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# ROCHELLE News-Leader

WEEKEND EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Vol. 105 • No. 97

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

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## Hubs win over Boylan

The Rochelle Hub baseball  
team scored a 6-0 win over  
Boylan on Wednesday. **See  
Sports**

## WEATHER

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>63 42</b>	<b>42 32</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>46 29</b>	<b>62 39</b>

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## OBITUARIES

• LAUREL 'LAURIE' SMITH

**See page 4**

## INSERTS

• MENARDS

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## Preschool operations planned to begin at May School in August

'We can serve all the current students  
on our waiting list'

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its  
March 11 meeting, the Ro-  
chelle Elementary School  
District Board of Edu-  
cation unanimously ap-  
proved 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 Pre-  
school, located inside Lin-  
coln Elementary School,  
currently serves 180 stu-  
dents 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 pre-  
school-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 at-  
tendance center model due  
to declining enrollment and  
an increase in the district's



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

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

dual language program, 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.

There are currently six preschool classrooms at  
Stepping Stones Preschool. It will be expanded to  
seven classrooms that will all be located at May  
School. The preschool expansion is planned to  
start on Aug. 19 at the beginning of the 2025-2026  
school year.

District Assistant Superintendent Tony Doyle  
said the seven preschool classrooms would have  
morning and afternoon classes at May School.  
Times for classes would change slightly to accom-  
modate the flow of traffic and buses.

**See MAY SCHOOL page 3**



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At the March 27 meeting of the Rochelle Kiwanis  
Golden K Club, Rochelle VFW Post 3878 Commander  
Dennis Orlikowski presented the organization with a  
\$4,250 donation.**

## Rochelle VFW donates portion of Queen of Hearts proceeds to Kiwanis Golden K

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE**—At the  
March 27 meeting of the  
Rochelle Kiwanis Golden  
K Club, Rochelle VFW Post  
3878 Commander Dennis  
Orlikowski presented the  
organization with a \$4,250  
donation from proceeds  
of the VFW's recent-  
ly-completed record Queen  
of Hearts game. The dona-  
tion was accepted by Chet  
Olson of Kiwanis Golden K.

The VFW's Queen of  
Hearts game concluded in  
late February with a record  
\$705,330 total jackpot  
after running 49 weeks.  
The game's winner was  
Lauri Hays, who received  
\$458,464.50. When the

Queen of Hearts is drawn,  
the winner receives 65 per-  
cent of the pot. The VFW's  
portion (remaining 35 per-  
cent) was \$246,865.50,  
which will be split evenly  
between the post and dona-  
tions to nonprofit orga-  
nizations. The VFW plans  
to use its \$123,432.75  
portion for improvements  
and operational costs. The  
donations to area nonprofits  
and veterans organizations  
will be made in the coming  
weeks.

"I was told by older  
members that the Kiwanis  
Club has helped the VFW  
out in the past when it was  
in need of some help," Or-  
likowski said.

**See VFW page 2**

## City not concerned with potential cuts to federal funding

Potential tariffs could impact city with purchases of electric transformers

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Re-  
cent and future federal  
changes originating from  
the White House are not  
expected to have signifi-  
cant impacts on the City of  
Rochelle and its operations,  
City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh told the News-Leader  
on March 26 in a conversa-  
tion about federal funding  
cuts and potential tariffs.

The city receives federal  
funding for its Rochelle  
Municipal Utilities water  
and wastewater department  
projects through the state's  
revolving loan program.  
Those federal dollars go to  
the state and then through  
the Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency for loans  
to communities for water  
and wastewater projects,  
such as those RMU has  
planned. Current planned  
funding is not in danger,  
Fiegenschuh said.

"We were a little con-  
cerned when they had that  
federal funding freeze,"  
Fiegenschuh said. "But I



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Recent and future federal changes originating from the White House are not expected to have sig-  
nificant impacts on the City of Rochelle and its operations, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh told the  
News-Leader on March 26 in a conversation about federal funding cuts and potential tariffs.**

do think a lot of lawmakers started  
to hear from communities about  
projects they had planned with  
that funding. Everyone agrees we

need potable water and flushable  
toilets. I am not as concerned about  
federal funding. I do think maybe  
in the long run they might cut back

on the program, which would just  
mean there's less dollars available."

**See FUNDING page 2**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## FUNDING: City Manager Fiegenschuh discusses potential federal spending cutbacks

From page 1

"I'm not concerned about the freezing of those dollars. There are some political things going on that they're targeting. Having a water line that brings clean, potable water to a house has nothing to do with DEI or any terms like that."

RMU Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation Adam Lanning said that he assumes a reduction in budgetary spending by the federal EPA will further reduce the availability of principal forgiveness loans for the city, which brings about uncertainty on funding future water projects. The executive action on the issue affected over 50,000 municipal water jobs nationwide, Lanning said.

The city also has federal funding planned for improvements to the railroad system it owns. Fiegenschuh said due to the nature of the work being hard infrastructure, he does not have much concern that the project will be affected.

"I do think those dollars will be more limited in the future," Fiegenschuh said. "I am not concerned about our current rail projects. We have these grants guaranteed and I'm confident the dollars will come in. They may not come in as quickly as we want, but I think they'll come in."

When potential changes to federal funding arose, the city did contact U.S. Congressman Darin LaHood's office to make it known how important those funds were to RMU and its railroad. That was when funds were cut before the courts put a stay on the matter and the decision was reversed within a week and funding started flowing again.

On the topic of potential future tariffs on products from foreign countries, Fiegenschuh said one potential concern he has is purchasing electrical equipment for RMU.

"Transformers are only made in America up to a certain size," Fiegenschuh said. "If there are larger projects, some of those transformers may come from another country including China. If tariffs are being placed on China and the only place you can get them is China, then you're just going to pay the price plus the tariff rate. That is a concern. If we operated our organization worried about every decision that's made outside of our purview, we wouldn't be able to function. We just continue to function as normal and as issues develop, we deal with them. We'll deal with this. I do think maybe the tariffs could affect us depending on the size of transformers that we might need to buy."

Potential tariffs could



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**RMU Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation Adam Lanning said that he assumes a reduction in budgetary spending by the federal EPA will further reduce the availability of principal forgiveness loans for the city, which brings about uncertainty on funding future water projects.**

be added to a list of supply chain issues that the City of Rochelle has encountered since the COVID-19 pandemic including higher prices and longer lead times to receive equipment.

Fiegenschuh said equipment and supplies for RMU's electric and water department would be items most likely to be impacted by something like tariffs. Those are the items the city buys most with the highest price points.

"Most of what we actually spend our money on is staffing, salaries and benefits," Fiegenschuh said. "There's no tariffs on people. And then it's infrastructure. Things like asphalt are bought locally. When I think of what could be impacted by supply chain issues or tariffs, it would be any type of equipment for our utilities that we can't get locally and have to buy overseas or things that are in high demand and take a long

time to get. Those are our concerns and where we'd be most impacted."

Working through the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy prepared the city for today's climate and a potential issue like tariffs, Fiegenschuh said. RMU saw items that once took three months to receive increase to 9-12-month lead times. Inventory work became more complicated and a fine line to walk, he said.

"Our utility depart-

ments do a great job of planning ahead," Fiegenschuh said. "COVID-19 was a great lesson in asset management. We managed through change. We've actually been managing through change since 2008 when we had the Great Recession. That's why it's so important to keep elected officials in the know and have a really good staff around you so you have a lot of good ideas coming to the table to solve problems."

## VFW: 'The money is going to stay in this area as much as possible'

From page 1

"And now we're at a point where we can help other people. I don't know why this hasn't come up before, because we've made donations from proceeds of a few other Queen of Hearts games. But believe me, if I'm still commander, the money is going to stay in this area as much as possible in the future."

The Queen of Hearts drawing involves 54 cards hidden under a covering to be revealed one card

per week until the Queen of Hearts is drawn. There are 52 playing deck cards with the two jokers hidden. Players at the local post can purchase tickets in increments of six for \$5 and write a number corresponding to a hidden card on the board and their information on them before placing them in a tumbling drum. One ticket is drawn each Tuesday night and the card with the number on the ticket is revealed.

Along with raising funds for community donations and improvements

to the post, the Queen of Hearts contest also drew patrons to the Rochelle VFW that spent time there purchasing food and drinks while buying tickets. The VFW is open to the public.

The VFW got a helping hand from members and volunteers when selling tickets became too much for bartenders to handle due to the game's popularity. The VFW is always seeking new veteran members.

The start of the next Queen of Hearts game

will not begin until April 22 due to the upcoming completion of the post's flooring project. The jackpot will start at \$94,620. Updates on the game will be provided on the VFW's Facebook page.

Olson thanked Orlikowski and the VFW for the donation and support on March 27.

"Thank you very much," Olson said. "The VFW is a great organization and they donate back to the community in many, many ways. Thank you for coming."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The VFW got a helping hand from members and volunteers when selling tickets became too much for bartenders to handle due to the game's popularity. The VFW is always seeking new veteran members.**

## Northern Rehab hosts community collection for Safe Passage

**ROCHELLE** — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is hosting a Community Collection for Safe Passage in DeKalb from April 1-18. Community members are encouraged to donate essential items to help individuals and families affected by domestic violence.

Donations can be dropped off at any North-

ern Rehab location in DeKalb (3266 Sycamore Road), Genoa (540 E. Main St.) and Rochelle (1211 Currency Court) during business hours. Items most needed include shampoo and conditioner for all types of hair, children's body wash, toilet paper, paper towels, new bath and hand towels, new twin sized blankets for children and adults, new flip flops —

all sizes, new women and children's underwear — all sizes, new sports bras — all sizes, phone chargers, earbuds/headphones, and gift cards to Walmart, Walgreens or gas cards to assist with medication and transportation needs.

Safe Passage is DeKalb County's only domestic violence crisis center, providing vital resources, shelter, and support to

those in need. By participating in this collection drive, the community can make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors.

Northern Rehab is committed to giving back to our community, and this collection drive is a way to support the important work of Safe Passage. Northern Rehab invites everyone to join us in helping provide

much-needed resources to individuals and families in crisis.

For more information about the collection drive, including donation drop-off locations and hours, visit [northernrehabpt.com/northern-rehab-hosts-community-collection-for-safe-passage/](http://northernrehabpt.com/northern-rehab-hosts-community-collection-for-safe-passage/).

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists, voted DeKalb County's

Best Physical Therapists for 13 consecutive years and Ogle County's Best Physical Therapist for 6 years, is a physical therapist owned and operated physical therapy practice dedicated to providing clients with the very best one-on-one customized care and has built a solid reputation and strong relationships within the communities they serve.

## 2024 Ogle County final multiplier announced

**SPRINGFIELD** — Ogle County has been issued a final property

assessment equalization factor of 1.0271, according to David Harris,

director of the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier," is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g., school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there was no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

Under a law passed in 1975, property in Illinois should be assessed at one-

third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures. Farmland is assessed at one-third of its agriculture economic value and not subject to the state equalization factor. Assessments in Ogle County are at 32.45% of market value, based on sales of properties in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2024 taxes, payable in 2025.

Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The final assessment equalization factor was issued after a public hearing

on the tentative factor. The tentative factor issued on Dec. 27, 2024 was 1.0271.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If the three-year average level of assessment is one-third of the market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one. And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value,

the equalization factor will be greater than one.

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments increase.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

\$9 per ticket

Children 14 and under with adults Free



# LOCAL NEWS

## PRESCHOOL: Stepping Stones to expand to May School, include seven classrooms

From page 1

Morning classes would meet from 8:30-11 a.m. or 8:45-11:15 a.m. Afternoon classes would meet from 12:15-2:45 p.m. or 12:30-3 p.m., Doyle said.

Two notable areas that are being modified for the repurposing of May School for preschool are bathrooms and the playground, which are seeing changes to accommodate younger, preschool-aged children. District maintenance and technology teams have begun work on updating what's needed in the building.

Staffing changes for the preschool expansion will consist of the addition of one teacher and one classroom aide, district officials recently told the News-Leader.

District officials are excited to reopen May School after four years of it being closed.

"The building is rich with the stories of the many students who have gone to school there over the years," District Superintendent Jason Harper said. "The building also represents the generous spirit of the May family which has been important for the elementary school district."

Stepping Stones Preschool Director Yazmin Nambo said the expansion will be able to serve all of the current students on the district's waiting list.

"This entire recommendation is founded



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**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.**

in the aspirational goal to serve as many of our community's youth as possible," Nambo said. "By adding a classroom, we can serve all the current students on our waiting list. By expanding our services, we can better meet the needs of younger

learners. In the end, the hope is to have more students ready to perform at kindergarten expectations when they leave our program."

Harper said during the March 11 meeting that the expansion is a move in the direction of poten-

tially expanding district services for children from birth to three years old in the future.

The grant program paying for the preschool expansion is funded by state dollars, which make it unaffected by current federal cuts to educa-

tion. But, Harper said the expansion's future will depend on whether the district continues to receive the grant.

"We have been upfront in communicating that the expansion of this program is predicated on winning a state grant specifical-

ly designed to fund the expansion of preschool programming in underserved areas," Harper said. "We understand that these funds may not always be available to the district, but feel it is worth expanding even to serve more students in the short term."

## Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois announce new CEO

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS** – Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois recently announced the appointment of Jodi Dahlke as its new chief executive officer, effective May 2025.

Dahlke brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously served as chief strategy officer for Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes in Wisconsin for almost 10 years. In addition to

over 30 years of business leadership experience, Dahlke brings expertise in strategic planning, volunteer management, and Girl Scout-specific senior leadership. She prides herself on building strong relationships with her teams and establishing lasting connections throughout the community.

Recently, and prior to her time with the Girl

Scout Movement, Dahlke held many business leadership roles within small, medium, and large organizations. She has a passion for business operations, training and development, employee relations, and community development over multi-county structures.

With education in technology, business and human resource management, Dahlke com-

bines strategic vision with hands-on leadership to support business growth and transformation. Beyond the workplace, she is an active mentor and advocate for community engagement in all geographic areas she serves within.

Dahlke shares, "I am looking forward to bringing my passion, along with my strategic and innovative thinking, to an

organization I believe in and has such a large impact on youth throughout northern Illinois. I am committed to ensuring our Girl Scouts have an environment of belonging and opportunities to build courage, confidence and character."

Dahlke will be making her first appearance at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-



Jodi Dahlke

noon, at NIU's Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center in DeKalb.

## 2025 Health Science Pathway Endorsement Symposium at SVCC is April 4

**DIXON** – The Regional Office of Education #47 (ROE 47) and Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) are hosting the Health Science Pathway Endorsement Symposium on Friday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SVCC. This event will inspire high school students pursuing healthcare careers and celebrate pathway student achievements.

Addressing the healthcare workforce shortage: Illinois faces a critical shortage of healthcare

professionals, particularly in rural areas, impacting access to essential services. Many counties in northwestern Illinois are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HP-SAs) in primary care, dental care, and mental health (Source: HRSA). The demand for nurses, emergency responders, dental providers, home health aides, and long-term care professionals continues to grow, with workforce gaps straining rural healthcare systems

(Source: National Rural Health Association).

To address these shortages, ROE 47, SVCC, and local healthcare providers are working together to build a strong pipeline for future healthcare professionals through pathway endorsement programs. These programs provide students with early exposure, hands-on experience, college credit, and foundational skills needed for careers in healthcare.

Explore the future of healthcare: Student at-

tendees will:

Gain insights from professionals in nursing, emergency response, radiology, sonography, home health, respiratory, and physical therapy. Engage in hands-on labs in SVCC's state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. Explore careers through interactive breakout sessions and a college fair. Network with local healthcare professionals and fellow students. Cel-

ebtrate students who have earned healthcare-related endorsements.

Participating school districts: This event is made possible through the generous support of CGH Medical Center, OSF St. Katherine's Hospital, and Sauk Valley College. The collaborative efforts of numerous school districts, including Dixon USD #170, Rock Falls THSD #301, Morrison USD #6, River Bend

CUSD #2, Amboy CUSD #272, Sterling CUSD #5, Ashton Franklin Center CUSD #275, Forrestville Valley #221, Byron CUSD #226, Rochelle CUSD #231, Oregon CUSD #220, Polo CUSD #222, Newman Central Catholic High School and Eastland CUSD #308 underscore the shared commitment to addressing the provider shortage and building stronger, healthier communities.

## Dame honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates for performance

**ROCHELLE** — Weichert, Realtors® -Signature Professionals is proud to announce that Cathie Dame was honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., for her exceptional real estate performance in 2024. Dame received the Executive Club level honor, which is given to those who achieved specified production requirements in gross commission income or units closed in 2024.

"We are very proud of all our affiliates and their agents for everything they were able to accomplish this past year," said Bill Scavone, president of We-

ichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. "We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable agents who went above and beyond to offer exceptional service to their clients."

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## Lincoln Manor

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Laurel ‘Laurie’ Smith

**ROCHELLE** — Laurie Smith, 69, of Rochelle, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 24, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

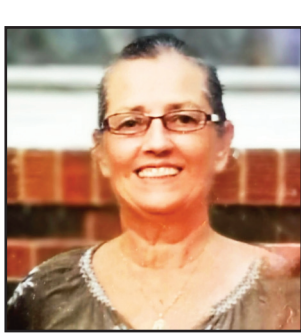
Born in Rochelle on April 24, 1955, Laurie was the daughter of Maxine I. (Friestad) and C. Henry “Hank” McDermott. A proud lifelong resident of Rochelle; she devoted her life to her family, students, and friends.

Laurie spent 35 years teaching second grade at the original Lincoln School, where she became a beloved and respected educator. She poured her heart into her work and took great pride in shaping young minds. Her love for teaching was only matched by her love for her family. The true joy of

Laurie’s life was her children and grandchildren. She wanted to be at every game, or special moment, always cheering them on with pride and love. Her warmth and dedication touched everyone who knew her.

Laurie is survived by her three children: Melissa Smith of Rochelle, Adam Smith of New York, and Celina (Josh Lopez) Smith of Rochelle; her four grandchildren: Phelicity, Mason, and Jaxson Lopez, and Colton Smith; and her significant other of 23 years, Nick “Papa” Aguilar. She was the baby sister to Dan McDermott, Vicki LaRue, and Tom McDermott.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Maxine and Hank McDermott, as well as a niece, René and a nephew, Jon.



Laurie will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for her selflessness, her loving heart, and her lifelong commitment to others.

There will be a celebration of Laurie’s life and a luncheon at the Rochelle V.F.W., 318 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 12:00 P.M., noon, Monday, March 31, 2025. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.



**Rochelle Moose hosts chili cook off**

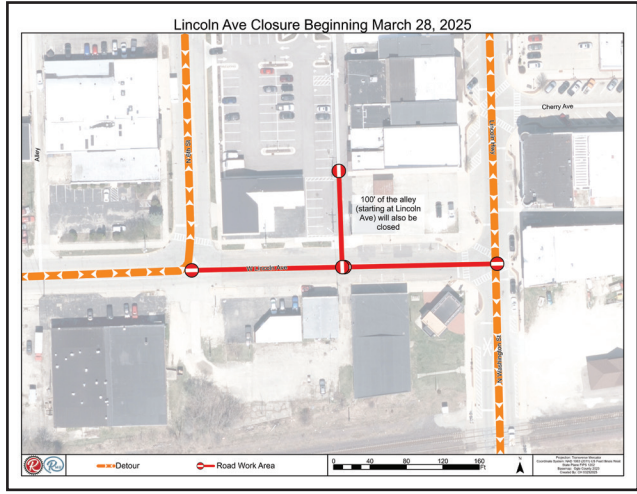
**The Rochelle Moose held its annual chili cook-off on Sunday, March 23. The winners shown in the photo were: first place - Cookie Venturini, second place - Leah Miller and third place - Nancy Dodson. The Rochelle Moose has been sponsoring the event for 30 years. (Courtesy photo)**

### Lincoln Avenue closed, between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Highway through April 4

**ROCHELLE** — City of Rochelle Engineer Sam Tesreau has announced the closure of Lincoln Avenue, between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Highway, beginning Friday, March 28 through Friday, April 4. The closure is necessary for pavement removal, water and sanitary sewer disconnections and removals, along with concrete and asphalt pavement restoration. This work is being completed as part of the ongoing downtown city parking lot improvements plan.

The alley, north of Lincoln Avenue, will also be closed for 100 feet until May 2 for pavement removal and reconstruction operations.

Advance warning, road closure barricades, detour and other temporary traffic control devices will be posted near the affected area. Please use caution while traveling in this area and pay special attention to the advanced warning signage, road closed signage and other temporary traffic control devices within or in advance of the work zone. The city appreciates your patience during this project.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**City of Rochelle Engineer Sam Tesreau has announced the closure of Lincoln Avenue, between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Highway, beginning Friday, March 28 through Friday, April 4.**

signage, road closed signage and other temporary traffic control devices within or in advance of the work zone. The city appreciates your patience during this project.

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On March 22 at 6:45 a.m. the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. Subsequent to the stop, the Fazili Alonda, 28, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license revoked and suspended registration. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed, and later released on a notice to appear at a later time in Oregon.

On March 23 at approximately 11:17 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Creekside Drive. After further investigation, Tyese J. Rush, 23, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for no valid driver’s license. Rush was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and speeding. Rush was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 23 at approximately 6:55 p.m. deputies responded to the 2,000 block of South Chamberlain Road for a suspicious subject. After an investigation, deputies arrested Angel B. Vazquez, 20, of Rochelle for criminal trespass to real property. Vazquez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was charged and given a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 24 at approximately 11:20 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Margarette Fuller Road. After investigation, deputies placed Caleb Valentine, 35, of Sterling, under arrest for no valid driver’s license. Valentine was also issued a citation for no insurance and given a warning for not having a front license plate. Valentine was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear pending a future court appearance.

On March 24 at approximately 7:52 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of West Montague Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Nick Olson, 26, of Leaf River, for driving while license suspended. Olson was released a notice to appear bond.

On March 24 at approximately 8:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000

block of North Freeport Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Carlos Ramirez, 24, of Fitchburg, Wisconsin under arrest for driving with no valid license. Ramirez was additionally cited for suspended registration, no insurance, and speeding. Ramirez was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On March 24 at approximately 5:22 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 5,000 block of South Mill Pond Road for a disturbance. After an investigation, Rhiannon J. Waters, 42, of Rochelle, was arrested for disorderly conduct. Waters was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On March 25 at approximately 7:49 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 38 in Creston. After investigation, deputies placed Sara E. Hall, 57, of Rochelle under arrest for driving while license suspended. Hall was also cited for no insurance. Hall was released on a notice to appear pending a future court date.

On March 25 at approximately 8:21 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 19,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, Nickoll Y. Espinel Nieto, 20, of Elgin, was placed under arrest for no valid driver’s license. Espinel Nieto was additionally cited for speeding 35+ miles per hour over speed limit. Espinel Nieto was released on a notice to appear bond with a future court date.

On March 25 at approximately 10:15 p.m. deputies along with Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire were dispatched to a possible single vehicle on fire in the lane of traffic on North Illinois Route 251, near the intersection with East Mowers Road. Upon arrival, it was determined the vehicle was not on fire, but was abandoned in the northbound lane of traffic with heavy front end damage. The vehicle, a black 2020 Ford Escape, was northbound and exited the roadway, striking the guard rail on the east side of the roadway. The vehicle was unoccupied when deputies arrived on scene. Through the course of the investigation, deputies arrested Amber L. Lopez, 33, of Davis Junction, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lopez was additionally issued citations for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to report a property damage accident/driver, unauthorized parking on the roadway, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and driving under the influence of alcohol. Lopez was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on a notice to appear, with a future court date.

On March 25 at 9:12 p.m. deputies conducted a warrant service in the 300 block of East Woodland Flower Circle in Davis Junction. Deputies arrested Dustin N. Grove, 42, of Davis Junction on an Ogle County warrant for aggravated domestic battery. Grove was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On March 26 at approximately 10:29 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After an investigation, deputies arrested Cedric C. Wilson, 41, of Chicago for driving while license suspended. Wilson was also cited for speeding. Wilson was released with a notice to appear pending a future court date.

On March 26 at approximately 11:29 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Marco Santillan, 40, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Santillan was additionally cited for suspended registration. Santillan was released on a notice to appear with a return court date.

On March 27 at approximately 7:28 p.m. deputies responded to the 900 block of North 12th Street in Rochelle in regards to a reported violation of an order of protection. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Angel B. Vazquez, 20, of Rochelle for violation of order of protection. Vazquez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held awaiting an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On March 24 at 8:34 p.m. Elinor Vivienne Hervas, 22, of Davis Junction was cited for improper pass of emergency vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25 Rochelle court date.

On March 24 at 4:17 a.m. Ethan Desporges,

23, of Rockford was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25 Rochelle court date.

On March 24 at 7:23 p.m. Heather Willis, 39, of Rochelle was arrested for an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On March 23 at 3:47 p.m. Robert D. Butler, 24, of Rockford was cited for leaving the scene, failure to give information/render aid, and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25 Rochelle court date.

On March 25 at 11:35 a.m. Brent A. Bandy, 41, of Springfield was cited for no valid registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25

Rochelle court date.

On March 25 at 10:28 a.m. Jodeen L. Tigrett-Hanks, 53, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 in a 40 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25 Rochelle court date.

On March 26 at 5:22 p.m. Jimmie C. Rhodes, 72, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On March 26 at 2:45 p.m. Alec J. Seebach, 28, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance and expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 25 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

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(815) 562-4171

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## Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.



# LOCAL NEWS

## RTHS holds 2025 National Honor Society induction

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School held its 2025 National Honor Society induction on March 17. National Honor Society inductees for 2025 included seniors Evileth Mendez-Arguelles, Jocelyn Cervantes, Isabella Chavez, Luis Blas, Logan Frye, Trent Kreider, Lucas Smardo and Brisa Zepeda. Juniors included Isabella Biggs, Mary Chadwick, Addison Bingham, Kyrie Cragin, Ryelee Bogle, Jaydin Dickey, Abigail Bozinovich, Kyler Dickson, Meredith Bruns, Matilda Gonser, Hailey Bunger, Mark Green, Rafaela Canaan (Honorary NHS member), Bobbie Henning, Emely Hernandez, Brooklyn Hull, Cambrey Rodeghero, Aubry Simms, Rylie Thomas, Ashley Villanueva and Levi Waddle. 2024 National Honor



Rochelle Township High School held its 2025 National Honor Society induction on March 17.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Society inductees were Jessica Marin, Anna-leigh McKinney, Caleb Wyssbrod, Xitlali Brizuela, Cash Budde, Sydney Carmichael, Manuel Cruz, Erin Murphy, Riley Doyle, Ali Ohlinger, Olivia Faivre, Jacob Ost, Viviana Fulgencio, Frankie Pelan, Emma Kennay, Taelynn Rodeghero, Julia Livingston, Jackson Smith, Zoe Malley, Yarezi Villalobos and Abby Metzger.

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

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

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

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

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

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


**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

## Supporting council-manager government

**M**ULTIPLE communities are considering changing their form of government to one similar to the City of Rochelle's. Recently the City of Mattoon changed from a commission form to the council-manager form. The community of Oglesby to our south is considering the same change in next week's consolidated election.

I get a lot of questions about the benefits of this form of government. I thought I would share some of my thoughts with everyone this week. The council-manager form of government is an increasingly popular choice for small to medium-sized communities across the United States. This structure combines the political leadership of elected officials with the professional expertise of an appointed manager, creating a balanced, efficient, and responsive system.

One key benefit of the council-manager model is its emphasis on professional management. The appointed manager is typically an experienced, credentialed professional with a background in public administration, business, law, finance, or urban planning. This ensures that the day-to-day operations of the community are handled by someone with the skills necessary to manage budgets, oversee public services, and implement policies effectively — all while remaining politically neutral.

The model also promotes accountability and transparency. Elected council members, who represent the community's interests, set policies and goals. The manager then executes these policies and provides regular reports to the council. If the manager fails to meet expectations, the council has the authority to replace them at

any time. This structure prevents power from being concentrated in a single elected official, reducing the risk of corruption and promoting decisions based on community needs rather than political ambition.

Ethics and integrity are critical components to a well-functioning and transparent government organizations. Ethics and integrity are the foundations of the council-manager form, especially for communities transitioning away from another form. The ICMA code of ethics serves as the foundation of local government management and sets the standard for excellence. The code of ethics outlines 12 tenets focusing on:

Integrity: Exemplary conduct in personal and professional matters.

Political neutrality: Avoiding political favor-

itism.

Public service: Serving equitably without personal gain.

Transparency: Keeping the community informed about government affairs.

This code that all city managers should abide by strengthens democratic local governance by promoting ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability among managers, fostering trust between the public and elected officials, and ensuring that decision are made in the best interests of the community.

Financial efficiency is another advantage. Because the manager is focused on operational effectiveness rather than reelection, they can prioritize long-term planning, resource management, and cost-saving measures. This can lead to more prudent budgeting, streamlined ser-

vices, and better financial stability — crucial factors for smaller communities that often face tight fiscal constraints.

Moreover, the council-manager system encourages community involvement. The council members, who are residents, maintain a close connection with constituents. They serve as the voice of the people, guiding the manager to align decisions with the community's values and priorities. This fosters a collaborative environment where citizen input shapes policies and programs.

Finally, the structure offers flexibility and stability. A professional manager provides continuity in leadership even as elected councils change over time. This stability is essential for maintaining momentum on long-term projects and adapting to evolving community needs without the disruption that can come with political turnover.

In summary, the council-manager form of government combines the best of both worlds: elected representatives ensuring democratic oversight and a skilled administrator providing professional management. For smaller communities like Rochelle and Dixon striving for efficiency, transparency, and citizen engagement, this model offers a proven path to sustainable, effective governance.

"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." -Ralph Nader

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." -John C. Maxwell

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." -Warren Bennis

*Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, MPA, ICMA-CM, is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.*



**Jeff Fiegenschuh**

## Silene Walters: Vacation memories

**S**INCE we're in the middle of tax season, I find myself really looking forward to my next vacation. It got me thinking about why we go on vacation in the first place. For me, it's about escaping the craziness of life, exploring new places, meeting new people, and trying different foods. I love reminiscing about some of my favorite vacation memories. To help hold me over until my next getaway, I recently set a beautiful picture of Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro as my computer wallpaper. Every time I look at it, I feel like I got a mini vacation and am reminded of the fun times I had while visiting my cousin in Rio.

It's funny how, like many things in life, it's often the small moments that stick with us the most. Some of my favorite vaca-

tion memories come from the simplest experiences. I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on your own vacation memories and savor them as well.

One unforgettable trip was to Disneyland in California. We had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit on a cold day (by their standards), which meant the park was almost empty. Instead of waiting in long lines, we waited for enough people to gather so the rides could operate. We rode the teacups nonstop because we were the only ones on the ride. My daughter even got a special photo with all the princesses since she was the only child there! It was an amazing experience that spoiled all the other theme parks we visited after that. We got to interact with the staff, ride to our heart's content, and my kids loved all the attention they received

from the characters. What a sweet memory.

Another cherished memory comes from when my son served as a missionary in France for two years. After his mission, we visited the cities where he lived and met some of the people he had taught. While the trip was full of meaningful moments, some of my favorite memories were quite simple. One morning, I walked to a nearby bakery to buy fresh bread. I stood in line with the locals for piping-hot baguettes, and I have to say, it was the most delicious bread I've ever eaten. Not all the baguettes made it to our Airbnb — some were just too irresistible to save. Another day, I met a man who had been taught by my son. He insisted that we

share some crepes together, which I didn't fully understand at the time. Later, my son explained that in France, you're not considered a friend until you've shared a meal together. Laurent wanted to become my friend, and that gesture meant so much to me.

We also met some of the kindest people during a cruise. We ended up dining at the same time every night, and before long, we were sitting together at meals, going to shows, and joining excursions. They've become dear friends, and we've even visited them in Virginia and gone on trips together. Whenever I hear anything about Alaska, I think of these wonderful people, who have become like extended family.

Mother Nature is an-

other big reason to go on vacation. We live in such a beautiful world, and so many places have taken my breath away. But I have to admit, I'm especially drawn to sunsets and sunrises. It feels like God is painting the sky just for us. One morning, I woke up early to watch the sunrise at Bear Lake, Utah. The display was so beautiful, it set the tone for the entire day.

And of course, we can't forget about the amazing food we've had while on vacation. A friend took us to a restaurant where her friend worked as the chef. I remember thinking that I had never had a meal as good as that lunch and would never eat anything that good again. New Orleans also had some incredible restaurants, but we're lucky to live close to Chicago, where I can enjoy

a wide variety of cuisines. One of my favorite places is Devon Avenue, with its many bakeries and snack bars offering food from all over the world.

I hope you have some wonderful vacation memories to keep you going until your next trip. I'm counting down the days until tax season is over, and I can finally get some rest and pack my bags.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has reached out to me about my articles. It's exciting to hear from you and know you're enjoying them. Bon voyage!

*Silene Walters is a CPA, the owner of Walters Accounting Inc in Stillman Valley. When she is not preparing taxes she travels with her husband George and shares her experiences on <https://www.facebook.com/dreamoftraveling>*



**Silene Walters**

## Letter to the Editor: National Day of Prayer

**D**EAR editor,

This 74th National Day of Prayer this year's theme is Pour out to the Hope and be Filled. Romans 15:13. There is a big history of prayer for our nation.

When Congress passed

the Bill of Rights, President George Washington declare on Oct. 3, 1789, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of almighty God to obey his will. Jan. 1, 1796 was proclaimed a Day of Prayer. On Aug.

2, 1861 President Lincoln proclaimed it is fit to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God. On March 30, he proclaimed a National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, President Truman made the Na-

tional Day of Prayer an annual observance. On May 5, 1988 President Reagan made the National Day of Prayer every first Thursday in May, saying "America in every generation have turned to their Maker in Prayer We

have acknowledge....our Dependence on Almighty God."

And here in Rochelle on May 1, 2025 we invite the community to join us with millions who will stand united in Prayer. God is stirring the

hearts of people all over this beautiful nation. We will gather at the city courtyard of Rochelle at noon.

**Blanca Winton and Judy Williams,**  
Coordinators

### 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**  
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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

## Agenda set for annual Flagg Township meeting

**ROCHELLE** — Flagg Township will host its annual meeting on Tuesday, April 8 at the Flagg Township Board Room, 6 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Nominate Moderator
4. Approve Minutes
5. Report on all funds
6. Motion for the Township Board to be given the authority to transfer funds from one budgeted account to another within the same fund without overdrawing the account from which transferred.
7. Motion for the Supervisor to be given the power to sue and defend any township suit
8. Other business
9. Set time of the next Annual Meeting
10. Vote on Resolution No. 1850B to oppose township consolidation into county government
11. Adjourn

## St. John's Lutheran Church kumla/ham dinner is April 5

**CRESTON** — St. John's Lutheran Church, 126 South St., Creston, will host its 28th annual kumla/ham dinner April 5. The cost will be \$18. This is a drive thru with two pickup times. The first one will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second will be from 3-5:30 p.m. Norwegian homemade cookies will also be a pre-sale order. All cookies are \$8 per doz. Choices are kringla, krumkaka, tripolies, and almond bars. Advanced presale tickets only can be purchased by calling Dorothy (815)384-5325, the church (815)384-3720, or contact any church member. No tickets will be available at the door.

## Kiwanis Pancake Day is April 5

**ROCHELLE** — Kiwanis Golden K of Rochelle 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

## Chana Play Day scholarships available

**CHANA** — The Chana Play Day committee has announced competition for several scholarships. The candidates must be high school graduates or the equivalent with ties to the Chana area. Applicants who are current or former residents of Chana or who have parents or grandparents who attended Chana School or participated in Chana Play Day may apply. Two-time recipients are not eligible to reapply. The scholarships will be awarded to the candidates who best meet and complete the requirements listed in the application. Scholarship forms may be picked up at the Oregon High School guidance office or Stocking Equipment, four miles east of Oregon on Illinois Route 64. Please deliver or mail the applications to Ron Stocking, Stocking Equipment, 3749 E. Pine Rock Road, Oregon, IL 61061. The completed application must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 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
- Mar. 20 - Rick McBride, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 21 - Priscilla Escutia, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 22 - Connie Fallon, Rockton, \$25
- Mar. 23 - Jeff Bresson, Compton, \$50
- Mar. 24 - Dana LaTour, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 25 - Janeth Vazquez, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 26 - David Atkinson, Oregon, \$25
- Mar. 27 - Josh Carney, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 28 - Brice Hintzche, Franklin Grove, \$25
- Mar. 29 - Kyle C. Bridgeman, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 30 - Zach Prewett, Rochelle, \$50

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 30 Grace Olson	April 4 Clarissa Dodillet	April 8 Jodi Prosser Trevor Komadina Timothy Avila	April 12 Charles Peterman
April 1 Theresa Crystal	April 6 Stephen Avila Eddie Villalobos Josh & Sarah Kulwicki (anniversary)	April 10 Johnny Gonzales	April 16 Marissa Seldal James Doering
April 2 Zachery Smith	April 3 Duane Aleman Dave Helfrich	April 11 Bev Wiginton Christine Doering Chris & Christine Doering (anniversary)	

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



## Coffee Break

### MAGIC MAZE — OVER —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A DOUBLE BOGEY IN GOLF

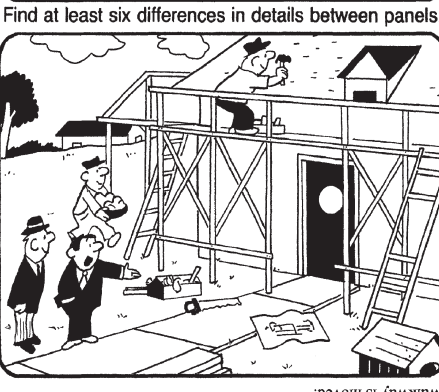
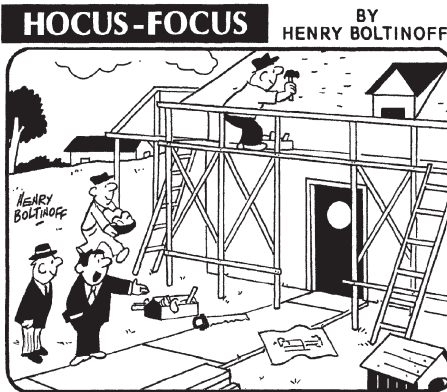
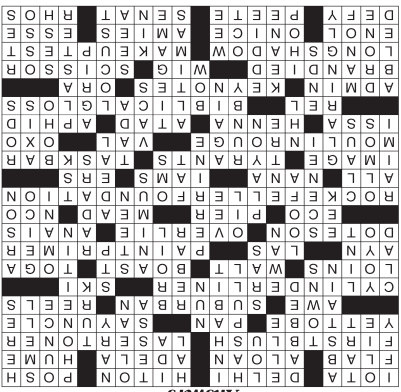
All the map  
All with  
Come here  
Do again

Eggs easy  
End end  
Fried easy  
Get it

Get with  
Go big  
Hand fist  
Head heels

Moon Miami  
Not yet  
Voice IP

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Differences: 1. Door is taller. 2. Ladder rung is moved. 3. Man is taller. 4. Dorrer is moved. 5. Ladder rung is moved. 6. Line in walkway is moved.

## Super Crossword

### PUTTING ON A GOOD FACE

**ACROSS**

1 Very little bit  
5 Large Indian city  
10 Discover by chance  
15 Elegant  
19 Liposuction target  
20 Take out — (borrow cash)  
21 Journalist — Rogers St. Johns  
22 Actor Cronyn  
23 Initial impression  
25 Printer cartridge contents  
27 Still in the future  
28 Harsh review  
30 Admit defeat  
31 Wonder  
32 Like bedroom communities  
35 Partners of 84-Down  
36 Metal sleeve in an engine's piston  
40 Slide down a slope  
41 Cuts of pork  
42 Disney who drew  
43 Toot one's own horn  
46 Gaius' garb  
50 Rand of objectivism

51 "Viva — Vegas"  
52 Base coat on a wall, maybe  
54 Is a little too fond of  
57 Rest on top of  
59 Writer Nin  
60 Prefix with conscious  
61 Dock  
62 Honey liquor  
64 Cpl., e.g.  
65 Big grant-giving group  
72 Totally  
73 Granny  
74 Dog food brand  
75 Places with lots of IVs  
76 Mental picture  
78 Dictators  
81 Row of PC-screen buttons  
85 Cabaret where the cancan originated  
87 Kilmer of "Tombstone"  
88 Kitchen utensil brand  
89 "Little" actress Rae  
90 Decorative tattoo dye  
91 Very little  
93 Garden pest

95 Mem. of the family  
97 Annotation in the text of Christian scripture  
100 Server overseer, informally  
103 Convention speeches  
105 "... flaw — feature?"  
106 Mixed with cognac, e.g.  
108 Flip (out)  
109 Clip out  
113 Something cast at sunset  
116 What you have passed when you figure out this puzzle's theme?

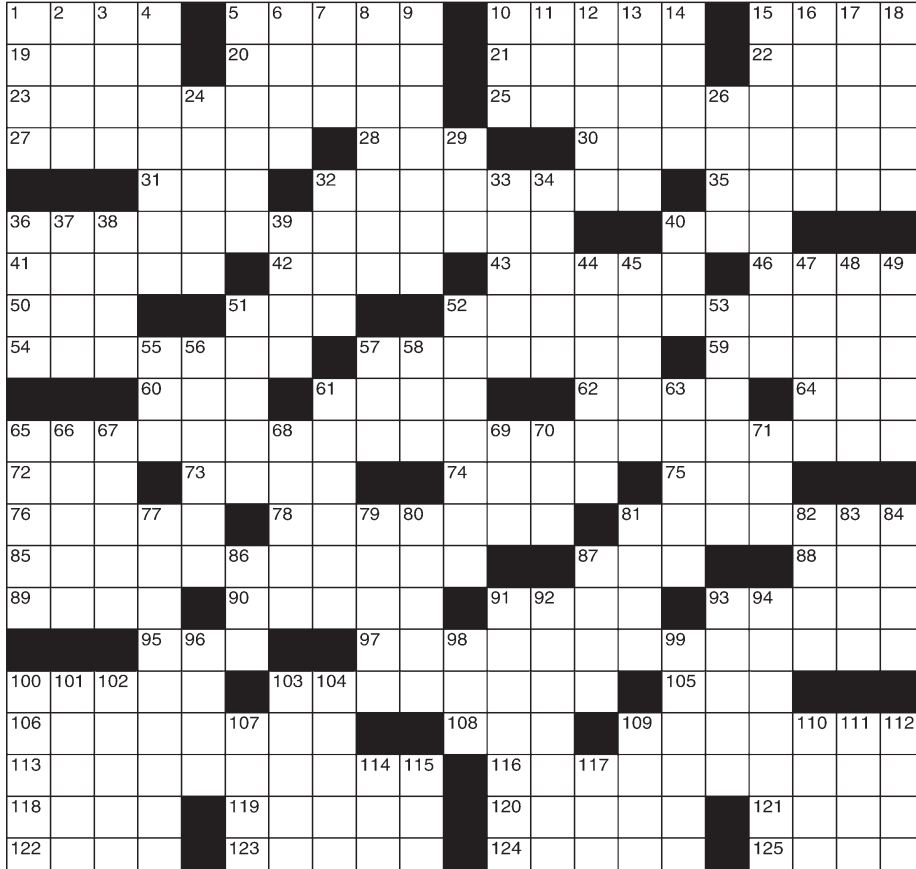
118 Hydroxyl compound  
119 Cooling, as champagne  
120 French gal pals  
121 To be, to Livy  
122 Really resist  
123 Former quarterback Rodney  
124 French governing body  
125 Letters after pis

**DOWN**

1 Not definite  
2 "Rolie Polie —" (kids' book)  
3 Sour  
4 Refrain from drinking  
5 Patted lightly  
6 Fanning of "Teen Spirit"  
7 Baseball's Gehrig  
8 Wields influence  
9 Occupy  
10 TV's Linden  
11 Lupino or Tarbell  
12 Actress Thompson of "Creed"  
13 Brand of fake 69-Down  
14 — a one (zero)  
15 Go through the motions  
16 1/16 pound  
17 Aroma  
18 "— Johnny!"  
24 Small cities  
26 Ankara native  
29 Convent sister  
32 Span. women  
33 Steel support for concrete  
34 Grill  
36 Dressed (in)  
37 "Around-the-world" toy

38 Dryer fluff  
39 Actor McGregor  
40 Fuel additive brand  
44 Strong ill will  
45 Dutch artist Jan  
47 Certain Arab  
48 State Farm alternative  
49 Fiery crime  
51 Spa sponge  
52 Actress Valerie of "Lenny"  
53 Storm-finding systems  
55 Cartoon cry  
56 Act starter  
57 Qatar export  
58 Letter #22  
61 Take selfish advantage of  
63 "It's —!" ("You're on!")  
65 "Darkman" director Sam  
66 Actor Edward James —  
67 Santa —  
68 — nous  
69 Liposuction target  
70 Mantra words  
71 "For shame!"  
77 In a harshly bright way  
79 Pass quickly on foot  
80 "To repeat ..."  
81 Unveiling cry

82 — chic  
83 Pivot point  
84 Fishing sticks  
86 Devils' org.  
87 Dirt Devils, e.g., in brief  
91 Nissan car models  
92 Reason for extra innings  
93 Get — on reality  
94 Ceiling coat  
96 Terminates  
98 Arrow shooter  
99 Short-horned grasshopper  
100 Differently — (other-skilled)  
101 Pilotless craft  
102 Lead-in to "the cloth" or "the hour"  
103 Cartoonist Bil  
104 Comic and actor Murphy  
107 Breakfast chain, in brief  
109 "I — bad moon rising"  
110 Meeting period, slangily  
111 — buco (veal dish)  
112 Map nos.  
114 Tenth mo.  
115 Very little  
117 Cousins, e.g.





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to mean  
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not just a  
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**Alexis**

**Crawford**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track*

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

*A: I have been doing this sport for four years now.*

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

*A: Hanging out with friends and trying my best.*

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

*A: Agriculture because I like animals and farming.*

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

*A: Fallon Taylor because she barrel races.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My mom because she is always there for me.*

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

*A: To be an animal nutritionist because I want to help animals and people.*

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

*A: Alaska because it's beautiful there.*

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

*A: Spending time with my friends and meeting new people.*



**Marley**

**Cherry**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track*

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

*A: Three years.*

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

*A: I get to do what I love and get in shape while I do it.*

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

*A: Biology because the class interests me and I want to learn more.*

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

*A: Melissa Vargas. She's a turkish volleyball player and I really like her because she isn't afraid to look different.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My parents because without them, I wouldn't be who I am today.*

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

*A: To be a botanist because I've always loved keeping plants and taking care of them.*

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

*A: Tokyo because there are so many cool things there.*

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

*A: I like the community. Everyone is really nice and willing to help one another.*

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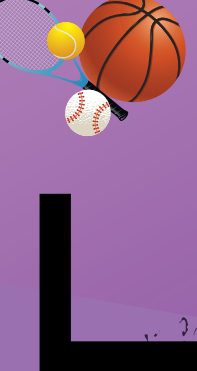
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**GO,**

Good luck to our  
local student athletes!

**HUBS!**





# SPORTS

## RTHS Athletics

### RTHS Athletic Booster Club supporting Rochelle athletes

'It's a great way to be a part of what happens for the kids and that's what it's all about'

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The RTHS Athletic Booster Club plays an integral role in fostering the growth and development of student-athletes at Rochelle Township High School. Over the last 15 years, the booster club has invested over \$400,000 to support student-athletes through scholarships as well as the purchases of uniforms, equipment and other essentials for athletic achievement.

The booster club, which supports 22 athletic programs and hundreds of student-athletes at RTHS, has seen its membership double and continues to recruit new members and volunteers. In just the last year, the booster club has invested over \$40,000 into new uniforms and equipment for RTHS student-athletes. Although concessions raise most of the funds, the booster club also runs raffles and holds special events including the "Chuck-a-Duck" contest during the winter season.

"Our mission is simple: we provide for your athletes - purchasing uniforms, equipment, and other essential items they need to compete at their best," Concessions Manager Ashley Simms said. "These purchases support the athletic programs and the athletes themselves in many ways... up to date equipment helps reduce risk of injuries and allows the athletes to perform at their best. Wearing new and updated uniforms gives the athletes and community a sense of school pride and unity which makes the team look professional and gives the athletes the motivation and confidence needed which can translate into better performances on the court or field; giving every athlete the same opportunity to compete without any financial barriers."

Since last year, the booster club has invested over \$8,000 to purchase flowers as well as over 300 senior



(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)

Pictured above from left to right are Ashley Simms, Dionne Bly, Kari Andrist, Niki Adamski, Kevin Eggenburg, Amy Schweitzer, Missy Gensler, Eve Lassiter and Shauna Lewis. Below from left to right, back to front, are Niki Adamski, Marcy DeLille, Amy Schweitzer and Shauna Lewis; Dionne Bly and Jennifer Biggs; Kari Andrist and Deb Czekala; Ashley Simms and Missy Gensler.

banners, which are presented and displayed during senior night events at RTHS. The booster club offers as many as five \$1,000 scholarships that are awarded each year to seniors. The booster club, which currently has an active board of 12 members, meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at RTHS. The public is always welcome to attend.

"We are very proud of the fact that it does not cost a family a fee to play sports at RTHS," Vice President Niki Adamski said. "One of the main reasons for this is the support our booster club provides to all of these programs. We make sure that all of our athletes and programs have what they need to be successful and great representatives of RTHS. We are very honored to award some of our seniors scholarship money to continue their education after high school."

The booster club is actively recruiting new members. The club is free to join and prospective members can sign up at any Meet the Hubs event during the school year. Interested

members can also visit the concession stand at RTHS athletic events or reach out through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080112115206>. The booster club is currently accepting monetary donations, which would result in a booster membership for that school year.

"We have fun and take pride in being part of RTHS athletics," President Marcy DeLille said. "We have an amazing group of members who are so focused on doing all that is possible to make our athletes feel supported and sporting events attended and fun. Working with selfless, devoted and dedicated people - some that don't even have a student in the school - is what makes it all worth it. These are great ladies and gentlemen who are giving of their time for other people's kids. It's an honor to be part of that each and every time. We all have a sincere passion for these kids, the sports they play, pride in RTHS and representing that in the best way."

The booster club is seeking to increase its paid and volunteer membership,



which has seen a slight decrease since the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the planning for fundraisers and other booster club functions is done during the monthly meetings, where members can have a voice at the table, run for office, join committees and brainstorm ideas for ongoing and future events.

"We don't want people to join out of a sense of obligation, but out of a sense of pride and appreciation for the very reason that their student-athlete can play without a fee, in a new uniform every four years,

with the equipment they need, with the opportunity to earn a scholarship and be honored with a poster on their senior night," DeLille said. "People who join the booster club would get a front row seat to be a part of the group that makes it happen. It is a great way to be a part of what happens for the kids and that's what it's all about - the kids."

The booster club's executive board members are President Marcy DeLille, Vice President Niki Adamski, Secretary Amy Schweitzer and Treasurer Kari

Andrist. The board of directors includes Ashley Simms (Concessions), Dionne Bly (Fundraising), Eve Lassiter (Membership/Marketing) and Missy Gensler (Activities/Initiatives). The booster club works with multiple local sponsors including Holcomb Bank, Culver's, Headon's Fine Meats and 926 Custom Embroidery.

"RTHS is thankful for the booster club and all of their hard work for our students," RTHS athletic director Rich Harvey said. "They make sure our athletes have what they need to be successful."

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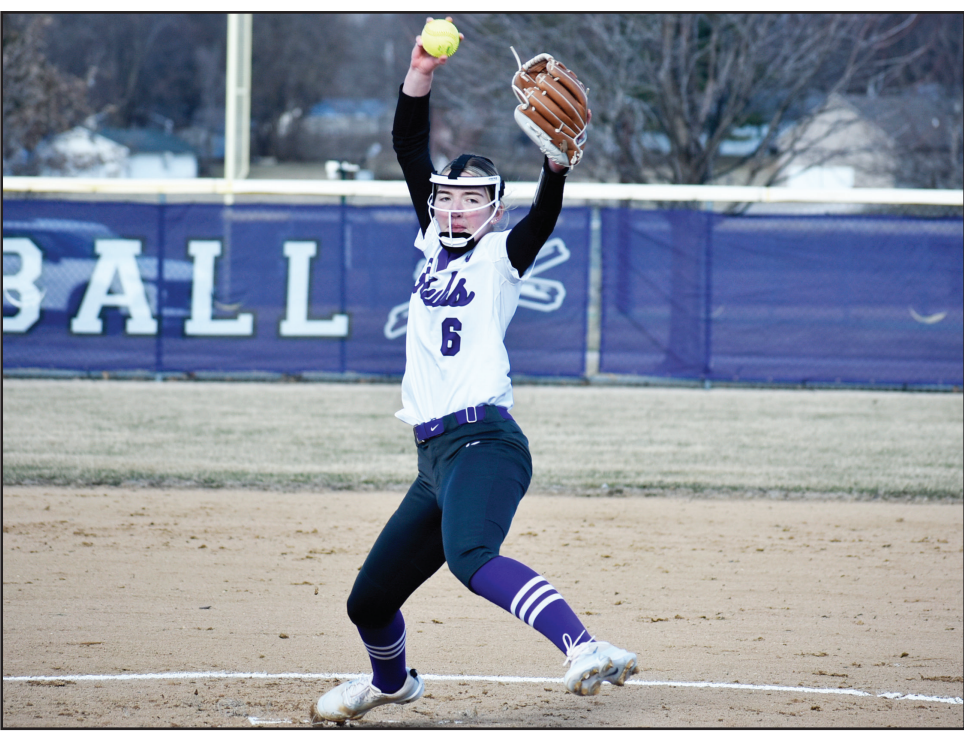
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# SPORTS

## RTHS Softball



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub softball team hosted Belvidere North for its home opener on Tuesday, falling to the Blue Thunder 15-4 in six innings. Above, senior Lauren Dyer (left) fires a pitch and junior Madigan Williams (right) prepares to swing at the plate. Below, freshman Mya Martinez makes a throw from the shortstop position.

## Three-run frame highlights home loss to Belvidere North

### Lira finishes 2-for-3 with two RBIs as Lady Hubs fall to Blue Thunder 15-4

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Lady Hub softball team took the field for the first time this season Tuesday evening, hosting Belvidere North in a nonconference varsity matchup. Despite three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, Rochelle was unable to keep the Blue Thunder bats at bay, as Belvidere North tallied six runs in the top of the sixth inning to beat the Lady Hubs 15-4.

Sophomore Jaclynn Lira led the Rochelle offense on Tuesday, finishing 2-for-3 with two singles and two RBIs. Senior Lauren Dyer and sophomore Emma Heller each pitched three innings for the Lady Hubs (0-1, 0-0 Interstate 8) who will head south for a tournament at the Futures Sports Complex in Jacksonville on Friday. Rochelle will face Lexington, Hampshire and Pearl City.

Belvidere North broke a scoreless tie with two runs in the top of the second inning, where Alexa Norgard smacked an RBI

groundout and Laney Dobbs floated a hit into shallow center field to bring home Josie Yakey. Freshman Mya Martinez recorded Rochelle's first hit of the season, sending an opposite-field single through the right side in the bottom of the second inning.

The Blue Thunder manufactured two more runs in the top of the third inning, scoring on an RBI groundout from Isabelle Schadle and a ground ball to the shortstop from Dobbs, who reached base on an error to plate Yakey. Junior Madigan Williams delivered a two-out single to center field for the Lady Hubs in the bottom of the third inning, but a strikeout ended the threat.

Belvidere North took control of the game with four runs in the top of the fourth inning. Miley Dobbs sparked the four-run frame, smacking an RBI single to right field before Schadle rolled an RBI single to left field three batters later, making the score 6-0. An RBI single from Yakey, who eventually reached third base and scored on a wild pitch, put the Blue



Thunder up 8-0.

Needing a spark, Rochelle rallied with two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning, where sophomore Camryn Metzger drilled a grounder through the right side for an RBI single and the team's first

run of the season. A walk to freshman Cheyenne Somers put two runners on base for Lira, who pounded an RBI single up the middle to bring home Camryn Metzger. Sophomore Briel Metzger kept the rally alive, lining

an RBI single into right field to make the score 8-3.

A wild pitch led to one run for the Blue Thunder in the top of the fifth inning. Leading 9-3, Belvidere North capped off its victory with six runs on four hits and two walks in

the top of the sixth inning. Rochelle scored the final run of the evening, with Lira bashing a two-out RBI single into left field to score Somers, who reached base on a fielder's choice in the previous at-bat.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team hosted Mendota on Tuesday, falling 1-0 in nonconference action. Above, freshman Paige Harris (left) looks to kick the ball forward and sophomore Taylor Olsen (right) dribbles in between two defenders.

## SOCCKER: Late second-half goal lifts Mendota over Rochelle on Tuesday

From page 1

"We were all a bit nervous before this game because of what our outcome was on Friday," Flores said. "I'm really proud of us and we really improved in such a short amount of time. I'm proud of how we played and I hope that we can keep this momentum going. One big thing was that we communicated a lot and I was able to communicate with my wings. We have a very new squad, but we kept communicating and I'm really proud of how we held our line

in the back."

### Mendota

The Rochelle Lady Hubs came within minutes of another shutout as the clock wound down during their nonconference varsity soccer match against Mendota on Tuesday.

Returning to the field for their second match in two days, the Lady Hubs continued to play well on the defensive end, where Rochelle maintained its line and sophomore goalkeeper Yana Bartkiv delivered key saves to anchor the back. After earning a shutout

win against Stillman Valley on Monday, Rochelle took a shutout deep into the second half on Tuesday, but a late through ball led to a game winning goal for the Trojans, who outlasted the Lady Hubs 1-0.

"We've come together over our last couple of games and we've had better communication," head coach Brad Male said. "I thought that showed today and it's unfortunate that we gave one up in the last four minutes, but overall, I'm pleased with how we played back there. I think we're coming around with

our conditioning, but our physicality and aggressiveness has improved."

In a defensive battle, both teams combined for just three shots on goal during the first half. Senior midfielder Makayla Lara posted two shots on goal for the Lady Hubs, who took a 0-0 draw with Mendota into the second half, where the Trojans started to turn up the pressure despite playing against the wind. Mendota moved the ball deep into Rochelle territory, but clutch saves from Bartkiv in the 61st, 63rd and 67th minutes kept the Trojans

off the scoreboard.

"Yana did an exceptional job in goal today," Male said. "She had a lot of saves today and her confidence is coming around. She's gaining the confidence to know she can go get the ball."

Another save from Bartkiv in the 71st minute preserved the shutout, but as the match neared its conclusion, the Trojans finally broke through a worn-down Rochelle defensive line. With senior defender and captain Betty Flores, a key stopper for the Lady Hubs, sidelined with an injury, Mendota capitalized on

a through ball down the middle, scoring after Trojan forward Crystal Garcia outraced the Lady Hub defense to the ball and booted it into the net in the 77th minute.

Bartkiv finished with seven saves for the Lady Hubs (1-2, 0-0 Interstate 8), who were outshot 13-7 and trailed 8-2 in shots on goal for the match. Defensive unity was a key for the Lady Hubs, as Rochelle drew Mendota offside seven times, most of which came in the second half, to keep its shutout. Rochelle will continue nonconference action at Sterling.



# PRIME TIME

## Common financial scams that target seniors

Financial scams are as old as the concept of currency. But consumers' vulnerability to scams has seemingly increased in the twenty-first century, when the Internet and devices like smartphones have enabled scammers to gain access to potential victims' financial information and even gain virtual entry into their homes.

Seniors are targeted by financial scammers with such frequency that the term "elder fraud" has entered the English lexicon and is now widely recognized as a notable threat to individuals age 60 and older. In recognition of that threat, the Elder Justice Initiative aims to support and coordinate U.S. Department of Justice efforts to combat financial fraud that targets older adults. Those efforts are ongoing and include a number of initiatives to educate older adults about elder fraud, including warning seniors about some notable scams that criminals use to target older adults.

- **Social Security Administration Impostor Scam:** When perpetrating this scam, criminals typically contact prospective

victims via telephone and falsely claim that suspicious activity has prompted the suspension of their Social Security number. Scammers may also indicate money must be withdrawn from a potential victim's bank and stored on gift cards for security's sake. It's important to note caller ID spoofing is often utilized when perpetrating this scam so an incoming call appears to be coming from the Social Security Administration.

- **Tech Support Scam:** This scam involves criminals claiming to be representatives from widely recognized companies who are calling to inform seniors that viruses or malware have been detected on their devices. Some also may claim a target's computer has been hacked. The Federal Trade Commission notes perpetrators of this scam pretend to be tech support and request victims enable them to remotely access their devices or computer. Granting such access provides an avenue to view sensitive information, but scammers also may diagnose nonexistent problems and charge a fee. But the scam does not always stop there.



Some call back later and offer a refund to account for services that can no longer be rendered or to correct an overcharge. The scammers then request victims' specific banking details under the guise of "correcting" these alleged oversights.

- **Lottery Scam:** The lottery scam involves scammers calling potential victims and informing them they have won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes. Perpetrators of this scam typically identify themselves as lawyers, customs officials or lottery representatives. The telemarketers behind this scam may be based in Jamaica, but the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica warns that those behind the scam will ask winners to pay various fees, including shipping and customs duties, until victims' funds are exhausted.
- **Romance Scam:** The FTC warns that wildly popular dating sites, social networking platforms and chat rooms provide opportunities for scammers to identify and exploit potential victims. The aim of these scams, which many victims are too ashamed to report even after they realize they've been victimized, is to convince targets to send money in the name of love. But the EJI warns that online love interests who ask for money are almost certainly scam artists.

These are just a handful of the many ways that modern scammers target seniors. More information about these and other scams is available at [justice.gov/elderjustice](https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice).

## A senior's guide to exercising safely

EXERCISE is an important component of a healthy lifestyle for people of any age, including the over-50 crowd. Seniors may have been told by their physicians that exercise promotes heart health and is essential to maintaining bone and muscle strength as well as balance and flexibility. Joining an exercise class or a gym also can be a social activity that promotes interaction with others of similar ages and with shared goals.

Exercise is undoubtedly beneficial for seniors, but it is important for older adults to exercise caution when starting a workout regimen. Prioritizing safety can circumvent injuries that could waylay progress. Temple Health says that seniors can suffer overuse injuries, torn ligaments or cartilage, broken bones, and other physical problems if they do not embrace safe exercising strategies. Most injuries can be avoided when following these healthy habits and guidelines.

- Find an activity you like. Engaging in regular exercise helps you maintain a higher level of fitness compared to those who are sedentary. Maintaining a consistent exercise regimen ensures you won't be starting over each time you stop exercising and have to build up again to your previous fitness level.
- Start slowly and then increase gradually. People hear "exercise" and they may think that translates to hours at the gym and high-intensity workouts. But general guidelines state older adults need about 2.5 hours of aerobic activity per week, not each day. So exercising does not have to take as much time or be as intense as one might think. Combine aerobic exercise with activities that strengthen muscles.
- Warm up before activity. It's important to get the body acclimated to exercise before each workout. Walking in



place, doing arm circles and engaging in some gentle squats or lunges can prepare the body for what is to come. Stretch afterwards when ligaments and tendons are warmed up.

- Remember to stay hydrated. Touro LCMC Health says that older adults are at greater risk for dehydration because they naturally have less water in their bodies or take medications that increase risk of dehydration. Drinking enough water during exercise is key.
- Know your limits and adapt. A workout that is fine for a 30-year-old may not be the same for someone who is 60. You might need to embrace walking instead of running, or even swap lifting weights with using resistance bands or doing body weight exercises.
- Focus on some balance activities. Balance issues can cause seniors to fall and risk serious injury. Working on your balance may help to lower your risk of these types of injuries, and can be as simple as standing on one foot or marching in place.

Exercise is important for seniors, and finding ways to incorporate safe physical activity can promote good health throughout one's golden years.

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SENIOR CITIZEN (65+) \$12.50  
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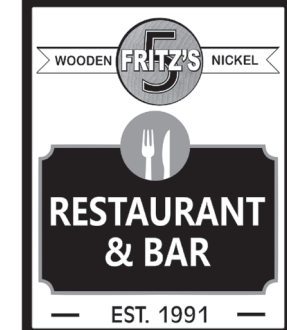
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF )**  
**HELEN WHEELER, De-**  
**ceased.**  
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)

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FLAGG TOWNSHIP**  
Public notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of Flagg Township in Ogle County and the State of Illinois, the Annual Town Meeting of said township will take place on April 8, 2025, being the second Tuesday of said month, at the hour of 6 o'clock p.m. in the boardroom of the Flagg Township office building, 303 W. Highway 38, Rochelle, IL. The Annual Town Meeting will conduct transaction of miscellaneous business of said township, and after a Moderator having been elected,

will proceed to hear, and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.  
Joanna G. Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk  
**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FLAGG TOWNSHIP**  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Flagg Township Board Room, 6:00 pm  
1. Meeting Called to Order  
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
3. Nominate Moderator  
4. Approve Minutes  
5. Report on all funds  
6. Motion for the Township Board to be given the authority to transfer funds from one budgeted account to another within the same fund without overdrawing the account from which transferred.  
7. Motion for the Supervisor to be given the power to sue and defend any township suit  
8. Other business  
9. Set time of the next Annual Meeting  
10. Vote on Resolution No. 1850B to oppose township consolidation into county government  
11. Adjourn  
No. 0342  
(March 30, 2025)

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## 103 AUCTIONS

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P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068  
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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.  
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## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY L. CLARK, Deceased.**  
NO. 2025PR21  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of GARY L. CLARK, of Chana, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 20, 2025, to RYAN L. CLARK, whose address is 3269 S. Rocky Hollow Rd., Chana, IL 61015, 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 30, 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 attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.  
Joanna G. Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk  
**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FLAGG TOWNSHIP**  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Flagg Township Board Room, 6:00 pm  
1. Meeting Called to Order  
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
3. Nominate Moderator  
4. Approve Minutes  
5. Report on all funds  
6. Motion for the Township Board to be given the authority to transfer funds from one budgeted account to another within the same fund without overdrawing the account from which transferred.  
7. Motion for the Supervisor to be given the power to sue and defend any township suit  
8. Other business  
9. Set time of the next Annual Meeting  
10. Vote on Resolution No. 1850B to oppose township consolidation into county government  
11. Adjourn  
No. 0342  
(March 30, 2025)

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