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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 \$1.25

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LCSO unveils K9 shirt design

The Lee County Sheriff's Department recently unveiled its new K9 shirt design. **Page 2**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 50	65 44

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
68 38	76 45

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• RUNNINGS

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City's new mural completed April 20

Chicago artist Ferrarell: 'It feels good to give them something that's going to last...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle recently saw completion on April 20 of a new mural it commissioned in the downtown area on the south side of the second story of ALM Fine Cabinetry. The location enables traffic coming from the south on the overpass to see the mural.

The mural's location came about after ALM Fine Cabinetry received a city facade grant to repair the wall the mural is now featured on, which previously said Shop Rochelle on it. The owners of the business offered the spot to the city for a mural location.

The city shared a request for proposal to attract mural submissions from local and regional artists in 2024 and found its artist: Michael Ferrarell of Chicago. The mural design depicts the words "Rochelle, Illinois: The Hub City!" with a train, skydiver, hub and corn also depicted. City council members chose a color scheme on March 24. The mural came at a \$10,000



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle recently saw completion on April 20 of a new mural it commissioned in the downtown area on the south side of the second story of ALM Fine Cabinetry.

cost to the city.

Ferrarell has painted numerous murals across the country, many in a similar style to what he painted in Rochelle. Ferrarell established himself as a street artist known as Left Handed Wave in Chicago and took his street art from New York City to Los Angeles and many major cities in between.

"I was happy with the way it came together and it looked like the mockup," Ferrarell said. "I had fun playing with the perspective, because of where it's seen from and the wall not being exactly flat. It was a fun challenge. I thought Rochelle was great. I've been to a lot of small towns. It was clean and safe and there were people around and everyone was so pleasant."

After being selected to paint the mural, Ferrarell worked with the city on a design and came to Rochelle to gather information on its uniqueness and history. The train in the mural is modeled after a Whitcomb locomotive, a former train engine manufacturer in Rochelle.

See DOWNTOWN MURAL page 8



Re-elected city council members sworn in
Three re-elected members of the Rochelle City Council took the oath of office on Monday afternoon at Rochelle City Hall. Sworn in for four-year terms were Dan McDermott, Kate-Shaw Dickey and Rosaelia Arteaga. (Photos by Jeff Helfrich)

RACF holds Community Needs grant award event

'Tonight is when we celebrate all of the incredible work being done...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, April 30, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Community Needs grant award event at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle. 41 grants were presented to area nonprofits and organizations at the event.

RACF offers an opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to leave a legacy for future generations and is a public, charitable organization designed to attract gifts that will be shared with Rochelle-area nonprofit organizations for the benefit of the community. It supports the areas of Chana, Creston, Esmond, Kings, Lindenwood, Rochelle and Steward.

The event also celebrated RACF reaching 20 years of operation. Since it was founded in 2005 by the late Leonard Carmichael, RACF has granted more than \$1.3 million back into the community.

"Tonight is when we celebrate all of the incredible work being done in our community and share the impact of the community's generosity through grant-making," RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said. "We wouldn't be here without the vision and commitment of those who laid the foundation for the organization. Our founder, Leonard Carmichael, launched RACF with both his heart and foresight and his legacy lives in every grant we make."

RACF Board President and Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke at the event that saw 41 local programs see support.

"This organization is far more than a grantmaker," Fiegenschuh said. "It's a beacon of hope, opportunity and collaboration. The foundation provides a trusted way for people to give back, lift others up



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Wednesday, April 30, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Community Needs grant award event at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle.

and strengthen the community we all love. A thriving city needs a strong community foundation, one that listens, responds and ensures that resources go to where they're needed most. That's exactly what RACF does."

Mayor John Bearrows spoke at the event as well and said the city is proud to be a partner in the work RACF does and looks forward to continuing the collaboration for many years to come.

"Rochelle is the most caring and sharing community that I know," Bearrows said.

"That spirit of generosity is a part of our identity and is embodied in every grant RACF gives out. This foundation connects donors to meaningful causes, strengthens nonprofits, addresses urgent needs and helps build a better future for everyone who calls Rochelle their home."

RACF Grants Committee Chairman Terry Dickow spoke about his experience doing the work behind the scenes that resulted in the grant awarding event.

See RACF EVENT page 3

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AFC NEWS



AFCHS thanks Midwest Safe Driver for presentation

Ashton-Franklin Center High School extends its gratitude to Midwest Safe Driver, along with instructors Blake O'Dell and Tony Chiviara, for their valuable contribution as guest speakers in our driver education class on Thursday, April 17. Their presentation on "Sharing the road with trucks" provided essential insights that are integral to our commitment to delivering high-quality educational experiences in our driver education program. (Courtesy photo)



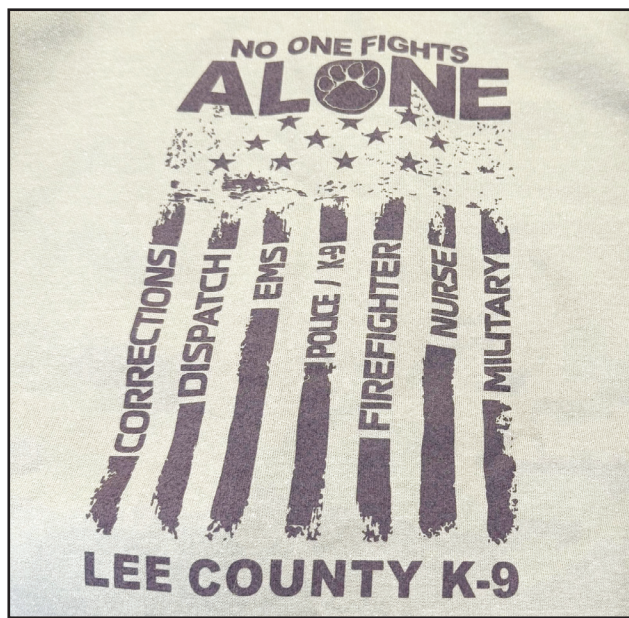
AFC students attend Manufacturing Day

Ashton Franklin Center High School students recently attended Manufacturing Day at Saul Valley Community College. Students visited FN Smith and ED Etnyre and then were at Sauk for the rest of the day. Students were in small groups and built cars from scratch and then raced against each other. (Courtesy photo)



Lee County Sheriff's Office unveils new K9 shirt design

Lee County Sheriff's Office K9 Henry and K9 Dax recently were on hand to reveal the department's new K9 shirt design for this year. Shirts are in stock now and they are for sale at the sheriff's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. They will also be sold at events throughout the county during the next several months. T-shirts are \$25 and are in sizes from youth small through 3XL. Hoodies are \$45 and are in sizes from adult small through 3XL. Cash or credit card payments are available at this time. (Courtesy photos)



ISP announces April distracted driving enforcement results

LEE COUNTY – Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Distracted Driving Enforcement Program patrols held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during April. This program provided extra patrol coverage for ISP officers to focus on saving lives and reducing serious crashes by enforcing distracted driving laws.

Enforcement activity: Hand-held phone/device citations – 36. Texting while driving citations – 20. Other types of distracted driving citations – zero. Total distracted driving citations – 56. Total distracted driving written warnings – zero. Total of all citations – 138. Total of all written warnings – 29. This project was funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

ISP announces results of NITE patrols in April

LEE COUNTY – Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Nighttime Enforcement (NITE) patrols in Lee, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during April. These NITE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting, and taking enforcement action in response to impaired driving and occupant restraint violations especially between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Enforcement activity: Driving under the influence (DUI) citations – three. Other alcohol/drug citations – four. Occupant restraint offenses – two. Registration offenses – 16.

Driver's license offenses – seven. Insurance violations – 12. Total citations – 116. Total arrests – 11. Total written warnings – 22.

Alcohol and drug impairment are estimated to be a factor in more than 47% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 39 minutes in the United States. Over half of all fatal crashes in Illinois occur at night. The NITE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous impaired drivers from the road and making sure everyone is buckled up. This project was funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

ISP announces results of OREP

LEE COUNTY – Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols (OREP) held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during April. These OREPs provided extra patrol coverage for the ISP so officers could focus on

saving lives by making sure all vehicle occupants were buckled up. Enforcement activity: Safety belt citations – 43. Child restraint citations – one. Total citations – 104. Total written warnings – 15.

Most motorists know safety belts save lives, but some ignore their safety and that of their families by neglecting to use safety belts and child restraint devices.

Lee County Sheriff's Office announces distracted driving enforcement results

DIXON — The Lee County Sheriff's Office announced it issued 23 citations for hands-free law violations, along with four speeding citations, one driving while license revoked, one no valid driver's license and one other citation for a moving violation during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign. Deputies also issued 11 warnings for various offenses.

"Driver distraction is a persistent issue in Lee County that often has life-altering consequences," Chief Deputy Derek

Ranken said. "Issuing a citation is a proven way to get motorists to pay attention or pay the price. Distracted Driving Awareness Month may be over, but we will continue our efforts to stop motorists from engaging in this deadly behavior."

The Lee County Sheriff's Office joined forces with the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement and highway safety partners for this enforcement effort.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign was funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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 815-456-2325 | Jenah Burkitt, Principal

LOCAL NEWS

Mega Millions Jackpot purchased in Cortland claimed

CORTLAND – The long-awaited mystery is finally over. After more than a month of excitement and anticipation, the Illinois Lottery players who won the \$349 million Mega Millions jackpot in the March 25 drawing have officially come forward to claim their life-changing prize.

“We took a chance and bought a single Quick Pick ticket,” shared the lucky winners, nicknamed “Blessed.” “We’re absolutely ecstatic and feel incredibly blessed. We plan to use this money to do good – this unbelievable prize will truly be the gift that keeps on giving.”

The winning ticket was purchased at Casey’s General Store, located at 70 S. Somonauk Road in Cortland. For selling the winning

ticket, the retailer received a bonus of \$500,000.

This historic win marks the fourth time an Illinois Lottery player has won a Mega Millions jackpot in nearly four years:

In June 2024, an iLottery player won \$552 million – making this the largest prize ever won by an online lottery player in the U.S.

In July 2022, a ticket bought at a gas station in Des Plaines won a \$1.34 billion Mega Millions jackpot – which remains the largest lottery prize ever won in Illinois. In June 2021, a Mega Millions player won \$56 million at a Citgo gas station in Crestwood.

Every ticket sold is also a big win for education in Illinois. With nearly \$24 million in total Mega Millions ticket sales during

the jackpot run, the Illinois Lottery was able to return over \$9 million to the Common School Fund to support K-12 education in Illinois.

Tonight’s Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$70 million, and each ticket costs \$5. Tickets for the game can be purchased in-store, online, or on the Illinois Lottery app. For more information or to buy tickets online, please visit IllinoisLottery.com.

As the Mega Millions jackpot continues to grow, the Illinois Lottery encourages players to remember it’s a game of chance. For more information about the odds of winning, visit the Mega Millions game page on IllinoisLottery.com. Be Smart, Play Smart®. Must be 18 or older to play.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The lucky Mega Millions jackpot winners from the March 25 drawing are feeling beyond “Blessed” as they come forward to officially claim their \$349 million prize.

RACF EVENT: Local philanthropic foundation marks 20 years of giving

From page 1

“This has been such an eye-opening experience since I got involved,” Dickow said. “The differences that this endeavor makes in the community with the homeless, the hungry, the needy, with neglected and abused children and more, it’s really heartwarming.”

Past RACF Executive Directors Ann Rice and Kim Montgomery were honored during the event for their past service to the organization and community. It was also revealed during the meeting that a future mural will be commissioned in conjunction with the City of Rochelle, the Daniel & Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts, local artists Mat and Mandey Steder, and a business owner that has provided wall space, to honor Carmichael for his establishment of RACF and his work in the community.

“The location will remain a surprise for now, but we promise it will be a powerful and lasting reminder of Mr. Carmichael’s impact,” Fiegenschuh said. “Leonard’s spirit lives on in every grant we award, every life we touch, and every future we help to shape. He taught us what it means to lead with heart, purpose and generosity.”

Recipients

Rochelle Township High School Alumni Association for Alumni Scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 of which \$631 was from the Tobler Family Fund, and \$4,369 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

City of Rochelle for the Community Mural in the amount of \$5,000 of which \$1,291 was from the Daniel & Stephanie Williams Fund for the Arts, \$1,132 was from the Arts Enrichment Fund and \$2,577 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Basketball Club for the Rochelle Basketball Club Program in the amount of \$5,600 of which \$2,000 was from the Ed and Ann Rice Giving Fund, \$2,347 was from the Berg-Burkholder Family Fund, and \$1,253 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Village Of Progress for the Cycling Program in the amount of \$4,088 of which \$1,000 was from the Empowering the Community Fund, \$1,139 from the Community Advancement Fund, and \$1,949 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Rescue Mission for Supporting Those Without Shelter Within

Rochelle and the Surrounding Areas in the amount of \$10,000 which was fully funded by an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Vince Carney Community Theatre for Full Lighting Part 1 in the amount of \$2,500 which was fully funded by H.P. “Jim” Walker Memorial Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Christian Food Pantry for Acquiring Eggs in the amount of \$15,000 of which \$3,438 was from the Jacobs Family Fund and \$11,562 was from an anonymous Donor Advised Fund.

Rochelle Elementary District #231 for Dual Language Immersion Program at Central School in the amount of \$658 which was fully funded by the Steve Pfeiffer Memorial Endowment Fund.

Pegasus Special Riders, Inc for Pegasus Special Riders in the amount of \$9,000 of which \$379 was from the Tom Hall Community Giving Fund, \$433 was from the Plant the Seed Fund, and \$8,188 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

4C-Community Coordinated Child Care for Outdoor Adventure Event in the amount of \$700 which was fully funded by the Tyler “Smitty” Smith Memorial Endowment Fund.

Tilton Elementary School for Dual Language Immersion Program at Tilton School in the amount of \$1,068 which was fully funded by the Tyler “Smitty” Smith Memorial Endowment Fund.

Hub City Senior Center for Operation Heating & Cooling in the amount of \$7,352 of which \$1,220 was from the Hub Senior Center Agency Fund, \$2,107 from the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Fund and \$4,025 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Lincoln School for Enhancing Early Childhood Learning Through Sensory Equipment in the amount of \$775 of which \$733 was from the Hintzsche-Hinkston Classroom Support Fund and \$42 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center for Healthy Minds, Healthy Body Camp in the amount of \$3,000 of which \$243 was funded by the Health and Human Services Fund and \$2,707 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rock River Blood Center for Empowering Donor Care; Supporting A1C Testing in Blood Donations in the amount of \$1,031 of which \$550 was from the Health and Human Services Fund and \$481 from

the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Elementary District #231 -Hub Project for Rocking our Way to Learning in the amount of \$2,500 of which \$1,296 was from the Inspire Learning Fund and \$1,204 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois for Girl Scout Leadership Experience in the amount of \$2,700 of which \$594 was from the Kay and Jim Beardin Community Endowment Fund and \$2,106 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library for Sensory Things-amajigs in the amount of \$3,550 of which \$858 was from the Jeffrey W. Cole Family Memorial Fund and \$2,692 from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Serenity Hospice and Home for Holiday Meals in the amount of \$500 which was fully funded by the Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund.

Serenity Hospice and Home for Hope and Healing Bereavement Retreat in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Northern Illinois Food Bank for Mobile Market in the amount of \$8,000 of which \$7,857 was funded by the Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund and \$143 was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scouts of America for Helping Youth Lead the Way-Scouting in Rochelle in the amount of \$2,000 of which \$1,372 was funded by Youth in Philanthropy and \$628 was from the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Community Action Network-CAN for CAN-Annual Christmas Shopping Trip in the amount of \$7,500 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Hope of Ogle County



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

RACF offers an opportunity for individuals, families and businesses to leave a legacy for future generations and is a public, charitable organization designed to attract gifts that will be shared with Rochelle-area nonprofit organizations for the benefit of the community.

for Community Outreach/Marketing /Education in the amount of \$5,000 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Creston-Dement Public Library for Autism Sensory Project for Children in the amount of \$1,600 which was fully funded by RACF Endowment Fund.

Camp Cedar, Illinois for Camp Cedar in the amount of \$2,500 which was funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery for Rochelle Recovery Support Services Center in the amount of \$2,000 which was funded by the RAC Endowment Fund.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival for Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in the amount of \$2,000 which was funded by the RAC Endowment Fund.

Creston Booster Club for Making Our House Accessible to Everyone in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the RAC Endowment Fund.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for Affordable Housing for Older Adults in the amount of

\$2,500 which was fully funded by the RAC Endowment Fund.

Stepping Stones Preschool for Let’s Get Ready for Kindergarten in the amount of \$1,682 which was fully funded by the RAC Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Township High School for Immerse Yourself in a Good Book in the amount of \$2,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Farmworkers and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP) for FLAP Immigration Support and Outreach for Low-wage Workers in the Rochelle Area in the amount of \$5,000 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 for Dual Language Immersion Program at Tilton School in the

amount of \$438 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

District #231 for Project Hub-Futbolistas in the amount of \$307 which was fully funded by the RACF Endowment Fund.

Rochelle Police Department in the amount of \$534 from the Ron “Stoney” Stonebreaker Police and Fire Memorial Fund.

Rochelle Fire Department in the amount of \$534 from the Ron “Stoney” Stonebreaker Police and Fire Memorial Fund.

Todd Ackland Legacy Fund in the amount of \$450.

Livingston Bible Church Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$4,809.

RTHSEF Endowment for Education in the amount of \$1,445.

Rochelle United Methodist Church Endowment Fund in the amount of \$2,372.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Gary Howard Gunn

BIRCHWOOD, Wis. — Gary Howard Gunn, Age 82, of Birchwood, WI, died Saturday, May 3, 2025 at his home. He was born on March 15, 1943 in Rockford, Illinois to Howard and Anne (Gustafson) Gunn. Gary graduated from Rochelle Township High School in Rochelle, Illinois in 1962. He was married to Sheron Gustafson on September 8, 1962 in Esmond, Illinois. Gary worked for Edward Hines Lumber Company for 14 years in Kirkland, Illinois as a plant manager in the door division. He enjoyed fishing, woodworking, and mowing the lawn. He is survived by his wife, Sheron Gunn; 2 daughters, Teresa (Dave) Carter and Tina Fleck; 4 grandchildren, Wesley, Emily, Ian and Hunter; 4 great grandchildren, Degan, Delaney, Evan and Thea; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Anne Gunn; a brother, Bruce Gunn; and a sister, Marlene Linn. A private family service will be held. Appleyard's Home for Funerals in Rice Lake, WI is assisting and serving the family with the arrangements.



brother, Bruce Gunn; and a sister, Marlene Linn.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On May 2 at 6:51 p.m. deputies and Polo EMS/Fire were dispatched to the area of 13,000 West Canada Road in rural Polo for the report of an ATV accident. After an investigation, a 15-year-old male juvenile from Polo was found to be traveling west bound in the 13,000 block of West Canada Road on an ATV with a 13-year-old male juvenile passenger from Polo, before losing control on the gravel road. A 17-year-old male juvenile was following the ATV on a dirt bike. The 15-year-old male driver was transported to OSF Saint Katharine's Medical Center in Dixon by Polo EMS for his injuries. The 13-year-old male juvenile passenger was not injured. The 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a citation for no valid driver's license, and was released to a parent. The crash remains under investigation.

On May 2 at 3:54 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 100 block of West Roosevelt Street, for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Nolan Wortman, 25, of Stillman Valley, was arrested on an active Winnebago County warrant. Wortman was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

On May 3 at 4:23 p.m. deputies were dispatched to a property damage crash in the area of 2000 West Mud Creek Road. The reporting party stated the offending vehicle, a brown Chevrolet Silverado, had left the scene east-bound. The brown Chevrolet was stopped in the area of West Mud Creek Road and North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Shannan Johnson, 55, of Rochelle, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Johnson was also charged with possession of concealed firearm with expired conceal firearm license and possession of concealed firearm under the influence of alcohol. Johnson was additionally cited for leaving the scene, operating uninsured motor vehicle, and illegal transport of alcohol by driver. Johnson was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was processed and released with a future court date.

On May 4 at approximately 1:31 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of North Mount Morris Road and West Townline Road. After an investigation, Cole C. Bishop, 34, of Mt. Morris, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Bishop was also cited for an improper turn at an intersection and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC over .08. Bishop was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear.

On May 5 at approximately 4 p.m. deputies were called to the Rolling Meadows Trailer Park in Davis Junction in reference to a threat. After an investigation, deputies charged Joseph Simmons, 32, of Davis Junction, with disorderly conduct. Simmons was given a notice to appear for his charge and will go to court on May 23.

On May 5 at approximately 11:26 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies cited Shaylee Rainwater, 28, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended, no insurance, and no registration. Rainwater was given a notice to appear on her citations and released from the scene.

On May 5 at approximately 2:33 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies cited Markqual Cole, 34, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended and suspended registration. Cole was given a notice to appear on his citations with a court date of May 23.

On May 5 at approx-



imately 6 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, Richard Rodriguez, 36, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license suspended and for two active Rockford PD warrants for domestic battery. Rodriguez was additionally cited for no insurance and improper display of registration. Rodriguez was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was given a notice to appear for driving on a suspended license. Rodriguez was left in custody on the warrant with no bond.

On May 5 at approximately 3:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at 2nd Street and Market Street in Byron. After investigation, deputies placed Charles Littard, 35, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Littard was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 6 at approximately 7:18 a.m. Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,500 block of South Illinois Route 2. After investigation, Kenneth Wolf, 45, of Rock Falls, was arrested for driving while license suspended and for an active Lee County warrant for failure to appear. Wolf was additionally cited for no insurance and suspended registration. Wolf was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was given a notice to appear with a return court date for driving on a suspended license. Wolf was detained on the Lee County warrant.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ogle County was represented by six local youth who competed in the Northwest Regional Competition for Illinois 4-H Horse Speaking, Horse Bowl, and Hippology earlier this month and were rewarded for their efforts.

Ogle County youth rank high at state 4-H horse contests

OREGON — Ogle County was represented by six local youth who competed in the Northwest Regional Competition for Illinois 4-H Horse Speaking, Horse Bowl, and Hippology earlier this month and were rewarded for their efforts. This was their first time competing in the State 4-H Horse Speaking contest. The 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology allow youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting. These contests provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators. Youth work as a team to answer questions and compete against other teams in the same class, and individually to answer questions. Some 4-H'ers also complete a written exam based on their knowledge. 4-H Horse Speaking contests help youth gain self-confidence, courage, and persuasiveness; share ideas with others; and develop the ability to speak publicly to inform others about horse-related subjects and the 4-H Horse project.

The Junior Horse Bowl team placed second in the state of Illinois. The team consisted of members Adalyn Bocker, Kenzie Hongsermeier, Lily Hongsermeier, and Stella Lombardo. Adalyn Bocker also placed fourth overall in points individually for Horse Bowl, and Kenzie Hongsermeier placed fourth. Adalyn Bocker placed fourth in Intermediate Hippology, and Addison Yordy placed eighth. Lily Hongsermeier placed third in Junior Interpretive Reading for the Horse Speaking Contest, while Kenzie Hongsermeier placed eighth. Adalyn Bocker & Addison Yordy had the third place Junior Team Presentation, while Addison Diehl placed eighth in Junior Individual Presentation. Congratulations to all, Ogle County is very proud of your achievements!



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On May 5 at Rochelle Township High School Honors Night, Rochelle Police Department Officers Ryan Kovacs and Jim Jakymiw awarded the Tammy Kovacs Memorial Scholarship to Isabella Chavez, a student at RTHS.

Tammy Kovacs Memorial Scholarship presented to Chavez

ROCHELLE — On May 5 at Rochelle Township High School Honors Night, Rochelle Police Department Officers Ryan Kovacs and Jim Jakymiw awarded the Tammy Kovacs Memorial Scholarship to Isabella Chavez, a student at RTHS. The scholarship was created in 2024 by Officer Kovacs in memory of his mother, Tammy Kovacs, who passed away from breast cancer in 2015. Students were asked to submit an essay on how breast cancer has impacted their lives. Isabella was chosen as the recipient of the \$500 scholarship and it will be used to continue her education at Northern Illinois University. The scholarship was part of the money raised by officers during the month of October for the Pink Patch Project and breast cancer awareness.

ROCHELLE

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News-Leader Main Switchboard

(815) 562-4171

General Manager

(815) 561-2124

Newsroom Staff

Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor (815) 561-2151

Russ Hodges, Sports rhodges@rochellenews-leader.com

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Kelly White (815) 562-4171

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ON THE FARM

Spring rain helping some Illinois livestock pastures

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

WITH warmer temperatures and April showers, Illinois' livestock are welcoming greener pastures in many areas.

But recent rains have helped some and hurt others, according to University of Illinois Extension Beef Specialist Travis Meteer, who noted southern Illinois is too wet while portions of northern and central Illinois are still highlighted on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"Those areas that were dry and now received moisture are growing grass and likely pastures are improving," Meteer told FarmWeek. "Areas that are too wet likely have pastures that are drowned in some areas and tracked up if grazing has started." He said moisture is

usually a good thing for pastures, but consistent heavy rains have oversaturated soil in some areas and too much water can cause flooding issues in low-lying pasture areas.

Other inconsistencies early in the season are likely a result of different management.

"Overgrazed, poorly managed pastures from last year are likely struggling to reestablish, while well managed pastures are off to the races now with moisture and warmer temps," Meteer said.

As of April 21, USDA rated Illinois pasture conditions 3% poor, 33% fair, 40% good and 24% excellent. The good to excellent rating was up 18 percentage points from the prior week, but 6 points below the same week last season.

Meteer said the alfalfa hay crop is off to a strong

start and growth is ahead of schedule in many central Illinois fields.

"I have heard of some winterkill in northern Illinois, which stayed open and cold whereas central Illinois was snow-covered during the most extreme cold," he said. "There are some early reports of weevil damage in southern Illinois."

And Meteer reminds growers, "While rainfall and weather are a major component of forage production and yield, proper management using rotational grazing and rest periods will allow graziers to maximize grazing days no matter the conditions."

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



(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON OF FARMWEEK)

Cattle graze on a pasture in Ford County. Statewide, pasture conditions were rated 64% good to excellent, 33% fair and 3% poor as of April 21.

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(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON OF FARMWEEK)

While the corn/soybean ratio has leaned toward corn so far this year, budget estimates suggest beans could still be more profitable in many regions of the state this season.

Projected budgets show soybeans more profitable than corn

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

WHILE the national consensus points to better corn returns compared to soybeans this season, that might not be the case for farmers in the No. 1 soybean producing state. USDA's prospective plantings report predicted a 5% increase in corn acres and 4% decrease in soybean acres in the U.S. this planting season.

"I would note that much of the increase in corn acres is happening in the Great Plains and the western Corn Belt in states like Iowa and Nebraska and less so in the eastern Corn Belt," University of Illinois ag economist Gary Schnitkey told FarmWeek.

The acreage shift in Illinois is projected to be lighter with 3% fewer soybean acres and 3% more

corn acres.

But while market movements in recent months have generally favored corn, Schnitkey said projected per-acre returns continue to favor soybeans across regions of Illinois.

The U of I farm doc team's projected soybean return advantage of \$39 per acre in central Illinois for 2025 is based on projected cash prices of \$4.10 per bushel for corn and \$10 for soybeans.

Projected soybean returns also exceed corn returns by \$47 per acre in northern Illinois and \$14 per acre in southern Illinois, according to farm doc's updated budgets.

"Part of that is due to cost increases and specifically nitrogen costs having a pretty big impact on corn," Schnitkey said.

Soybean yields are also higher in Illinois compared

to states further west, which helps the local soybean balance sheet.

"We've had such an increase in soybean yields over time that soybeans stack in there pretty well with corn," Schnitkey said.

But, with most inputs purchased and planting season underway, significant adjustments to acreage decisions aren't likely in the weeks ahead. However, spring weather and planting conditions, along with ongoing market developments, will continue to be monitored as those factors have the potential to cause smaller shifts in planted acreage.

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LOCAL VIEWS

How Democrats can become the party of the American people

THE following is part of a speech I made recently to the ABT (Action for a Better Tomorrow), an affiliate of the Democratic Party in Lee County. I introduced myself as “a moderate liberal, an independent who reliably votes Democratic,” and presented ideas about how to communicate with moderates and conservatives.

The history of both parties has often been one of failing to speak in the language of persuadable voters, overinterpreting mandates, enacting policies that the public isn’t ready to accept; and then suffering defeat at the next election. The Democratic Party came to an end of this cycle last November. The Republican Party is now at stage one, as it institutes one unpopular policy after another, under the delusion that it has a mandate. The Democratic Party must in my opinion escape that cycle if it

hopes to be the voice of the American people.

An understanding of the moral values of liberals and conservatives might help bring about that transformation. Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt identifies, based on his research, six moral foundations that motivate people’s religious and political loyalties.

The difference between liberals and conservatives comes down, he says, to which of them they care about the most. Genetics play a strong role in these preferences, which have deep roots in the instinct-driven cores of our minds.

Liberals focus on three moral foundations: One is “fairness” and another is “liberty.” But most of all liberals emphasize “caring,” or what I would call kindness, or a desire to protect people from harm.

Conservatives support all of those plus three more: One of them is

“loyalty,” the need for the community to stick together against outsiders. Another is “authority,” the importance of respect for and obedience to those who are above us. Conservatives also support “sanctity,” which upholds purity and distrusts outside influences.

Loyalty, authority, and sanctity reflect, as I see it, a desire for a strong society that provides a safe place for its people.

Conservatives, according to Mr. Haidt, value all six moral foundations equally. Liberals, on the other hand, show little if any concern for loyalty, authority, and sanctity, and concentrate almost exclusively on caring and fairness, and, to a lesser extent, liberty. The liberal disregard for authority, loyalty, and sanctity increases the farther we look to the left

on the political spectrum, along with an increasing inability to understand and communicate effectively with conservatives.

This presents a challenge to be overcome if Democrats are to get their message across to a broad segment of the public and expand their base of support. Indeed, Mr. Haidt attributes the political successes of conservatives over the past several decades to their ability to appeal to the full range of moral foundations, and the inability of Democrats and other liberals to do so.

We won’t overcome this barrier by using logical arguments based on our own moral foundations and our own version of reality. We can, however, enlist conservatives in support of change if we work from within their worldview, including the

moral foundations that they cherish. Researchers found, for example, that describing LGBTQ people to conservatives as “proud and patriotic Americans who contribute to the American economy” significantly increased their support for same-sex marriage, while appeals to “fairness” had no effect.

This is not a panacea, but it is a part of what we must do to reach the persuadables who voted for Donald Trump in the last election. These are the moderates and non-MA-GA conservatives who will listen to reason if it’s expressed in their language and with respect for their values. These are the people who can make the Democratic Party the party of the nation as a whole.

I believe that Democrats can aggressively oppose the policies of Donald Trump while also communicating ef-

fectively with moderates and conservatives. That will require us to express opposition in a manner that won’t alienate those voters and won’t energize the MAGA base.

Underneath it all is the need for civility—principled opposition that respects the humanity of everyone and doesn’t ridicule or demonize people we disagree with. Abraham Lincoln is my role model for that approach: He made it clear where he stood without resorting to uncivil words and behavior. How we express ourselves in the months and years ahead will be as important as our message.

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in *The Ogle County Life*. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

Sarah Flanagan: Level up at your library

SUMMER Reading information will be coming out soon. Our theme this year is, *Level Up at Your Library*. “Play is one of the ways we learn to relate to others, to think in new ways, and to foster friendships, new and old. *Level Up at Your Library* is an all ages summer reading program based around puzzles and games. Whether you’re playing with STEM concepts or gamifying your reading logs, learning to play chess or how to code video games, *iREAD 2025: Level Up at Your Library* reminds us that libraries are not just a space for knowledge, they are a space for fun!”

<https://www.ireadprogram.org/resources/summer-2025-level-up-at-your-library>) The Library staff is excited to see you at the Library this Summer. We have many fun activities planned for all ages. Look for our flyers soon.

May is a busy time at the Library. We are getting ready for Summer Reading programs, planting our flower beds, barrels and ordering new books and supplies for Summer. Even though we feel that there is no time to spare, I like to take a moment to remember Memorial Day.

“This national event galvanized efforts to honor and remember

fallen soldiers that began with local observances at burial grounds in several towns throughout the United States following the end of the Civil War, such as the May 1, 1865 gathering in Charleston, South Carolina organized by freed slaves to pay tribute and give proper burial to Union troops.

In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. By the late 1800s, many more cities and communities observed Memorial Day, and several states had declared it a legal

holiday.

After World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America’s wars and was then more widely established as a national holiday throughout the United States.

In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day is commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each



Sarah Flanagan

grave. Traditionally, the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.” (<https://www.pbs.org/national-remorial-day-concert/memorial-day/history/>)

April 30 was a special day at the Library. Mr. Gene Chaplin, who was a Library Board Member from 1997-2011 came to the Library. Gene and his wife Bea, donated an American Flag and Certificate to the Library that was flown over the U.S. Capital in Washington, D.C. on June 21, 1994. Congressman John Myers presented this to Gene. I was honored and humbled to receive such a beautiful gift.

We are looking forward to a fabulous Summer at the Library. Make sure to look for our Summer Reading flyer and join our activities. The Library has something for everyone. Take some time to think about Memorial Day and the meaning of this National Holiday. Many people look at Memorial Day weekend as the start of Summer. Remember the lives lost and what we can learn from our country’s history. We have a variety of materials for everyone. Come in and check us out. See you at the Library!

Sarah Flanagan is the director of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library.

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Rosaelia Arteaga rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott dmdermott@rochelleil.us
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Benjamin Valdivieso bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board
*Steve Builta [sbuiltat@d231.rochelle.net](mailto:sbuilta@d231.rochelle.net)
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
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Evan Tracy etracy@d231.rochelle.net
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Joel Thompson joel.thompson@rthsd212.org
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Ogle County Board Dist. 3
Austin Gillis agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4
Jackie Ramsey jramsey@oglecounty.org
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*Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net
Justin Hibshman jhibshman20@gmail.com
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman mark@headons2go.com
Reid Elliot oneluckydog7@gmail.com
Jennifer Payton creston.clerk09@gmail.com

Hillcrest Village Board
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Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball tball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski ebraski@hillcrestil.us
Patricia Garcia pgarcia@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township
Sue Messer supervisor@flaggtownship.org
Joanna Patrick clerk@flaggtownship.org
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Kelly Johnson kellyjohnson0927@yahoo.com
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge nit1pri22@yahoo.com
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legibly handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business will not be published. Political endorsements will be published, however

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

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COMMUNITY



RTHS hosted FFA Flower Sale May 3
Rochelle Township High School students hosted their annual FFA Flower Sale on May 3. (Courtesy photo)

VCCT to host youth auditions for ‘Beanstalk! The Play!’

ROCHELLE—Vince Carney Community Theatre (VCCT) is holding auditions for “Beanstalk! The Play!” on Monday, May 12 from 4-6 p.m. and again on Thursday, May 15 from 6-8 p.m. The auditions will be conducted at the Lincoln Arts Center, 108 S. Main St. in Rochelle. Please enter through the back door. Those wishing to audition are only expected to attend one of the two nights.

“Beanstalk! The Play!” follows the adventures of Jack as he sets out to find the treasure and save his family. The directors need 12 or more youth performers to play an assortment of small, medium, and larger roles. All ages (including parents and other adults) and all genders are welcome to audition. As this show marks the return of children’s theatre to the VCCT stage, every effort will be made to showcase youth performers before any adults are asked to fill roles.

This production of “Beanstalk! The Play!” is being directed by Jeanette D. Mingus. Show dates are July 25, 26, 27 and Aug. 1 & 2. Individuals who are cast will be expected to attend the majority of rehearsals from mid-June through the opening of the show, as well as all live performances.

The auditions will involve individual and group readings. Call backs will be scheduled only if necessary. Please come prepared to read something you have already practiced--this can be memorized or read from print and should take no more than five (5) minutes to perform.

For questions or comments, please send an email to info@vcctrochelle.org.



- Apr. 11 - John Bearrows, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 12 - Connor Macklin, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 13 - Linda Ohlinger, Rochelle, \$50
- Apr. 14 - Mona Daum, Dixon, \$25
- Apr. 15 - Jillian Condon, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 16 - Jayme McCombs, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 17 - Ida Maeial, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 18 - Ellyn Schoenholz, Paw Paw, \$25
- Apr. 19 - Marina Lawrence, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 20 - John Bearrows, Rochelle, \$300
- Apr. 21 - John Pearson, Lindenwood, \$25
- Apr. 22 - Alyssa Perez, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 23 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 24 - Diane Smith, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 25 - Eva Lenkaitis, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 26 - Odessa Waters, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 27 - Dawn Sperry-Gribbe, Ashton, \$50
- Apr. 28 - Janie Hughes, Oregon, \$25
- Apr. 29 - Chelsey Stolte, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 30 - Beth Costa-Bland, Belvidere, \$25
- May 1 - Joseph Young, Creston, \$25
- May 2 - Andrea DeKing, Rochelle, \$25
- May 3 - Kim Dale, Amboy, \$25
- May 4 - Colton VanKirk, Rochelle, \$50
- May 5 - Hiedi Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
- May 6 - Donna Nass, Rochelle, \$25
- May 7 - Keaton Shumard, Rochelle, \$25

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| May 7
Barb Aleman
Darah Bridgeman | May 10
Dominic Lopez | May 16
Kathy Conant | May 18
Arianna Thompson |
| May 8
Ashley Martinez | May 12
Bill & Mary Baskins
(anniversary) | May 17
Krynn Hayward | May 20
Darrell &
Beth Bolhous
(anniversary) |

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7 Done with
11 Secular
13 Collection
14 Water carrier
15 Airline to Tel Aviv
16 ET's craft
17 Dutch cheese
18 Ersatz chocolate
20 One-named supermodel
22 Tree fluid
24 Trombone parts
28 Grassy tract
32 January, to Juan
33 Grassy area
34 Shade provider
36 FBI guy
37 Alpha's opposite
39 "The Hunger Games" heroine
41 Dance clubs
43 Prefix with athlete
44 Tom Joad, for one
46 Urged (on)
50 Hive population
53 Schlep
55 Luau dance

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2 In — land
3 Deceitful person
4 Terre Haute sch.
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6 Molecule parts
7 Exciting Broadway event
8 YouTube clip, for short
9 Clean air org.
10 "The One I Love" band
12 Loan application fees
19 "Cheers" setting
21 Pub order
23 Bakery purchase
25 Singer Lovato
26 Historic periods
27 Male children
28 Trudge
29 Actor Malek
30 Dazzles
31 Caribou kin
35 Yoga pad
38 Fine, to NASA
40 Italian "three"
42 Farm towers
45 Franc replacement
47 Sudden wind
48 Flair
49 Scurry
50 German auto
51 Shoe width
52 Have breakfast
54 Solidify

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♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging
♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!
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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **F** equals **N**

FEJY XZ EF XGPAXVXFPKU
IGXUYVNGY IYGZXGJYV BAYF
JXMEGQ EGY PXX UMXQY
PXSPAYG: PYYPA BKVYFKFS.

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King Crossword
Solution time: 22 mins.
Answers
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Weekly SUDOKU
Answers

CryptoQuip
answer
Name of an orthodontic procedure performed when molars are too close together: Teeth widening.

LOCAL NEWS

DOWNTOWN MURAL: Chicago artist Ferrarell completes work on April 20

From page 1

Ferrarell found the hub design in an old Rochelle Township High School yearbook. The skydiver is depicted to represent something more modern and new in town.

"I do as much research as possible to be familiar with the area and its history," Ferrarell said. "It's

about respect and kindness and being open to what people think. I want to give people something they can enjoy."

The process of painting the mural involving priming the wall, taping off negative space and making out a grid, the use of an overhead projector at night to project the image onto the wall

and drawing out the design, filling in color and detail, and then a sealant to protect it against time and weather in the years ahead. Ferrarell combated wind and rain in the five days he painted the mural.

Ferrarell said his work on murals in communities around the country helps him to take on dif-

ferent perspectives and become more worldly.

"It feels good to give communities a point of pride," Ferrarell said. "I love the responses the murals get. It feels good to give them something that's going to last that represents the past and present. And it can be a bridge to the future and more creativity."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Chicago artist Michael Ferrarell found the hub design in an old Rochelle Township High School yearbook.

2025 Crop marketing program scheduled June 18

ROCK FALLS — The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of June 18 at the Days Inn, Rock Falls. "Managing

Crop Revenue and Market Price Risks" is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions to capture profit margins

through this year into next.

Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the Farm & Ag Business Management specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999.

He specializes in topics

related to government farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing, grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance.

Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually he reaches more than 200,000 producers, landowners and other agribusiness professionals.

During the two-hour program producers will

examine the following topics: Global Supply/Demand & Crop Price Outlook; Crop Insurance Coverage Review; Impact of Tariffs on US Trade; Developing & Implementing a Marketing Plan; Understanding Summer Weather Forecasts; and Pre-Harvest Marketing Strategies & Tools.

This presentation will assist producers in designing and implementing a marketing plan that is specific to their own operation. It will present producers with various options they can effectively utilize to capture market profits, manage market risks in this volatile market, minimize cost increases and make informed decisions on input pricing, storage options and position their marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations.

Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net

The program begins at 7 p.m. on June 18; Days Inn, Rock Falls.

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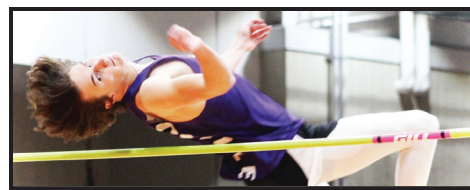
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SPORTS



CARTHAGE BOUND

RTHS senior Jack Tilton will compete for the Carthage men's track and field team.

See page 8 for more details

RTHS Boys Track

Hubs win Hall of Fame Classic

Nuyen earns Co-MVP honors as Rochelle finishes first in Friday meet at Oregon

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OREGON — The Rochelle Hub track and field team earned its first victory in a large-scale invitational on Friday, when the varsity group scored 95 points and won a pair of field events to take first out of 22 schools in the Oregon Hall of Fame Classic at Landers-Loomis Field.

Junior Andrew Nuyen received Co-MVP honors for the meet and broke a 22-year-old meet record in the pole vault, winning the event with a clearance of 5.03 meters (16 feet 6 inches). Senior Jack Tilton added a victory in the high jump, winning the event with a clearance of 1.88 meters. Rochelle will travel north for the Northern Illinois Invitational at Beloit College on May 9.

Junior Caden Goodwin and senior Virgil O'Dell earned runner-up finishes in the field, with O'Dell marking a PR of 6.22 meters for second in the long jump and Goodwin leaping 12.53 meters for

second in the triple jump. Seniors Jacob Ost and Logan Frye led the way in the throwing events, with Ost marking 12.11 meters for eighth in the shot put and Frye marking 34.23 meters for 11th place in the discus throw. Rochelle recorded two top-4 relay finishes on Friday evening.

"I'm really proud of our guys stepping up in their events to score points," head coach Dale Bergeson said. "We've beat our seeds in multiple places. What won us the meet was all of the fifth and sixth-place finishers. They scored enough points to keep us in the lead. We scored in 15 of the 16 events and double scored in a lot of those events. It was great to finally get a win in a big invite this year. We've been second in multiple invites this year and tonight we got it done."

Rochelle's top relay finishes included fourth place in the 3200-meter relay (Elijah Mayen, Chris Hickey, Pedro Rosales and



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub track and field team finished first out of 22 teams during the Oregon Hall of Fame Classic at Landers-Loomis Field on Friday evening.

Declan McGee) with a time of 8:53.00 and fourth in the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Virgil O'Dell, Nathan Rosas and Richard Pierce) with a time of 44.36 seconds. The Hubs placed sixth in the 800-meter relay (Jaden Martina, Aaron DeClerck, Justin DeClerck and Nathan Rosas) with a time of 1:35.49 and seventh in the 1600-meter relay

(Pedro Rosales, Declan McGee, Jackson Smith and Hunter Bivins) with a time of 3:39.01.

Junior Wyatt Worthington and sophomore Hunter Bivins led the Hubs in the hurdles, with Worthington setting a season-best time of 17.13 seconds for fourth in the 110-meter hurdles and Bivins finishing in 42.15 seconds for second in the 300-meter hurdles.

Freshman Tyler Johnson took third in the 3200-meter run with a PR time of 10:08.97, nine seconds off the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph school record, before finishing seventh in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:52.47.

Junior Caden Goodwin and freshman Nathan Rosas each earned seventh-place finishes in the sprints, with Goodwin

setting a PR time of 11.61 seconds in the 100-meter dash before Rosas ran a PR time of 23.58 seconds in the 200-meter dash. Senior Virgil O'Dell made a PR as well, crossing the finish line in 54.55 seconds for sixth place in the 400-meter dash. Junior Elijah Mayen led Rochelle in the 800-meter run, running a time of 2:15.56 for 14th place.

RTHS Boys Tennis

Rochelle takes third in Hub Varsity Invitational

Four RTHS netters earn medalist honors during five-team tournament Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Four Rochelle Hub tennis players earned medals during the annual Hub Varsity Invitational at Rochelle Township High School on Saturday, when the varsity team scored 15 points and recorded three runner-up divisional finishes to take third out of five schools.

Junior Mark Green finished second at No. 1 singles, going 3-1 over four matches. Green split his first two matches of the tournament, shutting out Mendota's Alex Holland 8-0 before falling 4-8 against Sterling Newman's Joel Rhodes. Green finished with back-to-back victories, beating Princeton's Chase Sims 9-7 before sweeping Dixon's Will Lindenmeyer 8-0 in the final round.

Junior Philip Winters finished second at No. 2 singles, going 3-1 over four matches. Winters won three consecutive matches to start the tournament, scoring an 8-3 victory over Mendota's Berat Imeri before earning an 8-2 victory over Dixon's Jack McGrail and an 8-1 victory over Sterling Newman's Brooks Knudson. Winters squared off against Princeton's Landon Davis for the divisional championship, falling just short in a 3-8 defeat during the fifth and final round.

McKinney and freshman David Eckardt united for a second-place finish at No. 2 doubles, going 3-1 over four matches. The Hubs opened the tournament with a 9-8(6) thriller over Princeton's Jack Orwig and Levi Boggs before cruising for an 8-2 win over Mendota's BJ Bresley and Ryder Woods. After a 6-8 defeat against Dixon's Derek Miller and Sam Gingras, the RTHS duo finished strong with an 8-2 win over Sterling Newman's Max Williar and James Stitt.

Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Sam Sergeant took fourth at No. 3 doubles, going 2-2 over four matches. The Hubs dropped their first two matches, falling 5-8 against Princeton's Nolan Anderson and Landon Fairbanks and 3-8 against Mendota's Harlan Gallagher and Trey Lee. The RTHS duo bounced back with a pair of victories, outlasting Dixon's Josh Stees and Quinn Flanagan 9-7 before sweeping Sterling Newman's John Rowzee and Matt Murray 8-0.

Junior Caleb Mortensen and sophomore Connor Hunley finished fifth at No. 1 doubles with an 0-4 record over four matches. Rochelle (3-7, 1-3 Interstate 8) resumed match play at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, when the Hubs hosted an Interstate 8 Conference dual against



The Rochelle Hub tennis team had four players medal during the 2025 Hub Varsity Invitational at RTHS on Saturday. Juniors Philip Winters and Mark Green (left) each took second in singles play, while freshman David Eckardt and sophomore Noah McKinney (right) took second in the No. 2 doubles division.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Ottawa.

Sterling

Junior Mark Green and sophomore Sam Sergeant stepped up in singles play as the Rochelle Hubs laced up for their nonconference varsity match against Sterling on Thursday.

Green and Sergeant secured singles points at the top two courts, with Green outlasting Aron Rivera for a 7-5, 4-6, 1-0(6) win at the No. 1 slot and

Sergeant rallying for a 2-6, 6-1, 1-0(8) win over Gavin Staats at the No. 2 slot. The Golden Warriors took the remainder of the singles points and swept three doubles points, however, handing the Hubs a 7-2 defeat.

Junior Caleb Mortensen and sophomore Connor Hunley represented Rochelle at No. 1 doubles, taking three games in an 0-6, 3-6 loss against Micah Peterson and Gavin Staats. Sophomore Noah

McKinney and freshman David Eckardt took their No. 2 doubles match to three sets, falling just short in a 6-1, 3-6, 0-1(6) loss against Koby Bell and Jacob Prevo as Sterling secured the doubles sweep. Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Sam Sergeant claimed four games in a 1-6, 3-6 loss against Xavian Prather and Bowen Mallhi at the No. 3 doubles court.

Connor Hunley and David Eckardt took the court

at No. 3 and No. 4 singles for the Hubs, with Hunley notching three games during a 2-6, 1-6 loss against Xavian Prather while Eckardt played a strong opening set during a 5-7, 1-6 loss against Micah Peterson. Sophomore Amor Lara and Derek Swartz rounded out Rochelle's singles lineup, with Lara falling 3-6, 0-6 against Jereston Falls at the No. 5 spot and Swartz falling 0-6, 1-6 to Trairen Falls at the No. 6 spot.

SPORTS

RTHS Girls Track

Rochelle finishes fifth at Sterling Night Relays

Murphy sets new school shot put record to lead Lady Hubs in eight-team meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team saw its varsity and fresh-soph athletes combine to score 41 points and finish fifth out of eight schools during the Sterling Night Relays on Friday evening. Senior Erin Murphy brought home the team's lone event victory, improving her school record in the shot put with a heave

of 11.79 meters (38 feet 8 1/4 inches). Senior Taelynn Rodeghero earned three top-10 finishes in the field, taking sixth in the long jump with a distance of 4.39 meters, eighth in the triple jump with a distance of 9.13 meters and seventh in the high jump with a clearance of 1.39 meters. Junior Samantha Overton led the Lady Hubs in the pole vault, finishing eighth with a clearance of 2.21 meters.

Sophomore Elyse Manning recorded Rochelle's top finish in the triple jump, marking 9.23 meters for seventh. Rochelle's strongest relay group was the 1600-meter relay (Gwendolyn O'Dell, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning and Kyrie Cragin), which took second with a time of 4:20.99. The Lady Hubs placed sixth in the 400-meter relay (Rylee Bogle, Zoe Malley, Valerie Saldana and Katie Toczykowski) with a

time of 54.99 seconds and sixth in the 800-meter relay (Elyse Manning, Gwendolyn O'Dell, Alex Neece and Kyrie Cragin) with a time of 1:52.77. Rochelle opened the meet with a seventh-place performance in the 3200-meter relay (Marley Cherry, Rose Luxton, Carol Carpenter and Kyrie Cragin), crossing the finish line with a time of 10:54.46. At the fresh-soph level, Rochelle finished fifth in

the 400-meter relay (Elyse Manning, Zoey Schabacker, Kaliyah Cathina and Gwendolyn O'Dell) with a time of 53.32 seconds, fifth in the 1600-meter SMR (Reese Kissack, Kaliyah Cathina, Dylan Etes and Marley Cherry) with a time of 5:06.08 and sixth in the 800-meter relay (Zoey Schabacker, Reese Kissack, Dylan Etes and Kaliyah Cathina) with a time of 1:59.15. Rochelle's throwers took fourth place

in the 400-meter throwers relay (Maddie Peska, Aliyah Bonilla, Aaliyah Losoya and Makayla Ludwig) in 1:10.22. Sophomore Jasmine Walsh led the Lady Hubs in the hurdle events, setting PRs to finish fifth in the 100-meter hurdles (17.94 seconds) and seventh in the 300-meter hurdles (52.43 seconds). Freshman Carol Carpenter led Rochelle in the 1600-meter run, placing 13th in 6:00.85.

RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



Rochelle Lady Hubs score nonconference road victory against Rockford Lutheran on Saturday morning

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team turned in a 4-0 shutout victory during its nonconference varsity road match against Rockford Lutheran on Saturday, May 3. Senior Makayla Lara scored two goals, while freshman Morgan DeLille and senior Emma Kennay each added one goal for the Lady Hubs (7-12, 1-7 Interstate 8), who ended a five-game losing streak with the win. Above, freshman Paige Harris (left) dribbles past defender Cali Conner and senior Emma Kennay (right) kicks the ball forward as Lily Maguire gives chase. Below, freshman Martha Landa (left) sends the ball forward and senior Makayla Lara (right) takes a corner kick for the Lady Hubs.

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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



Rochelle Lady Hubs concede nonconference road loss against DeKalb on Thursday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team found the net twice during its nonconference varsity road match against DeKalb on Thursday, May 1. Senior Jeanette Valle and freshman Abigail Dougherty each scored goals for the Lady Hubs, who allowed three first-half goals during a 3-2 loss to the Barbs. Rochelle (7-11, 1-7 Interstate 8) totaled 10 shots and six shots on goal in the match. Above, senior Betty Flores (left) takes a free kick and freshman Abigail Dougherty (right) holds off a DeKalb defender. Below, senior Yasmin Bahena (left) races DeKalb's Ailany Padilla for the ball and freshman Natalie Foster (right) sends the ball forward.

RTHS Football

2025 Rochelle Football Family Night scheduled for May 13


ROCHELLE — A reminder to all Rochelle football families - Mark your calendars now for the Rochelle Football Family Meeting Night on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the RTHS Auditorium. This meeting is for all families of Rochelle football and any community members who'd like to attend and learn more about the program. The meeting is for both returning families and incoming freshman families. All transitioning eighth grade to freshman football families should plan to attend.

This meeting will serve as the only parent meeting for the 2025 season. We will utilize this meeting to deliver all schedules, receive information regarding summer Hub Power, meet our staff and trainer, learn about our parent group and booster club as well as an in-depth look at our program philosophy and expectations and most importantly, an opportunity to ask questions. The Rochelle Football Family Meeting is an all-inclusive opportunity to deliver all the information

you will need for the 2025 season. You do not want to miss it. So mark your calendar today to attend our Rochelle Football Family Meeting Night on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the RTHS Auditorium.

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Deadline is 2:00PM on Wednesday, May 21.

This special feature will be published on Monday, May 25, 2025.

Photos may be picked up at the Rochelle News-Leader office after the May 25th publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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RTHS Athletics



Signing Day Ceremony set for May 8

Senior Nights scheduled

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School will hold its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony in the main gym on Thursday, May 8 at 2:15 p.m. Additionally, RTHS has announced the Senior Night dates for each of its spring sports programs. Senior Night for the boys and girls teams took place during the

51st Annual Ogle County Invitational on Tuesday, May 6. Softball will host Senior Day against Genoa-Kingston on Saturday, May 10. Girls soccer will host Senior Night against Rockford Auburn on Monday, May 12 and baseball will host Senior Night on Wednesday, May 14 against Ottawa. Boys tennis will host Senior Night on Thursday, May 15 against Sterling Newman.



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SPORTS

Rochelle Little League

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Rochelle Little League holds 2025 Opening Day Ceremony at Floyd J. Tilton Park's Joe Doner Field on Saturday morning
 Rochelle Little League held its 2025 Opening Day Ceremony at Floyd J. Tilton Park on Saturday morning. The annual event included a raffle drawing as well as the Little League pledge from Brayson Boulard (baseball) and Tinley Tabor (softball). Jeff Fiegenschuh and Kristi Gonzales tossed out the ceremonial first pitches and the event concluded with the T-shirt toss.

PET OF THE WEEK

815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org

Mini

Hi there! I'm Mini, and I've got a lot of personality packed into a small package! I may be a little spicy at times, but I promise I'm full of love and curiosity. I like to be the center of attention and will definitely let you know when I've had enough of being doted on - I'm a girl who knows what she wants! I prefer to live in a home with no other pets, so I can have all your love and attention to myself. I'm very curious and always want to know what's going on around me, so be prepared for me to investigate everything you do! I love being talked to - I'll listen to every word and probably chime in with a little meow of my own. If you're looking for a cat with a bold personality who enjoys being the star of the show, I could be your perfect match. I might be spicy, but I promise, I've got a lot of love to give when I'm in the mood. Come meet me and see if we're a perfect match - I can't wait to show you just how much fun I can be!

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
There will be a meeting of the Ogle County Farmland Assessment Review Committee on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 10:00am in the Historic Courthouse Room 319, Oregon Illinois. The committee will discuss the Illinois Department of Revenue's Proposed 2026 farmland assessments, and hold a public hearing to review and adopt the values for Ogle County. The proposed 2026 farmland assessments are 10% above the 2025 values. This meeting is held pursuant to the Illinois Property Tax Code (35ILCS200/10-120) and is open to the public.
Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Black,
Chief County Assessment Officer
No. 0508
(May 7, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

301 ANTIQUES

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

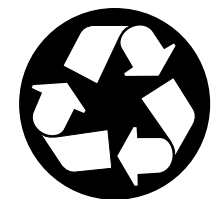
307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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203 HELP WANTED

ROCHELLE News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

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

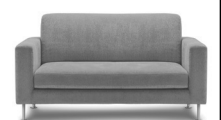
The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

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

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

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

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



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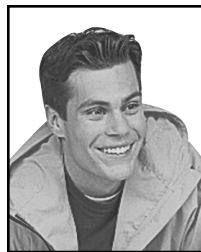
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**Remember your loved one with
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Your courage and
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and laughter.

Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of Memorial Day

The Rochelle News-Leader will publish memorials of those who are gone but not forgotten. This is a wonderful way to remember those dear to us, and share memories.

Tributes include your choice of verse from the right, and an optional photo if submitted.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send this form, a photo and \$12.00 per listing.

These tributes will be published in the special Memorial Day section On May 25, 2025.

Deadline is Wed., May 21 at 2 p.m.

If you wish, select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in God's heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
9. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
10. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
11. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
12. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
13. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
14. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
15. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.

You can email a high quality photo and verse number/message to:
kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com.
Please call 815-562-4171 to arrange payment or pay with this QR Code.



Fill out the form below and drop off or mail to:
Rochelle News-Leader, (Gone, But Not Forgotten), 211 Hwy. 38 East, PO Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068

Name Of Deceased: _____ Verse Number: _____
Relationship To Me: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Passing Date: ____/____/____
Additional Information _____
Your Name _____
Address _____ Phone Number _____
City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
In Lieu of Verse, my message is: _____

203 HELP WANTED



START AN EXCITING NEW JOB WITH THE ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER!

Multimedia Sales Consultant

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Jack Tilton will be continuing his academics and his track and field career at Carthage College next year. Tilton intends to study engineering.

RTHS senior Tilton commits to compete at Carthage College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

JACK Tilton competed in seven different events throughout his freshman track season, but no event drew his attention more than the high jump. The rewarding sensation of clearing the bar and the motivation of his misses have spurred him forward over his four-year career at RTHS.

It took Tilton nearly a full track season to enter the 5-foot range in the high jump, clearing that threshold for the first time in a competitive meet during a dual with Stillman Valley in April 2022. Just over three years later, Tilton is a senior and one of the highest-ranked high jumpers in the state, having cleared a personal record of 6 feet 6 inches at the Rocket Invitational in Rock Falls on April 25. Tilton's PR has increased by almost 2 full feet since the start of his RTHS career.

“I wasn't very great during my freshman year, but I always had good form and I always enjoyed it,” Tilton said. “When I got bigger and a little bit stronger, it became a lot easier... It's a unique event because you always end on a miss, so there's always something that I can improve on and that's a good feeling. It's definitely a really mental event and if you get down on yourself, you aren't going to jump as high and your form and timing will be off. There are a lot of little things and you have to be able to overcome the mental challenges and believe in yourself.”

Tilton will aim for even greater heights at the collegiate level after committing to continue his academics and his track and field career at Carthage College, where he intends to compete in the high jump while studying engineering. An Illinois Top Times Indoor State Meet qualifier this season, Tilton has

totalled 10 high jump victories as a senior, winning the event at three indoor meets and seven outdoor meets. Tilton has cleared 6 feet in all but two of his meets this spring.

“Carthage was the first school to send me a letter,” Tilton said. “It's close and it has a very nice campus. Their athletic facilities are very nice and it was a really welcoming experience there. I've always loved to compete and having the opportunity to compete at a very nice school in one of the tougher conferences in Division III is nice... I want to bring a positive spirit and I want to jump high and win a lot of meets. I love being social and I'm looking to make some friends.”

A well rounded student-athlete who played four years of football and basketball at RTHS, Tilton has been an integral piece of the puzzle for the track and field team, which has defeated four Interstate 8 Conference foes and recorded seven top-3 meets in multi-team invitational this season. Tilton has contributed in the triple jump, holding a PR of 37 feet 8 ¾ inches, as well as both the sprints and the sprint relays during his senior season and throughout his four years with RTHS.

“We have a lot of great competition around here and I've had a lot of great coaches and teammates,” Tilton said. “They've been there for me and it means a lot... I'm excited to keep jumping higher and every time I clear those higher heights, I feel that I have more in the tank.”

Tilton has earned six varsity letters and has received Academic All-Interstate 8 recognition in each of his three sports during his four-year career at RTHS. Tilton will be the second Hub athlete in the last several years to continue his track and field career at Carthage, joining former RTHS track standout Mason DeLille, who currently holds the school triple jump record.

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