentucky 78, Utah 69	35-4	Tubby Smith	Jeff Shepperd
1999	St. Petersburg	Connecticut 77, Duke 74	34-2	Jim Calhoun	Richard Hamilton
2000	Indianapolis	Michigan St. 89, Florida 76	32-7	Tom Izzo	Mateen Cleaves
2001	Minneapolis	Duke 82, Arizona 72	35-4	Mike Kryzewski	Shane Battier
2002	Atlanta	Maryland 64, Indiana 52	32-4	Gary Williams	Juan Dixon
2003	New Orleans	Syracuse 81, Kansas 78	30-5	Jim Boheim	Carmelo Anthony
2004	San Antonio	Connecticut 82, Georgia Tech 73	33-6	Jim Calhoun	Emeka Okafor
2005	St. Louis	North Carolina 75, Illinois 70	33-4	Roy Williams	Sean May
2006	Indianapolis	Florida 73, UCLA 57	33-6	Billy Donovan	Joakim Noah
2007	Atlanta	Florida 84, Ohio St. 75	35-5	Billy Donovan	Corey Brewer
2008	San Antonio	Kansas 75, Memphis 69 (OT)	37-3	Bill Self	Mario Chalmers
2009	Detroit	N. Carolina 82, Michigan State 72	34-4	Roy Williams	Wayne Ellington
2010	Indianapolis	Duke 61, Butler 59	35-5	Mike Kryzewski	Kyle Singler
2011	Houston	Connecticut 53, Butler 41	32-9	Jim Calhoun	Kemba Walker
2012	New Orleans	Kentucky 67, Kansas 59	38-2	John Calipari	Anthony Davis
2013	Atlanta	Louisville 82, Michigan 76	35-5	Rick Pitino	Luke Hancock
2014	Arlington	Connecticut 60, Kentucky 54	32-8	Kevin Ollie	Shabazz Napier
2015	Indianapolis	Duke 68, Wisconsin 63	35-4	Mike Krzyzewski	Tyus Jones
2016	Houston	Villanova 77, North Carolina 74	35-5	Jay Wright	Ryan Arcidiacono
2017	Glendale	North Carolina 71, Gonzaga 65	33-7	Roy Williams	Joel Berry II
2018	San Antonio	Villanova 79, Michigan 62	36-4	Jay Wright	Donte DiVincenzo
2019	Minneapolis	Virginia 85, Texas Tech 77	35-3	Tony Bennett	Kyle Guy
2021	Indianapolis	Baylor 86, Gonzaga 70	28-2	Scott Drew	Jared Butler
2022	New Orleans	Kansas 72, North Carolina 69	33-6	Bill Self	Ochai Agbaji
2023	Houston	Connecticut 76, San Diego State 59	31-8	Dan Hurley	Adama Sanogo
2024	Glendale	Connecticut 75, Purdue 60	37-3	Dan Hurley	Tristen Newton

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS**
Rochelle Municipal Utilities, Ogle County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for:

Ritchie to CHS Line Installation Contract until 2:00 p.m. local time on April 10, 2025, at the City of Rochelle, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068.

The plans and specifications are on file with the said City of Rochelle for viewing purposes only.

Copies of the documents may be acquired from BHMGE Engineers, Inc., 9735 Landmark Parkway Suite 110A, St. Louis, Missouri 63127, Consulting Engineers for the said Board. Please email Amy Woolldridge, AWoolldridge@bhmg.com with request.

Bids shall be received for the aforementioned items.

A certified check or bank draft on a responsible, solvent bank, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and an acceptable surety company, payable to the City of Rochelle, John Bearrows, Mayor or Government Bonds or cash in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of bid, shall be submitted with each bid.

The bid shall be marked to identify bid package contents, reference specification 3422 K003.

The successful bidder will be required to:

- Register as a bidder for this project.
- Furnish **in duplicate** the following executed documents:
 - Non-Collusion Affidavit
 - Bid Form
 - Bid Bond, Certified Check or Money Order
 - And any other documents as required by the specifications.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Utility for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of closing bids.

The said City of Rochelle reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding, and to determine and accept the bid most advantageous to the Utility.

Date: March 14, 2025
City of Rochelle, Illinois
John Bearrows, Mayor
No. 0321
(March 19, 26 and April 2, 2025)

**NOTICE
TO BIDDERS**
SEALED BIDS will be received by the City of Rochelle, Illinois until 11:30 a.m., April 3, 2025, for the **City of Rochelle – 2025 Steward Road Multi-Use Path**, which will consist construction of approximately 1800 linear feet of 10-foot-wide multi-use path. The project is located on the north side of Steward Road between Caron Court and Ritchie Road. The project consists of tree removal and clearing, earth excavation and grading, pipe culverts, aggregate base courses, HMA base and surface courses, pavement markings, landscape restoration, traffic control and protection, as well as other associated work located in the City of Rochelle.

Specifications and/or plans may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer, Engineering Department, located at 1030 S. 7th Street, Rochelle, Illinois. The office is open by appointment only by emailing cward@rochelleil.us. Bidders will be required to sign for the specifications and/or plans before they are released.

There is no cost for specifications and/or plans picked up at the Engineering Office. A fee of \$100.00 will be required for any specifications and/or plans

that are mailed to prospective Bidders. Bids will be mailed USPS First Class mail only. All bids are to be returned to the Office of the City Clerk, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE PREFERS THE SEALED BID BE HAND DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY HALL, 420 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS BEFORE 11:30 A.M., APRIL 3, 2025; HOWEVER, BIDS MAY ALSO BE MAILED. ANY BID RECEIVED AFTER 11:30 A.M., APRIL 3, 2025, WILL BE RETURNED, UNOPENED.

ALL completed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a bid opening at 11:30 a.m., April 3, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Rochelle, Illinois.

ANY OBJECTIONS, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS on the City's specifications shall be submitted in writing on or before 3 p.m. March 28, 2025. If deemed necessary by the City, an addendum will be distributed to all prospective bidders by facsimile transmission at least two (2) business days prior to the bid opening date. The decisions of the City shall be final.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE is an equal opportunity employer. All Contracts for Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

A CONTRACT may be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interest of the City of Rochelle. The City of Rochelle reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The City further reserves the right to review and study

make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened.

A Hold Harmless Agreement and a Non-Collusion Affidavit of Compliance must be submitted with the bid. The City of Rochelle does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Each BID must be accompanied by a BID BOND payable to the CITY OF ROCHELLE. The City of Rochelle will decide within 45 days if it intends to proceed with the project and award the contract. Written Notice of Award and instructions for the execution of the Agreement will be issued to the Selected Bidder. The BID BOND of all BIDDERS will be retained until the agreement has been executed and approved, after which all BID BONDS will be returned. A certified cashier's check may be used in lieu of a BID BOND.

A Performance Surety will be required as specified in the contract documents and specifications. No. 0322 (March 19, 2025)

**NOTICE
TO BIDDERS**
SEALED BIDS will be received by the City of Rochelle, Illinois until 11:00 a.m., April 3, 2025, for the **City of Rochelle's 2025 Sidewalk Capital Improvements Program**, which will consist of the removal and replacement of approximately 19,700 square feet of sidewalk, 1,625 square feet of accessibility ramps, 600 linear feet of combination concrete curb and gutter as well as other associated work located at various locations throughout the City of Rochelle.

Specifications and/or plans may be obtained at the Office of the City

Engineer, Engineering Department, located at 1030 S. 7th Street, Rochelle, Illinois. The office is open by appointment only by emailing cward@rochelleil.us. Bidders will be required to sign for the specifications and/or plans before they are released.

There is no cost for specifications and/or plans picked up at the Engineering Office. A fee of \$100.00 will be required for any specifications and/or plans that are mailed to prospective Bidders. Bids will be mailed USPS First Class mail only. All bids are to be returned to the Office of the City Clerk, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE PREFERS THE SEALED BID BE HAND DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY HALL, 420 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS BEFORE 11:00 A.M., APRIL 3, 2025; HOWEVER, BIDS MAY ALSO BE MAILED. ANY BID RECEIVED AFTER 11:00 A.M., APRIL 3, 2025, WILL BE RETURNED, UNOPENED.

ALL completed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a bid opening at 11:00 a.m., April 3, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Rochelle, Illinois.

ANY OBJECTIONS, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS on the City's specifications shall be submitted in writing on or before 3 p.m. March 28, 2025. If deemed necessary by the City, an addendum will be distributed to all prospective bidders by facsimile transmission at least two (2) business days prior to the bid opening date. The decisions of the City shall be final.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE is an equal opportunity employer. All Contracts for Construction of Public Works are

subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

A CONTRACT may be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interest of the City of Rochelle. The City of Rochelle reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The City further reserves the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened.

A Hold Harmless Agreement and a Non-Collusion Affidavit of Compliance must be submitted with the bid. The City of Rochelle does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Each BID must be accompanied by a BID BOND payable to the CITY OF ROCHELLE in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00). The City of Rochelle will decide within 45 days if it intends to proceed with the project and award the contract. Written Notice of Award and instructions for the execution of the Agreement will be issued to the Selected Bidder. The BID BOND of all BIDDERS will be retained until the agreement has been executed and approved, after which all BID BONDS will be returned. A certified cashier's check may be used in lieu of a BID BOND.

A Performance Surety will be required as specified in the contract documents and specifications. No. 0323 (March 19, 2025)

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

**105
BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**113
FINANCIAL**

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

**119
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**127
SERVICES / REPAIRS**

Furman's Lawn Care & Tree Service - 26 Years of Experience - Fully Insured - Weekly Mowing, Spring Clean Up & More - Call Jeremy 815-761-9619 (RNONLY20250416)

**201
DOMESTIC/CHILD
CARE**

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a

childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

**301
ANTIQUES**

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

**307
MISCELLANEOUS
FOR SALE**

BUNDLED Newspaper - \$3 per Bundle. Available Monday-Thursday 815-562-4171 (9AM-3PM) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

**405
HOUSES FOR SALE**

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

203 HELP WANTED



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Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

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ATTN: Will McMacken
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to
bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com**

**ROCHELLE
News-Leader**

**Part-time local
delivery driver**

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

**Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle.
No phone calls please.**

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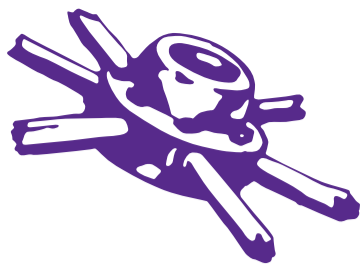




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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Xavier Villalobos wrestled for Team Reagan during the 2025 Illinois vs. Indiana Classic Duals at Joliet Catholic Academy over the weekend.

Villalobos represents RTHS at 2025 Illinois-Indiana Classic Duals

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

JOLIET — Xavier Villalobos concluded his historic high school wrestling career with one final win on Sunday, when the Rochelle Township High School senior and two-time state finalist represented the Hubs and the state of Illinois during the 2025 Illinois-Indiana Classic Duals.

Competing alongside other elite senior wrestlers from his home state, Villalobos helped Team Reagan defeat Indiana Blue during the annual postseason event, which was hosted at Joliet Catholic over the weekend. Villalobos became Rochelle's first athlete to wrestle in the event, which pits the best high school wrestlers from Illinois and Indiana against each other, since Alex Harvey, who finished as the IHSA state runner-up during the 2017-18 high school season.

"It means a lot that I was able to represent Rochelle one last time," Villalobos said. "I always preach about being involved in this town and it really meant something to face Indiana and represent the 'R'. I think we're one of the best states for wrestling and it was really cool to win all three duals. Everybody wants to be the best and beat everyone else. Our coach said to us that he wants to make sure everyone knows that Illinois is one of the best wrestling states around."

Villalobos scored three dual points for his team, earning a 3-0 decision against Indiana wrestler Cameron Woods at 126 pounds. The win closed the final chapter of an outstanding high school career for Villalobos, who made history as Rochelle's first four-time IHSA state qualifier as well as the school's first three-time IHSA state medalist in boys wrestling. Villalobos, who went 42-6 this season, became Rochelle's first two-time IHSA state finalist since Pat Brownson in 2002-03.

"Illinois is more aggressive and as I was watching the other kids from Illinois, they were pushing the pace and wanting to get after it," Villalobos said. "We wanted to put the pressure on them and be aggressive. I ended my senior season on a loss, which was devastating, but to have an opportunity to go back out and get a win... It felt good to get my hand raised one last time."

One of the program's winningest wrestlers, Villalobos finished his RTHS career with a 169-23 overall record. An All-Interstate 8 wrestler this season, Villalobos medaled in second at the IHSA state finals during his freshman and senior seasons in addition to finishing fifth during his junior season.

A multi-sport athlete at RTHS, Villalobos played three years of varsity football, helping the Hubs reach the playoffs over all three seasons. Villalobos was an Interstate 8 Honorable Mention as a junior and senior.

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