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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS      SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025      \$1.25

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**City receives budget award**

The City of Rochelle received the Distinguished Budget Award for the sixth time. **Page 7**

**WEATHER**

 <b>SUNDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>78 45</b>	 <b>MONDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>80 56</b>
 <b>TUESDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>75 61</b>	 <b>WEDNESDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>81 59</b>

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**OBITUARIES**

- SHERYL E. PIROS
- DEBRA LOUISE OLESON

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- OC COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## Rochelle DAR celebrates 125th anniversary

Chapter was established in May 1900: ‘Our mission hasn’t changed’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**CRESTON** — On May 3, the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 125th anniversary at the Creston Opera House. The chapter was organized May 19, 1900 in Rochelle. Artifacts from different periods of the chapter’s history were displayed including the chapter’s charter from June 1900, early record books, and the original membership application of Organizing Regent Josephine Waite Barker from 1896.

The celebration began with an ice cream social, which was followed by a program presented by select chapter members in dress ranging from as early as the Revolutionary War period up to the present time. Presenters also wore attire from the early 1900s, 1920, the 1950s and the 1970s. A requirement of joining DAR is being able to trace your ancestry to a patriot of the American Revolution.

“We had some articles about what the DAR has been involved with in the past 125 years,” Chapter Regent Debby Katzman said. “The organization has supported patriotism, historical preservation and education since its earliest days. That hasn’t changed, and that was great to see. We read the names of all 284 Revolutionary War Patriots associated with the members of Rochelle Chapter. It was well received. It was a great day.”

During the program, the chapter’s history was presented in 25-year blocks by each speaker. The first told how the chapter served in its earliest days. The chapter’s longtime gavel was made in 1902 from branches gathered at Mount Vernon.

“Early in our chapter’s history, we had a group of women go to George Washington’s Mount Vernon in Virginia,” Katzman said. “They saw a



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**On May 3, the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 125th anniversary at the Creston Opera House.**

group cutting limbs off an oak tree and decided to get a piece of the wood and make a gavel out of it for the chapter. I still use that same gavel. It’s been used for over 100 years. The tree was planted by George Washington.”

From 1925-1950, the organization showed concern with the low percentage of women voting after the hard-fought effort for the right to vote, concern about the spread of communism in the 1930s, and provided support to schools. It presented its first DAR Good Citizen award in 1936, which continues to this day.

From 1950-1975, the chapter held pro-

grams on gun rights, Title IX, the Equal Rights Amendment, the Bill of Rights and the Monroe Doctrine. Members visited the families of soldiers fighting in Vietnam, and supported a variety of schools, conservation programs, and scholarships.

From 1975-2000, the chapter dedicated memorial markers at the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers Daniel Day, believed to be the first person buried at Daysville Cemetery near Oregon, and Rufus Perkins, buried at Buffalo Grove Cemetery near Polo.

**See ROCHELLE DAR page 2**

## Rochelle’s Romes marks 65+ years of coaching

“I’ve always told kids, ‘Find something you like to do and make it your career.’”

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — When Don Romes was six years old, he would go down into his basement at night and cut the bottom out of a coffee can and tack it onto the wall and shoot a tennis ball into it.

“I would play imaginary games and even write down the names of the players,” Romes said. “The game would always come down to the end and I’d shoot the free throw for the win.”

That was where Romes’ competitive spirit began. Romes is now 87, and on May 3 the community gathered at The REC Center to celebrate the long-time Rochelle resident’s 65+ year career in coaching sports, including stops at Rochelle Township High School, Steward Elementary School, Freeport Aquin and Sterling Newman. This past year, Romes coached his great-granddaughter in basketball at Steward, which may be the final stop in his decades-long coaching tenure.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**This past year, Don Romes coached his great-granddaughter in basketball at Steward, which may be the final stop in his decades-long coaching tenure.**

Romes grew up in Keokuk, Iowa. He started his coaching and teaching career in Belle Plaine, Iowa in 1960 after college as a basketball head coach and assistant in football and track. After three years there, he moved on to Fort Dodge, Iowa to the same position for four years. After working in Nekoma in central Illinois for a short time, he came to Rochelle Township High School in 1968 as a business teacher and coach.

Over his 26 years at RTHS, Romes served as head boys basketball coach for 16 years, head football coach for two years and 10 years as the football team’s defensive coach, head tennis coach for 14 years and a few years as the sophomore baseball head coach.

**See DON ROMES page 3**



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees saw officials sworn in following the April 1 election.**

## Board members sworn in following election

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**CRESTON** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees saw officials sworn in following the April 1 election.

Sworn in for four-year terms following their reelection were Village President Tom Byro, Trustee Curt Ward and Village Clerk Jennifer Payton. Trustee Greg Hopkins was also sworn in for a two-year term following his reelection. Justin Hibshman was also elected to a four-year trustee term on April 1 but was absent Tuesday and will be sworn in at a later date. Hibshman takes the seat of

Steve Katzman, who did not seek reelection.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Reid Elliot to serve as a trustee for the next two years. Elliot was previously appointed to the board but his seat was not voted on in the April 1 election.

## Storm sewer

Village Engineer Kevin Bunge said during the meeting that bids will be opened on May 9 for an upcoming storm sewer project in Creston. The project will consist of 36-inch storm sewer pipe being put in to replace broken drain tile and improve drainage in Creston.

**See CRESTON pg 5**

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# LOCAL NEWS



The chapter was organized May 19, 1900 in Rochelle. Artifacts from different periods of the chapter's history were displayed including the chapter's charter from June 1900, early record books, and the original membership application of Organizing Regent Josephine Waite Barker from 1896.

## ROCHELLE DAR: Local Chapter celebrates 125 years of service

From page 1

The chapter continues to seek direct descendants of Day and Perkins, as well as Rufus Phelps, who was buried at Lindenwood;

so they may be proven as DAR Patriots.

The chapter also marked the grave of Real Daughter Lydia Ransom Kridler in that era. While all DAR members are daughters,

the term Real Daughter is a special designation used to describe DAR members who are also the biological daughter of a Revolutionary War Patriot. Lydia Ransom's father,

George Palmer Ransom, served in his father Samuel Ransom's unit as an orderly sergeant beginning at 14 years of age. A Real Daughter plaque remains at Lydia's grave, at Fairmont Cemetery in Polo.

From 2000 to now, the chapter took on activities such as "Celebrate Rochelle" after the devastating 2015 EF-4 tornado near Rochelle, continued its efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and found new energy for additional service projects.

Today, the Rochelle DAR still supports literacy and scholarship programs, recently renewing a \$1,500 scholarship for female veterans at Sauk Valley Community College. The members honor active-duty military and other portions of the veteran community by commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Lee County Veterans Treatment Court, supporting the veterans at the LaSalle Veterans Home, and Quilts of Valor.

The chapter began its involvement with Wreaths Across America with a

humble donation for 31 wreaths in 2018. The program places wreaths at the graves of veterans locally in December and the work continues to grow, with the chapter sponsoring ceremonies at six cemeteries in four towns for 2025, with wreath sponsorships exceeding 4,000 to date. Chapter members also serve with various organizations for historical preservation, are involved in conservation efforts, and advocate for a strong national defense.

"There was a time many years ago when it was in question whether or not the chapter would continue," Katzman said. "I'm really proud that they pulled together to continue to serve. Service is what it's all about in DAR. Service to your community, education, historical preservation and patriotism. We lay 700 wreaths on graves of veterans in the area every December. I'm glad work like that never stopped."

Illinois State Registrar Laurie Carlin Perry wrote a book on the chapter to commemorate the 125th

anniversary, including a complete list of members from 1900 to present, associated Patriots and their qualifying service, a list of DAR Good Citizen award recipients from 1936 to present, and the chapter's history. Copies of the book will be donated to local libraries and genealogical/historical groups.

America will celebrate its 250th birthday next year, and the DAR has plans to hold multiple events in its honor.

"Our research into the chapter's history showed that we're not so different from the past DAR members," Katzman said. "They supported good citizens and past and current military members. It's good to know that the organization hasn't changed much and holds true to its original purpose. Our mission hasn't changed. We're ready to celebrate another milestone."

Visit <https://ildar.org/chapters/rochelle/index.html> for more information about the chapter, membership, activities, and contact information.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Lots To, Celebrate!**

Faith and Loren Johnson are both turning 50 this month following their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Now if they would only stop being gross and romantic where I can see...

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!**

**Love,  
Kasey & Jonathan**

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**Instagram:** @rochellecommunityhospital65

**Website:** rochellehospital.com







# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Sheryl E. Piros

**CHANA** — Sheryl E. Piros of Chana, IL., passed away Feb. 19, 2025, after a long illness. She was born Oct. 7, 1948, to Lorin and Phoebe (Gibson) Larson in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Sherry graduated from Stillman Valley High School in 1966 and Blackburn College in 1970. She taught English to middle school students in Rochelle from 1970 to 1973, and, after staying home to raise her three sons and earning a master's degree from Northern Illinois University, she taught English part-time at SVHS and then English and drama full-time at Byron Middle School from 1987 to 2004.

She wrote many of the plays her eighth-grade students performed, including Road Kill Café, and after she retired, she continued writing and performing plays in a senior-theater troupe. Her Pie Ladies plays were published and have been produced nationally. Sherry loved reading, particularly Louis L'Amour novels and nonfiction about the Old West. She also loved trying new recipes and learning crafts such as painting, making corn-husk dolls, sewing, crocheting, and tatting. She volunteered

at the Chana School Museum, with the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County, and at the Leydig Center in Dixon.

Sherry was a thoughtful, caring, and funny person. Her sons knew her as a wonderful mother, strong, supportive, and loving. She showed us how to take care of a family while also satisfying her creative interests, and her boys followed her in their own artistic pursuits.

She married Gene Hagemann in 1971 and with him had sons Matt (Maria Berger) Hagemann, Nace Hagemann, and Dan (Christine) Hagemann. After Sherry and Gene divorced, Sherry later married fellow middle-school teacher Robert Piros in 1994, and after they retired, they spent many years together gardening and growing prairie plants at their farm at Chana, hosting family and friends for meals and ping-pong in their finished barn loft, and camping and canoeing in the Midwest and beyond.

Sherry was preceded in death by her ex-husband, Gene Hagemann, in 1999, and her father, Lorin, in 2016. She is survived by her husband, her mother, Phoebe, her sons, her granddaughter, Ava, and



her siblings: Christine (Joe Stemke) Rackley, Masonville, New York; Larry (Marcia) Larson, Lucky (Diane) Larson, and Bruce (Carolyn) Larson, Stillman Valley, IL; and George (Heidi) Gonzalez, Rockford, IL; and many nieces and nephews and stepdaughters.

Sherry's family is so thankful for the care and love given to Sherry by Chileane Brown-Friar and by the staff of Serenity Hospice & Home.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Byron Forest Preserve's Jarrett Prairie Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Sherry's family would appreciate donations to Serenity Hospice & Home, Oregon, IL.

Cremation care provided by the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N 6th St., Rochelle. Guest book at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com)

### Debra Louise Oleson

**ROCKFORD** — Debra Louise Oleson, 64, passed away Sunday, May 4, 2025 at OSF St. Francis in Peoria, Illinois. Deb was born on April 3, 1961 to Orlo E. and Margaret L. (Irving) Oleson in Rochelle, IL. She worked for Landstar Inway in Rockford as a Programmer Analyst for over 27 years.

Deb enjoyed going to lunch/dinner with her cousin, Pam, and with her friends from work. She had a special place in her heart for her current cat, Smokey, her previous cat, Cami, and the many other cats the family had over the years. Deb loved to travel. She and her family took many trips together and Deb also did several

solo trips, in total covering all but two of the 50 states.

Deb is preceded in death by her parents, Orlo and Margaret; her brother, Doug Oleson; two cousins: Joe Irving and Ron Oleson and all of her aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her 12 cousins: Pam Oleson of Sublette, IL, Julie (Chris) Christopherson of Jamestown, TN, Gene (Annette) Irving of Sycamore, IL, Amy (Steve) Pappas of Portage, WI, Ben (Val) Oleson of Batavia, IL, Rick Oleson of Rochelle, IL, Gene Oleson of Mazomanie, WI, Diana (Bruce) Angleton of Dixon, IL, Don (Donna) Sarver of Dixon, IL, Dan (Shirley) Alsop of



Dixon, IL, Susan Oleson of Jacksonville, FL and Chuck (Kathleen) Oleson of Brookfield, WI.

There will be a graveside service 11:00 A.M., Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle with Pastor Michael Wolff officiating. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Visit [www.ung-erhorner.com](http://www.ung-erhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

#### OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On May 6 at approximately 6:28 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Montague Road and Rock City Road. After an investigation Erik E. Peterson, 47, of German Valley, was arrested for driving with a revoked Illinois driver's license. Peterson was also cited for operating a vehicle with no insurance and an equipment violation. Peterson was transported to the Ogle County Jail for processing. Peterson was released on a notice to appear bond.

On May 6 at approximately 10:48 a.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident on U.S. Route 52, near the intersection with Robin Road. An initial investigation determined an eastbound semi-tractor and livestock trailer failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway. The tractor/trailer combination entered the south ditch and overturned. The driver of the semi, Bryan Varney, 60, of Dows, Iowa, received apparent minor injuries and was transported to OSF Saint Katherine Hospital by Polo EMS. Varney was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and improper lane usage. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Polo Fire/EMS and Mt. Morris Fire.

On May 6 at approximately 11:20 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of 12221 E. Flagg Road at the entrance to the Rolling Green Estates in reference to a vehicle stuck in the



ditch. After investigation, deputies placed Hamza Saadaoui, 40, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Hamza was additionally issued citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, and driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of .08 or more. Hamza was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he will be held pending an appearance in front of a judge.

On May 7 at approximately 3:56 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of 8th Street and Pines Road in Oregon. After investigation, deputies placed Marcel Bauby, 26, of Dixon under arrest for driving while license suspended. Bauby was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On May 7 at 2:40 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of South Lost Nation Road in rural Dixon

for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Clifford Petty, 33, of Dixon, was arrested for domestic battery and criminal damage to property. Petty was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he will be held pending an appearance in front of a judge.

On May 9 at approximately 9:58 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Pines Road and Devils Backbone Road. After further investigation Debrah Messenger, 45, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. A passenger in the vehicle, Jeremiah Martin, 36, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for an outstanding Winnebago County warrant. Both Messenger and Martin were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

#### ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On May 2 at 11:40 a.m. Janeth Vazquez, 21, of Rochelle was cited for disregarding a yield sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 23 Rochelle court date.

On May 2 at 7:37 p.m.

Roberto C. Zamora Rey, 22, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 23 Rochelle court date.

On May 3 at 1:49 p.m. Rubi Hannon, 52, of Davis Junction was cited for no insurance and speeding 48 in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 3 at 8:16 p.m. Elir Bechairy, 42, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and DUI over .08 and cited for illegal

transportation of alcohol and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 6 at 12:46 p.m. Jarid G. Zies, 32, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 75 in a 55 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 7 at 9:28 p.m. Joshua A. Marcoux, 22, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Kishwaukee College to offer new bookkeeping certificate

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College announced the creation of a new Bookkeeping certificate, which will be available to students starting in the Fall 2025 semester.

The certificate is part of Kish's Marketing and Management program and is designed for students seeking bookkeeping roles in various sectors, including government, education, non-profit, corporate and more. Students will learn the essential skills and knowledge required to manage records effectively. "The Bookkeeping certificate is a great way for students to learn the fundamental principles of recording financial transactions,"

said Jescelynne Gibbons, associate dean, Office of Instruction. "Overall, students earning this certificate can enhance their qualifications and improve career prospects in the financial sector."

Based on feedback from the College's Business Advisory Committee, Kish created the certificate to meet local workforce demand. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 2023 to 2033, there will be nearly 174,900 employment openings for bookkeeping, accounting and auditing clerks annually.

The Bookkeeping certificate is 16 credit hours and can be completed in one

or two semesters. Courses will cover topics including financial and business accounting, accounting software like QuickBooks, and communication strategies in the workplace. The certificate is a stackable credential and can lead to the completion of an Associate in Applied Science degree in Marketing and Management.

The Fall 2025 semester begins Monday, Aug. 18. Learn more or register at [kish.edu/register](http://kish.edu/register). To learn more about the Bookkeeping certificate, contact Tammy Tiggelaar, associate professor of Business/Marketing/Management, at [tiggelaar@kish.edu](mailto:tiggelaar@kish.edu) or 815-825-9478.

## HSTP Regional Transportation Committee meeting is May 16

**DEKALB** — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday May 16 at 10 a.m. at City of DeKalb Public Library — 39 Oak St., DeKalb, IL 60115. Human service

organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: [hstp@ncicg.org](mailto:hstp@ncicg.org) or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to at-

tend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please contact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## CRESTON: Creston-Dement Public Library to hold grand opening May 10

From page 1

The storm sewer work will consist of adding pipe on both sides of the railroad tracks, but the current phase of it will not go under the tracks. The work was suggested due to issues with stormwater overflow. Bunge said the project has seen eight interested contractors. The board will vote to approve a bid next month. The work will likely begin in the summer. Bunge has estimated in the past that the project could roughly cost \$180,000-200,000. The project will likely take around six weeks. The preliminary storm sewer project work involved

securing easements from property owners in the area of it.

### Water

The board heard a report from Bunge on recent analysis work done on Creston's water system in an effort to alleviate rust issues that residents have been seeing. Bunge said the rust issues are likely due to four-inch mains with not enough capacity.

Trustees asked Bunge to bring back a proposal on water main work on West Street. The work would likely be the first phase of a multi-phase project.

"Let's see if we can get something going here," Byro said. "It's going to

be a busy summer. I hope we can get all this work done."

Bunge also provided an update Tuesday on a planned water tower cleaning and inspection project to also help with rust issues.

After it was originally expected that the project would be started as soon as weather allowed, the contractor recently provided a start date of Aug. 20 and Bunge has been unable to get a sooner start date provided. Back in December, the board unanimously approved a proposal from KLM Engineering for \$16,836 to complete the work by July 1.

Bunge and trustees said Tuesday they would

consider going with another bid for the project if they can't get a sooner start date.

### Subdivision

Village Building Inspector Aaron Moore said during the meeting that work on new sidewalks has started in the Creston Commons subdivision. Moore said that three temporary occupancy permits have been issued to the residents of new homes in the subdivision that are nearing completion.

Ten total new homes are slated for this year, two of which are being built by private owners. The rest will be built by Hayden Real Estate, which closed on the own-

ership of the subdivision at the end of December 2023.

The subdivision will also see new water lines run to lots, and work done on parks in the area, including fencing for a potential dog park, a Jack Kerns Community Garden, playgrounds, and trees and landscaping.

### Sealcoat

Trustees unanimously approved measures Tuesday for sealcoating work this summer in Creston. The cost will be \$98,715.66 and engineering for the work will be handled by Ogle County for four percent of the project cost. Helm Civil will perform the work, which will be funded by

motor fuel tax funds.

### Library

Village officials said the new Creston-Dement Public Library will hold a grand opening on Saturday, May 10. The new library has been open since March.

The project broke ground March 15, 2024 at the corner of Main and Cederholm Streets. A referendum passed in June 2022 that allowed the Creston-Dement Public Library District to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building on the land that was donated years ago for just that purpose. The main reason for the desire for a new building was the library outgrowing its previous space at 107 S. Main St.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# LOCAL VIEWS

## Proposals that will affect shipping, and your pocketbook

TRADE, it's not everything on the surface you think it should be. When I think of trade I recall bartering with a friend over baseball cards and roller skates, but it's plenty more complicated than that today.

Tariffs are the word on everyone's mind today, but there's more to getting goods from one place to another. Transportation and shipping are critical parts and fees associated with that can make a huge difference. Courtesy of the American Farm Bureau, let's look at new proposals that will affect shipping, and your pocketbook.

With more than 20% of U.S. agricultural production destined for foreign markets, exports are critical to the financial success of American farmers and ranchers. In 2024, U.S. farmers exported over 144 million metric tons of agricultural products, valued at more than \$105 billion, through ocean ports. These ocean shipments represented nearly 60% of total agricultural export value and 65% by volume, underscoring the vital role of maritime transport in delivering U.S. agriculture to global customers. However, recent proposals to impose substantial fees on Chinese-built and -operated vessels entering U.S. ports could have far-reaching consequences for agricultural trade.

The Trump administration has proposed a series of fees targeting ocean carriers with ties to China. These fees are part of broader efforts to counter China's growing

dominance in global shipbuilding and logistics, while attempting to stimulate U.S. shipbuilding capacity. The proposal includes:

Fees up to \$1 million per entrance on Chinese-operated vessels. Fees up to \$1.5 million on Chinese-built vessels, scaled based on the percentage of an operator's fleet built in China. Additional fees on operators with future orders placed with Chinese shipyards. A gradual requirement to shift a growing percentage of U.S. exports onto U.S.-flagged and U.S.-built vessels.

The U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office argues these measures are necessary to counteract China's unreasonable targeting of the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors for dominance. The concern is that China's monopolization reduces competition, displaces foreign firms and increases dependencies on Chinese supply chains. While addressing China's maritime dominance is a valid national security concern, these proposals may unintentionally — and disproportionately — penalize U.S. farmers and ranchers who rely on affordable and efficient shipping. Over 21% of all vessels calling at U.S. ports in 2024 were Chinese-built, meaning a substantial share of vessels transporting U.S. goods — including agricultural products — could be subject to these fees.

Bulk agricultural exports, particularly grains and oilseeds, are especially vulnerable. In 2024, the

U.S. exported over 106 million metric tons of bulk agricultural products. Assuming an average vessel capacity of 60,000 metric tons, approximately 1,770 vessel movements per year support these exports.

Many dry bulk vessels arriving at U.S. ports from China often come partially loaded or even empty. Once in the U.S., these bulk carriers are essential to agriculture, frequently loaded with grains, oilseeds, and other commodities for export. Container ships, by contrast, typically arrive in the U.S. full and return to China empty or lightly loaded. This is why container shipping rates are much higher from Asia to the U.S. than in the reverse direction — importers bear most of those costs on the inbound leg. For bulk carriers, the opposite is true: they may arrive empty but leave full with U.S. agricultural products. That means U.S. exporters, particularly farmers, are more exposed to any added vessel fees.

Depending on whether the \$1 million fee on Chinese-operated vessels, the \$1.5 million fee on Chinese-built vessels, or both cumulative fees are applied, bulk agricultural exporters could face an additional \$372 million to \$930 million in annual transportation costs. On a per-unit basis, these compounded fees translate to an increase of 9.5 to 27.75 cents per bushel of soybeans — representing a substantial margin loss in global markets where

competitiveness is often determined by mere pennies per bushel.

Containerized agricultural exports, which account for around 30% of U.S. waterborne ag exports by volume, would not feel the same level of direct impact. The World Shipping Council estimates the proposed fees could add \$600 to \$800 per container, but because container ships often arrive in the U.S. full and return to Asia empty, these costs are expected to fall more heavily on imports. However, many U.S. farmers and ranchers rely on imported inputs — such as fertilizer, feed ingredients, machinery and specialty crop supplies — that can be transported in containers.

Higher container shipping costs could therefore raise input prices, squeezing producers' margins. One component of the proposal includes a phased requirement mandating that a growing percentage of U.S. exports be transported on U.S.-flagged and U.S.-built vessels. The schedule starts with 1% of exports immediately, rising to 15% after seven years, with a portion explicitly required to move on U.S.-built ships. While the goal is to bolster U.S. shipbuilding and maritime capabilities, these mandates present a serious logistical challenge. Meeting them depends entirely on the capacity of U.S. shipyards to ramp up production.

In addition to immediate cost increases, the U.S.

shipbuilding sector faces deep-rooted structural challenges that limit its ability to ramp up commercial vessel production in the near term. Unlike the sprawling, high-volume shipyards of Asia, U.S. shipyards are fewer in number, smaller in scale and primarily focused on specialized, military or Jones Act-compliant ships. On average, U.S. shipyards require anywhere from 18 months to over four years to complete a vessel, far outpaced by Asian shipyards, where ships are routinely built in 12 to 24 months. Many U.S. facilities still rely on outdated production methods, lacking the modular, highly automated processes common in South Korean, Chinese or Japanese yards. Compounding the issue are rigid union contracts that have, over time, constrained modernization efforts.

Meanwhile, countries like China, South Korea and Vietnam not only benefit from government subsidies, tax breaks and low-interest financing for shipbuilding, but also from their proximity to steel producers, engine manufacturers and component suppliers, further reducing construction timelines and costs. Their large, specialized workforce provides an additional edge, making their shipyards the go-to for global shipping companies looking for faster turnaround and lower prices.

This is particularly concerning given the vast imbalance in global fleet ownership. China controls

a global fleet of more than 5,500 commercial vessels used for trade, while the U.S. controls around 100. Adding to this, approximately 70% of Chinese-owned vessels are registered under the Chinese flag, whereas only about 43% of the U.S. fleet sails under the U.S. flag.

The bottlenecks don't stop at shipyards. U.S. port performance is another glaring weak link in the logistics chain. According to the World Bank's 2023 Container Port Performance Index, foreign ports consistently outperform U.S. ports. Ports in countries like China, Oman, Colombia and Vietnam routinely surpass U.S. ports in efficiency.

Addressing China's dominance in global shipbuilding and logistics is an important policy goal, particularly given supply chain vulnerabilities and national security concerns. However, imposing fees on Chinese-built and -operated vessels could impose significant near-term costs on U.S. agriculture, and U.S.-built shipping requirements could strangle trade down the road.

Even before implementation, the uncertainty surrounding these proposals is already creating logistical complications for both importers and exporters who depend on reliable ocean shipping. Delays in carrier scheduling, shifts in vessel availability and rising freight premiums add risk across supply chains.

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

## Letter: State lawmakers must curb illicit vape sales in Illinois

DEAR editor, In my professional life as a former senior special agent with the ATF and now as an educator teaching in secondary and higher education throughout Illinois, I have a unique view into both the criminal underworld and the communities it harms. I strongly support HB2634 because I

believe it is critical to protect our state from the dangerous networks infiltrating our schools and neighborhoods through the illicit vape trade.

From an enforcement perspective, illicit vape sales and associated crimes aren't isolated violations. They are part of complex trafficking systems that rely on cross-border deception, shell distribu-

tors, and digital marketing aimed squarely at minors. I've seen these products come through ports mislabeled as electronics, sold in stores without any oversight, and end up in the hands of teenagers who don't understand the risks.

In the classroom, I hear students talk about

these products as if they were harmless or even legal. That confusion is by design. Illicit manufacturers are flooding our markets with brightly packaged, fruit-flavored vapes that look like candy, promising anonymity and easy access. Many students are vaping daily without re-

alizing the products are adulterated or contain unapproved chemicals.

HB2634 brings essential clarity to a chaotic market. It empowers the state to demand accountability, protect honest retailers, and cut off the financial oxygen that fuels criminal organizations. As an agent, I see it as an overdue enforcement tool. As a teacher, I see it as a line

of defense for kids who are being manipulated and harmed.

I urge the state Legislature to vote yes on HB2634 and give Illinois the framework it needs to stand up to the criminal exploitation of our youth.

*John Rotunno is an adjunct professor at Waukegon Community College and a retired senior special agent with the ATF.*

### 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)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

*\* Denotes Chairman/President*

**Rochelle City Council**  
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Tom McDermott tmcdermott@rochelleil.us  
Benjamin Valdivieso bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

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Trisha Vaughn trisha.vaughn@rthsd12.org  
Janet Kacvinsky janet.kacvinsky@rthsd12.org

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**Ogle County Board Dist. 4**  
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David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

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Scott Seebach commissioner@flaggtownship.org

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

## City of Rochelle receives Distinguished Budget Award for 6<sup>th</sup> year

**ROCHELLE** — Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that City of Rochelle received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for the sixth year.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that City of Rochelle received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget for the sixth year.**

ries, to receive the award.

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's

website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Government Finance Officers Association

(GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 25,000 members and the communities they serve.

## Kish College Foundation accepting nominations for 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honors exceptional alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and beyond, reflecting the values and excellence of

Kishwaukee College.

The Foundation invites community members, faculty, staff, students and alumni to nominate individuals who exemplify leadership, dedication and excellence in their respective fields.

Nomination criteria:

Must be alumni of Kishwaukee College (completed

45 or more credit hours or received a degree or certificate of completion).

Established in the profession and/or community.

Demonstrated outstanding contributions at Kishwaukee College and/or in the community.

Supported Kishwaukee College through involve-

ment with College events, internships for Kish students or philanthropic contributions.

Is a person of high integrity.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, Aug. 1. Learn more or submit a nomination at [kish.edu/alumniaward](http://kish.edu/alumniaward).



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

May 8 - Dale Bergeson, Rochelle, \$25

May 9 - Scott Swartz, Rochelle, \$25

May 10 - Lori Miller, Rochelle, \$25

May 11 - Chrissy Smardo, Rochelle, \$500

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 12  
Bill & Mary Baskins  
(anniversary)

May 17  
Krynn Hayward

May 20  
Darrell & Beth Bolhous  
(anniversary)

May 16  
Kathy Conant

May 18  
Arianna Thompson

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



## Coffee Break

### MAGIC MAZE

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

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

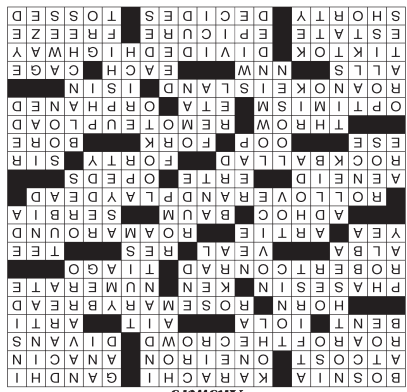
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Baker Lake  
Dawson City  
Fort Smith

Hay River  
Igloolik  
Inuvik  
Iqaluit

Kinngait  
Kugluktuk  
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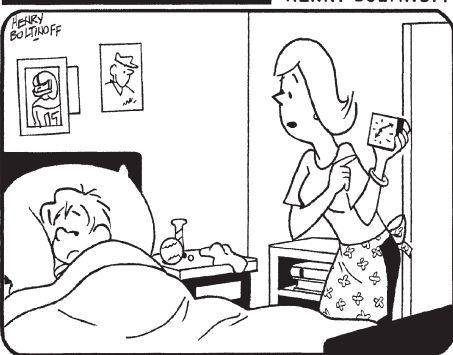
Rankin Inlet  
Whitehorse  
Yellowknife

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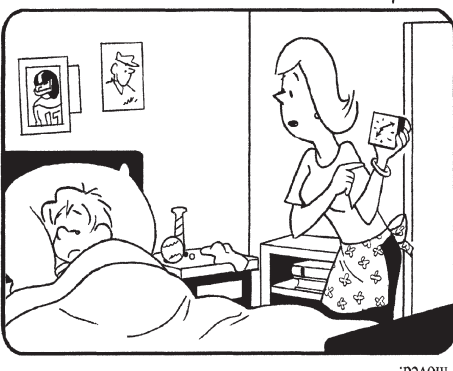
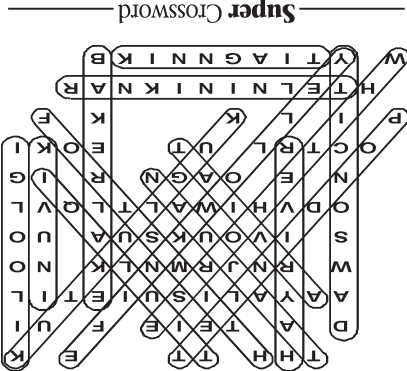


### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is longer. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bracelet is moved.

## Super Crossword

### ROUGH JOURNEY AHEAD

#### ACROSS

1 Neighbor of Croatia  
7 Pakistan's largest city  
14 Rajiv or Indira  
20 For only the price of production  
21 Rarely used golf club  
22 Aleve rival  
23 Spectators' loud cheers  
25 Sizable sofas  
26 Angled  
27 Southeast Kansas city  
28 River islet  
30 Beginner's painting class  
31 Sousaphone, e.g.  
33 Loaf flavored with a certain fragrant herb  
39 Incorporates gradually  
43 Hitter Griffey  
44 Having a basic knowledge of arithmetic  
45 "The Wild West" actor  
47 São — (largest of the Cape Verdes)

#### DOWN

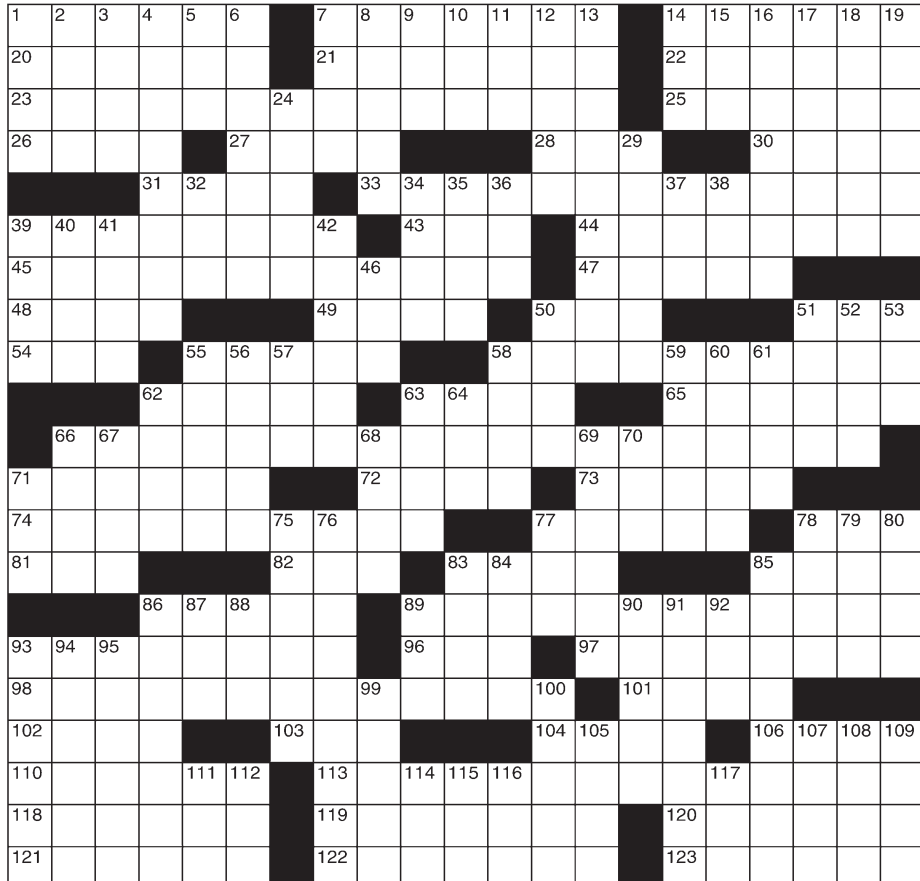
48 Actress Jessica  
49 — parmigiana  
50 Hi — image  
51 Golfer's peg  
54 Vote in favor  
55 Clarinetist Shaw  
58 Wander  
62 Temporary, as a committee  
63 Creator of Oz  
65 Neighbor of Croatia  
66 Acquiesce, figuratively  
71 Virgil epic  
72 Noted Deco master  
73 Paper opinion pieces  
74 Many a song by Journey or Chicago  
77 Eight x five  
78 Knight's title  
81 Suffix with journal  
82 Alley- —  
83 Flatware item  
85 Ho-hum thing  
86 Hurl  
89 Site-to-site transfer of data  
93 "Glass half full" attitude

96 JFK posting  
97 Deprived of parental care  
6 Initially  
7 Germany's Helmut Sound  
8 Lend — (pay attention)  
9 — center (community facility)  
10 Make public  
11 — -Magnon  
12 "I supposed to know?"  
13 Darjeeling or pekoe  
14 Gallivant  
15 Darth Vader, in boyhood  
16 CNN political commentator Ana  
17 U.S. capital's vicinity  
18 Allude to  
19 Not al fresco (John Travolta film)  
122 Chooses  
123 Hurl

5 Thermal or lateral lead-in  
6 Initially  
7 Germany's Helmut Sound  
8 Lend — (pay attention)  
9 — center (community facility)  
10 Make public  
11 — -Magnon  
12 "I supposed to know?"  
13 Darjeeling or pekoe  
14 Gallivant  
15 Darth Vader, in boyhood  
16 CNN political commentator Ana  
17 U.S. capital's vicinity  
18 Allude to  
19 Not al fresco (John Travolta film)  
24 Drink mixer  
29 Fact  
32 Atop, to poets  
34 Gumbo vegetable  
35 Fasten shut  
36 Terminus  
37 Vocalist Sumac  
38 Ask earnestly  
39 Ask earnestly  
40 Golf target

41 "SOS" band  
42 Tyro  
46 Born, on a society page  
50 Lively frolic  
51 Sousaphone, e.g.  
52 Oklahoma city  
53 Self-help writer LeShan  
55 Go off script  
56 Old Valerie Harper role  
57 "Mazel —!"  
58 Ill-mannered  
59 Up until now  
60 "I Am Woman" singer Helen  
61 Mined metals  
62 Supermodel  
63 Minstrel poet  
64 Social insect  
66 Some antique autos  
67 In time past  
68 Gather in  
69 Depend on  
70 Mo. in spring  
71 Exist  
75 Unlace, e.g.  
76 Having vulgar interests  
77 To and —  
78 Imminently  
79 "Dies —" (hymn)

80 Comic Foxx  
83 Salty Greek cheese  
84 Neighbor of Yemen  
85 Boils a little  
86 Wild West sheriff's badge  
87 Med. plan  
88 Comic actor Mayall  
89 Minister's study: Abbr.  
90 "Love Story" novelist  
91 Switch to second gear, maybe  
92 Chi preceptor  
93 Speechifies  
94 Buff up  
95 Chat with  
99 Steal  
100 John of lawn tractors  
105 Fruit drinks  
107 Wows  
108 Stare  
109 Stared at  
111 Ex-Giant Mel  
112 Lock go-with  
114 Crooner  
115 Here, in Arles  
116 Fizzling thing  
117 Miracle- —







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# SPORTS



**LADY HUBS BEAT L-P**

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team scored a 5-4 win against LaSalle-Peru.

See page 5 for more details

**RTHS Track & Field**



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

This year's senior girls track and field team members include: Dempsey Atkinson, Alice Drobick, Viviana Fulgencio, Gotti Fuentes (manager), Aaliyah Losoya, Makayla Ludwig, Zoe Malley, Erin Murphy, Alex Neece, Bridgett Ramirez, Taelynn Rodeghero, Marianna Saldana, Sienna Seebach, Arline Villanueva and Brisa Zepeda. This year's senior boys track and field team members include: Cash Budde, Manuel Cruz, Logan Frye, Chris Hickey, Nick Novak, Virgil O'Dell, Jacob Ost, Kenny Overton, Richie Pierce, Austin Powell, Jackson Smith, Jack Tarvestad and Jack Tilton.

## Rochelle wins 51st Annual Ogle County Championships

Senior athletes honored as RTHS teams take first in five-team meet on Tuesday

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The 51st Annual Ogle County Championships were a special event for athletes the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub track and field teams, who came together to set school records, meet records and earn a pair of first-place trophies in the five-team meet at RTHS on Tuesday.

The Hubs finished first with 149 points and the Lady Hubs took first with 98 points to sweep the county meet against Oregon, Byron, Stillman Valley and Forreston-

Polo. Rochelle combined to win 12 events in the meet, with the boys taking eight events while the girls claimed four events. Both teams also recognized their senior athletes and managers during a brief ceremony after the 3200-meter relay. A total of 28 seniors and their families were honored during the ceremony.

The seniors on the girls track and field team include Dempsey Atkinson, Alice Drobick, Viviana Fulgencio, Gotti Fuentes (manager), Aaliyah Losoya, Makayla Ludwig, Zoe Malley, Erin Murphy, Alex Neece, Bridgett Ramirez, Taelynn Rodeghero, Marianna Saldana, Sienna Seebach, Arline Villanueva and Brisa Zepeda. The seniors on the boys track and field team this season include Cash Budde, Manuel Cruz, Logan Frye, Chris Hickey, Nick Novak, Virgil O'Dell, Jacob Ost, Kenny Overton, Richie Pierce, Austin Powell, Jackson Smith, Jack Tarvestad and Jack Tilton.

"From the time our seniors were freshmen to now, we've rebuilt our program and they went through the whole process of being starters from their freshman year to where they are now," head boys

coach Dale Bergeson said. "They've worked so hard and seeing the fruits of their labor is very cool. We've loved having them on the team and they're good leaders all around."

Championship season is approaching for each of the varsity teams, as the Lady Hubs will head to Morris for the Interstate 8 Conference meet on Friday, May 9 before traveling to the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional on Wednesday, May 14. The Hubs will compete at the annual Northern Illinois Invitational in Beloit on Friday before hosting the Interstate 8 Conference meet on Tuesday, May 13.

The Hubs will then host the IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional at RTHS on Wednesday, May 21.

"We have a lot of leaders and that leadership from our seniors has translated into a lot of success this year," head girls coach Colfay Pointer said. "It's been a lot of fun and this season has flown by. This group of seniors is special because there's a lot of talent and I'm excited to see what they do as we head into the conference meet and the sectional meet."

**Hubs**

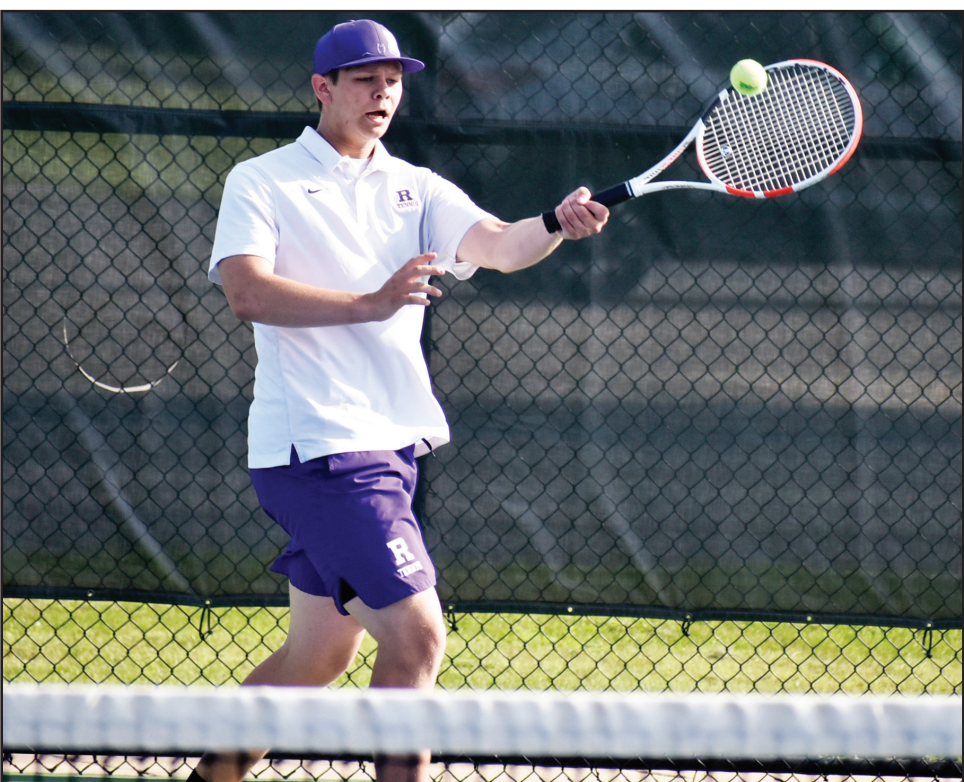
Rochelle took four of the six field events on

Tuesday evening. Senior Jack Tilton set a new meet record in the high jump, winning with a clearance of 1.94 meters (6 feet 4 1/4 inches). Juniors Caden Goodwin, Andrew Nuyen and Gabe Montes each added victories in the field, with Goodwin marking 12.50 meters to take the triple jump and Nuyen setting a PR of 6.48 meters to take the long jump. Montes cleared a PR of 3.55 meters to claim the pole vault for Rochelle.

"Jack has competed at so many big meets in his career," Bergeson said.

See TRACK page 4

**RTHS Boys Tennis**



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub tennis team scored a 4-1 win against Dixon in nonconference action on Wednesday evening. At left, junior Parker Slattengren goes to his forehand for a return shot. At right, sophomore Sam Sergeant hits a forehand shot.

## Singles sweep highlights home win over Dixon

Rochelle takes two doubles matches, snaps four-match losing skid with 4-1 victory

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Mark Green became a varsity contributor for the Rochelle Hub tennis team at the beginning of his freshman season, when he earned a starting role in doubles. After two years of primarily playing doubles tennis, Green has ascended to the team's top singles slot, where the junior showcased his skills during Rochelle's

match against Dixon on Wednesday.

One day removed from leading the Hubs in their Interstate 8 Conference match with Ottawa, where Green emerged victorious in both singles and doubles, Green took the court for the No. 1 singles match against Dixon's Jayvian Herwig, who the talented junior fended off in the opening set before cruising in the second set for a 7-5, 6-2 win. It was one of four victories for

the Hubs, who ended a four-match losing streak with a 4-1 triumph over the Dukes in nonconference play.

"It was a really good win for us to build our confidence," Green said. "I think we can build off that for the remainder of the season. It's been a good experience to switch things up and singles is a totally different game. I feel like it's made me a better player because it's only me and I'm not worrying about a

partner. Whenever I lose a point, it's always on me and I can't blame anyone else. It's definitely helped me improve my groundstrokes since there's a lot of back and forth."

Rochelle (4-8, 1-4 Interstate 8) swept the singles matches on Wednesday, with Green taking the No. 1 contest while junior Philip Winters dominated the No. 2 contest against Landon Arbuckle, winning both sets without dropping a single game to earn a 6-0,

6-0 victory. In doubles play, the Hubs took two of the three points, with freshman David Eckardt and sophomore Noah McKinney staying strong during a 6-4, 6-3 win over Jack McGrail and Will Lindenmeyer at the No. 2 slot.

Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Connor Hunley were the toughest duo of the meet, as the two Hub netters coasted for a 6-1, 6-2 win against Joshua Stees and

Quinn Flanagan at the No. 3 court. The return of Hunley, who played varsity matches as a freshman but missed time to an ankle injury earlier this season, has helped the Hubs round out their doubles lineup.

"It was a very big win because we had been losing quite a bit before, but now it feels like we have a fresh start and we're coming back strong," Hunley said.

See TENNIS page 6





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### HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Paola  
Guijosa**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Soccer*

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

*A: Five years.*

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

*A: Being able to play with friends and finding out who you work best with.*

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

*A: English because it's easy.*

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

*A: My brother because he taught*

*me how to play and is always helping me get better.*

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

*A: A lawyer because I find it interesting.*

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

*A: Paris because I always found it pretty.*

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

*A: Being able to leave class early.*

**Vanessa  
Ortiz**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Volleyball*



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

*A: Three years.*

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

*A: How competitive the sport can be but also how strong the bonds are that you build with teammates.*

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

*A: Algebra because it's the easiest subject and I like my teacher.*

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

*A: Lexi Rodriguez because she's one of the best libero's in college volleyball and she's a huge inspiration to many little girls who dream to play professionally.*

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

*A: My dad because he shows me*

*no matter how tough things seem, you need to keep pushing because it's always worth it in the end.*

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

*A: To be an immigration lawyer because I see the struggles that immigrants face so when I'm older, I want to be able to help others worldwide and I want to make a change in the world.*

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

*A: Italy because it seems so peaceful over there, not to mention the delicious food.*

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

*A: I'm able to release my stress through my sport and I'm able to have fun with my friends and play our favorite sport together.*

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Baseball

# Late rallies doom Hubs in series with LaSalle-Peru

Rochelle concedes back-to-back home games, remains winless in Interstate 8 play

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hubs were one strike away from snapping a 25-game conference losing streak during their Interstate 8 series opener against LaSalle-Peru on Monday evening.

Trailing 2-1 entering the bottom of the sixth inning, Rochelle tied the score after senior Carson Lewis reached on an error before touching home on a wild pitch two batters later. A short time after, senior Ethan Goodwin delivered the biggest at-bat of the game for the Hubs, blasting a two-out RBI single down the third-base line to score teammate Brode Metzger, who singled earlier in the frame. The go-ahead single put Rochelle three outs away from a conference win.

Goodwin took the mound in the top of the seventh and retired two batters, striking out Jackson Piecha before Adrian Arzola popped out to third base for the second out. With two outs and the game-tying runner on third base, Goodwin worked LaSalle-Peru's No. 2 hitter, Kaedin Bond, to a full count. Needing just one more strike to end the game, Goodwin fired a chest-high fastball, but Bond pulled the ball into the left-field corner for a ground-rule double that tied the score.

Grey Ernat then delivered the hit of the game for the Cavaliers, belting an RBI double into deep left field that scored Bond and gave LaSalle-Peru a one-run lead entering the bottom of the seventh inning. Sophomore Dylan Manning singled with two outs to keep the Hubs alive, but a popout in foul territory ended the game and clinched a comeback victory for the Cavaliers, who handed Rochelle a 4-3 loss, the team's 26th straight loss in the Interstate 8 Conference.

"We have a short turnaround and I think we are two pretty evenly matched

teams," head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "We'll have another opportunity to bounce back tomorrow."

Both teams tallied one run in the first inning, with Ernat bringing home Arzola on an RBI groundout in the top half before Rochelle (6-13, 0-10 Interstate 8) responded in the bottom half, where Lewis smacked a lead-off single and sophomore Brody Bruns rolled an RBI groundout to the shortstop. The Hubs received a quality start from sophomore pitcher Johnny Andrist, who overcame four walks to strike out three and hold LaSalle-Peru to two runs over five-plus innings.

"Johnny's one of our hardest throwers and I think guys are just behind him," Reynolds said. "When he's throwing strikes, he's really tough to square up and he put us in a position to win."

Rochelle scattered three singles over the second, third and fourth innings, but the Hubs were unable to convert those hits into runs. LaSalle-Peru (12-10, 4-5 Interstate 8) had its chances as well, but strong defense from Rochelle kept the Cavaliers off the scoreboard. Specifically, the Hubs turned three double plays including an unassisted double play in the top of the third.

"We've worked really hard on our defense and we've maybe focused on defense more than anything else," Reynolds said. "We're trying to get those outs that we should get and the hope is that we keep improving on that as we go. Defensively, I thought we played alright today."

While Andrist was dealing for the Hubs, LaSalle-Peru's Brady Backes was equally dominant on the mound, striking out 10 batters with only one walk over six and two-thirds innings. A lead-off single led to a sacrifice fly for Braylin Bond in the top of the sixth inning, where the Cavaliers took a 2-1 lead before Rochelle rallied for two runs on two hits off Backes in the

bottom half. Goodwin and Metzger each went 2 for 3 for the Hubs, who totaled eight hits in the loss.

## Tuesday

Just 24 hours after conceding a one-run lead against LaSalle-Peru in the top of the seventh inning, the Rochelle Hubs had another chance to close out a win and score their first conference victory of the season during Tuesday's varsity baseball game with the Cavaliers.

Leading 3-1 entering the top of the seventh inning, Rochelle found itself three outs away from ending a 26-game conference losing streak and earning its first Interstate 8 win since 2023. LaSalle-Peru opened with a single and a walk, but a strikeout and a groundout forced by senior starter Carson Lewis put the Hubs one out away from sealing their win and evening the series.

With his team ahead 3-2 after the RBI groundout, Lewis worked LaSalle-Peru lead-off batter Adrian Arzola into a full count, but with just one strike separating Rochelle from a conference win, disaster struck for the Hubs, as an error on a throw to first base allowed the Cavaliers to tie the score and continue the frame. An intentional walk loaded the bases for LaSalle-Peru's No. 4 hitter Grey Ernat, who drilled a hard grounder through the middle to put the Cavaliers ahead. Rochelle sent sophomore Brody Bruns to the mound to record the final out, but the meltdown continued in the next at-bat, as LaSalle-Peru's Braylin Bond reached on a weak grounder to second base, where another error enabled the Cavaliers to take a two-run lead. A passed ball soon after capped off a five-run rally for LaSalle-Peru, who clinched the series victory with a 6-3 comeback win over the Hubs (6-14, 0-11 Interstate 8).

"Nobody's going to feel sorry for us," head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "We have to get better. We've



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Carson Lewis throws a pitch during the Rochelle Hub baseball game against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday.**

worked a lot on our defense this year and we have to stay focused during every pitch and make plays. We need to expect the baseball, want the baseball and then make the play."

Arzola's lead-off single led to an RBI groundout from Ernat in the top of the first inning, where the Cavaliers (13-10, 5-5 Interstate 8) took a 1-0 lead. Rochelle answered in the bottom of the second inning, tying the score after senior Brandyn Metzger slapped a lead-off single to left center and sophomore Andrew Huerta sent a sacrifice fly into right field two batters later.

The Hubs surged ahead with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, where senior catcher Ryan Senne came through with a two-run double to give Rochelle a 3-1 advantage. Meanwhile, Lewis kept the LaSalle-Peru offense at bay from the pitcher's mound, striking out four batters and working around three walks to hold the Cavaliers to two earned runs over six and two-thirds innings. Lewis retired eight straight hitters between the third and fifth innings.

"Carson's curveball was

really good today and he did a really good job of mixing his pitches and changing his speeds," Reynolds said. "He kept their offense off balance and it's too bad that we couldn't close it out for him because I thought he deserved to earn the win today."

## Wednesday

Senior Carson Lewis went 2 for 3 with two singles and one RBI as the Rochelle Hubs attempted to salvage their Interstate 8 series against LaSalle-Peru on Wednesday night.

The Cavaliers erupted for eight runs in the bottom of the first inning and tallied five runs in the bottom of the third inning to dominate the series finale and hand Rochelle a 16-4 loss. It's the 28th consecutive Interstate 8 defeat for the Hubs (6-15, 0-12 Interstate 8), who will round out the conference slate with a three-game series against Ottawa next week. Junior Brode Metzger went 1 for 3 with one double, while sophomore Brody Bruns went 1 for 2 with an RBI in the loss.

Rochelle held a 1-0 lead after the top of the first inning, where Lewis belted a

lead-off triple to right center before scoring on an error. Senior Ethan Goodwin retired the first batter in the bottom of the first inning, but a massive one-out rally from the Cavaliers allowed LaSalle-Peru to surge ahead 8-1. The Cavaliers totaled five hits in the frame, with Braylin Bond and Jackson Piecha bashing back-to-back two-run doubles to help LaSalle-Peru cap off its eight-run effort.

Kaedin Bond's two-run single sparked a three-run second inning for the Cavaliers, who led 11-1 entering the top of the third inning, where Metzger smacked a lead-off double to deep left field before scoring on an RBI single from Bruns in the next at-bat. LaSalle-Peru's second crooked number came in the bottom of the third inning, as the Cavaliers tallied five runs on two hits while drawing five walks. Ernat, who went 3 for 4, highlighted the frame with a two-run double to left.

Senior Ryan Senne singled to lead off the top of the fourth inning for the Hubs, who earned two runs back after an RBI groundout from junior Gavin Neale and an RBI single from Lewis.

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# SPORTS

## TRACK: Rochelle teams sweep 51st Annual Ogle County Invitational

From page 1

“Jack competed in sectionals as a sophomore and a junior. This year, he’s been there for us so much and he’s been like a rock in terms of his thinking and his approach. Everything has been automatic and he goes up and does what he needs to do. We’ve seen so much more consistency from him.”

Seniors Jacob Ost and Logan Frye led the Hubs in the throwing events, with Ost setting a PR of 13.07 meters for second in the shot put and Frye marking 34.77 meters for sixth in the discus. Rochelle landed top-3 finishes in all four relay events, opening the meet with a victory in the 3200-meter relay (Chris Hickey, Pedro Rosales, Johnny Morales and Elijah Mayen) in 9:03.82.

The Hubs took second in the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Virgil O’Dell, Nathan Rosas and Richie Pierce) with a time of 44.11 seconds before setting a new fresh-soph school record in the 800-meter relay, where Rochelle (Jaden Martina, Aaron DeClerck, Justin DeClerck and Nathan Rosas) finished third in 1:34.12 and broke the previous record of 1:34.21 established in 2009.

“We beat our seeds in almost every area,” Bergeson said. “Doing that was the key to winning and I thought the biggest improvement we saw was in the sprint group. Our sprinters were able to bump Forrester down quite a bit and that helped us out points wise. I thought the meet was going to be a lot closer, but since we were able to do that in the sprints, we ran



The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub track and field teams finished first in the 51st Annual Ogle County Invitational at RTHS on Tuesday. The Hub 800-meter relay team of Nathan Rosas, Justin DeClerck, Aaron DeClerck and Jaden Martina set a new fresh-soph school record, while sophomore Hunter Bivins set a new fresh-soph school record in the 300-meter hurdles.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

away with it.” Rochelle took second in the 1600-meter relay (Hunter Bivins, Pedro Rosales, Declan McGee and Tyler Johnson) with a time of 3:41.91 to close out the meet and secure its championship finish on Tuesday. Junior Wyatt Worthington and sophomore Hunter Bivins each set PRs in the hurdle

events, with Bivins running a time of 41.42 seconds to win the 300-meter hurdles and break the fresh-soph school record previously established by Dan Chisamore in 1980. Worthington crossed the line in 16.66 seconds to take third in the 110-meter hurdles.

“I think we’ll see tougher competition at

the conference meet than we will at sectionals and if we do well at the conference meet, then we’ll do well at sectionals or state,” Bergeson said. “We’ve identified the events where we think we can do the best in conference and that will help us have good seed times for sectionals and make it down to state. We have

some lofty goals and we want to qualify for state in as many events as we can. We have a shot to qualify in six events.”

Freshman Tyler Johnson shined in the distance events, winning both the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:11.33 and the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:49.69. Johnson added a second-place finish in the 800-meter run, where the freshman set a new PR with a time of 2:10.42. Junior Caden Goodwin earned a pair of top-3 finishes in the sprints, taking third in the 100-meter dash with a PR of 11.36 seconds and setting a PR of 23.19 seconds for third in the 200-meter dash. Sophomore Pedro Rosales ran a PR of 54.05 seconds for third place in the 400-meter dash.

### Lady Hubs

Senior Erin Murphy extended her school record in the shot put, winning the event with a heave of 11.85 meters (38 feet 10 1/2 inches). Murphy also established a new PR in the discus, taking fourth with a distance of 28.15 meters. Senior Taelynn Rodeghero delivered a trio of top-6 event finishes in the field, marking 9.64 meters for second in the triple jump and 4.40 meters for sixth in the long jump while setting a new PR with a height of 1.48 meters for fourth in the high jump.

“Taelynn’s coachability has allowed her to pick up a new sport and be great at it,” Pointer said. “She’s determined and she locks in. She’s very coachable, regardless of what jump she’s in.”

Junior Samantha Overton cleared 2.15 meters to finish fourth in the pole vault. Rochelle landed top-3 finishes in all four relay events, opening the meet with a victory in the 3200-meter relay (Carol Carpenter, Rose Luxton, Annaliese Koziol and Kyrie Cragin) with a time of 10:55.92. The Lady Hubs ended the meet with a second-place showing in the 1600-meter relay

(Gwendolyn O’Dell, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning and Kyrie Cragin), crossing the finish line in 4:17.51.

“What stood out to me was how well rounded we were,” Pointer said. “We were calm going into the last few events because we knew that everyone was able to contribute... We have a lot of talent on this team and we know that the conference and sectional meets can turn out in any way with this group. We have a lot of girls who are on the bubble of qualifying for state, so I’m excited to see if some of our girls can overcome and get on the qualifying side of that bubble.”

Rochelle finished third in the 400-meter relay (Ryelee Bogle, Zoey Schabacker, Kalliyah Cathina and Alex Neece) with a time of 54.10 seconds and third in the 800-meter relay (Elyse Manning, Dylan Etes, Gwendolyn O’Dell and Alex Neece) with a time of 1:52.52. Sophomore Jasmine Walsh and senior Marianna Saldana each set PRs in the hurdles, with Walsh running a 17.75 for fifth in the 100-meter hurdles and Saldana running a 50.96 for third in the 300-meter hurdles.

Underclassmen led the way in the distance area, where sophomore Vivian Worthington took second with a time of 14:21.03 and freshman Carol Carpenter posted a PR of 5:52.63 to win the 1600-meter run. Junior Kyrie Cragin delivered a win in the middle-distance area for the Lady Hubs, crossing the finish line in 2:43.95 to claim the 800-meter run. Freshman Gwendolyn O’Dell led Rochelle in the sprints, clocking in at 13.40 for second in the 100-meter dash.

Seniors Alex Neece and Arline Villanueva rounded out Rochelle’s top sprinters, with Neece running a 29.45 for fifth in the 200-meter dash after Villanueva clocked in at 1:12.35 for fifth in the 400-meter dash.

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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.

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Rochelle News-Leader May 25, 2025



# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



### Rochelle Lady Hubs score Interstate 8 Conference win over LaSalle-Peru on Monday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team earned its second Interstate 8 Conference win of the season on Monday, defeating LaSalle-Peru 5-4 in varsity action. Senior midfielder Makayla Lara (left) led the Rochelle offense with four goals, including three in the first half, while freshman forward Morgan DeLille (right) added one goal in the second half, where the Lady Hubs overcame a 4-3 deficit to win the match. Rochelle (8-12, 2-7 Interstate 8) resumed Interstate 8 play with a road match against Ottawa on Wednesday evening. Above, Makayla Lara holds off LaSalle-Peru defender Vicky Tejada and Morgan DeLille takes a kick.

## RTHS Softball

# Dyer strikes out eight as Lady Hubs fall to Kaneland

## Martinez finishes 2 for 2 with two singles in loss against Morris on Wednesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Senior Lauren Dyer and the Rochelle Lady Hub defense were up to the task during their Interstate 8 Conference varsity softball matchup against Kaneland on Monday.

Rochelle held the Knights scoreless over the first four frames, with Dyer striking out six hitters and the Lady Hub defense playing clean softball without any errors. Rochelle was unable to generate much offense, however, as Kaneland's Makayla Jonutz and Ansley Ruh combined to allow just three hits over seven innings while striking out six batters. A four-run fifth inning was the difference maker for the Knights, who handed the Lady Hubs a 5-0 loss in Interstate 8 play.

"Lauren had a phenomenal start at the beginning of the game, which I think set her up for success," head coach Deanna Jacobs said. "Her pitches were working how they were supposed to and she had a lot of confidence in the circle. She knew that her defense had her back."

Dyer pitched five innings and struck out eight batters for the Lady Hubs (5-16, 0-6 Interstate 8). The senior right-hander worked around a jam in the top of the first inning, recording two straight strikeouts to strand a pair of baserunners. Rochelle had a chance to score in the bottom of the second inning, where sophomore Emma Heller delivered a one-out double and freshman Cheyenne Somers drew a hit-by-pitch with two outs, but a groundout ended the threat.

"Lauren's changeup is phenomenal and I thought she was able to hit her corners today," Jacobs said. "It was tough for us to figure

out where the umpire was going to be calling pitches, so I thought Lauren did a good job of working with the zone that she was given today."

Both teams went down in order over the third and fourth innings, but the Knights broke through when Addison Coulter belted a solo homer on a line drive to left field in the top of the fifth inning. Singles from Maddie Anderson and Riley Cooper enabled Kaneland (12-10, 2-4 Interstate 8) to take a 2-0 lead before Angelina Campise added another single to continue the inning. Cooper scored on a passed ball and Campise scored on an error to give the Knights a 4-0 advantage.

Freshman Audrina Rodriguez laced a lead-off single to the third-base side in the bottom of the fifth inning, but three straight outs stranded her at first base. Kaneland added insurance in the top of the seventh inning, scoring on an RBI groundout from Gianna Cellini to take a five-run lead over the Lady Hubs, who struck out in three straight at-bats in the bottom of the seventh.

"We know that our girls can compete," Jacobs said. "We know we're in a great conference and there are multiple teams in the top 20. These are going to be challenging games, but we know that we're capable of hanging with these teams."

### Morris

A rough start ultimately doomed the Rochelle Lady Hubs, who allowed seven runs on six hits while committing four errors in the top of the first inning during their Interstate 8 Conference varsity softball matchup against the Morris softball team on Wednesday evening.

Freshman Mya Martinez went 2 for 2 with two singles and two stolen bases for the Lady Hubs, who finished with just two hits during their 14-0 loss. Rochelle (5-17, 0-8 Interstate 8) trailed 9-0 entering the top of the fourth inning, where Morris (17-7, 3-5 Interstate 8) tallied five runs on four hits and two walks to enter run-rule territory. The Lady Hubs celebrated Senior Night with a nonconference home doubleheader against Genoa-Kingston at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Back-to-back singles from Karson Dransfeldt and Cami Pfeifer sparked the seven-run first inning for Morris, who saw Alyssa Jepson and Macie Ferguson

deliver RBI singles before Addy Hackett and Ella Urbasek reached on fielding errors to give Morris a 4-0 lead. Tessa Shannon slapped an RBI single two batters later, completing a full trip around the batting order. In her second at-bat of the frame, Dransfeldt reached on an error to drive home a pair of runners.

Martinez singled with one out in the bottom of the first inning, but a strikeout and a groundout to the first baseman Shannon ended the scoring threat. A lead-off walk led to an RBI double from Ferguson in the top of the second inning, where Morris took an 8-0 lead before adding another run on Pfeifer's RBI single



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)


Freshman Mya Martinez puts the ball in play during the Rochelle Lady Hub softball game against Morris on Wednesday.

in the top of the third inning. Hackett's lead-off double and Pfeifer's two-run single highlighted a five-run fourth inning for Morris, who finished with 15 hits.

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

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

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## 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.



# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



### Rochelle Lady Hubs fall against Ottawa during Interstate 8 Conference match on Wednesday evening.

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team hit the road for an Interstate 8 Conference varsity match against Ottawa on Wednesday evening. Sophomore goalkeeper Yana Bartkiv recorded eight saves for the Lady Hubs, who concluded their conference slate with a 6-0 shutout loss to the Pirates. Rochelle (8-13, 2-8 Interstate 8) took the field for nonconference matches against Dixon and Oregon on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. Above, freshman Paige Harris (left) sprints past Ottawa's Taylor Brandt and sophomore Yana Bartkiv (right) clears the ball away from the Rochelle box.

## TENNIS: Green nets two wins as Rochelle loses Interstate 8 finale with Ottawa

From page 1

"It feels great to be back and playing tennis again. I think my movement on the court has improved because last year, I didn't really know what I was doing, but I'm much more confident now. We're feeling very confident."

Junior Caleb Mortensen and sophomore Sam Sergeant represented Rochelle in the No. 1 doubles match, playing a tight first set but falling short in a 4-6, 2-6 loss against Samuel Gingras and Derek Miller.

### Ottawa

Junior Mark Green accounted for two of the three victories earned by the Rochelle Hub tennis team during Tuesday's Interstate 8 varsity match against

Ottawa.

Green and teammate Philip Winters pulled out a clutch second-set win to seal their doubles victory at the start of the match, outlasting Noah Gross and Ayden Sexton 6-2, 7-6(4). Green carried his doubles success over to singles play, where the junior took a tight first set before showing dominance in the second set of a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Evan Krafft in the No. 1 hole.

Despite a valiant effort from Green, Rochelle conceded two doubles matches and four of the six singles matches to fall to the Pirates 6-3 in conference action. Freshman David Eckardt locked down Rochelle's second and final singles points of the evening, overcoming a late surge from Ottawa's Collin Olszewski to secure

a 6-2, 7-6(2) victory at the No. 5 court.

Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Connor Hunley were the first to fall in doubles play, conceding a 2-6, 2-6 loss against Collin Olszewski and Landon Sawin at the No. 3 court. At the No. 2 court, freshman David Eckardt and sophomore Noah McKinney engaged in a marathon battle with Kaden Araujo and Evan Krafft, fighting back from a first-set loss and taking a pivotal second-set tiebreaker to extend the match. In a see-saw third-set tiebreaker that lasted close to 30 minutes, Eckardt and McKinney fell just short of victory, losing the match 3-6, 7-6(5), 14-16.

Ottawa carried a 2-1 lead into singles play, where the Pirates took four points to clinch the win. Junior Philip



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

### Junior Caleb Mortensen goes to his backhand during the Rochelle Hub tennis match against Ottawa on Tuesday evening.

Winters took five games in a 3-6, 2-6 loss against Ayden Sexton at the No. 2 court, while sophomore Amor Lara claimed two games in a

1-6, 1-6 loss against Landon Sawin at the No. 6 court. Junior Caleb Mortensen and sophomore Sam Sergeant each earned one game, with

Sergeant falling 1-6, 0-6 against Kaden Araujo at the No. 3 court and Mortensen falling 0-6, 1-6 against Noah Gross at the No. 4 court.

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- One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.



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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUDITH L. PALIAN, Deceased.  
NO. 2025PR31  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of JUDITH L. PALIAN, of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 29, 2025, to SUZANNA L. PALIAN-GERBER, whose address is 6217 E. Husking Peg R., 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 November 4, 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 SUZANNA L. PALIAN-GERBER, Executor of the Estate of JUDITH L. PALIAN, deceased  
No. 0507  
(May 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

**NOTICE Section 3**  
**Notice to Citizens in the City of Rochelle/County of Ogle & Lee Opportunity for Work**  
The City of Rochelle has received a \$893,829.00 in Community Development Block Grant Funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to complete the following project in the City of Rochelle:  
**Southeast Area Sanitary Sewer Lining**  
This grant will provide National Power Rodding the opportunity to search for eligible local citizens interested in participating in the project. Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended through 1994, provides that the greatest extent feasible, preference for economic opportunities will be given to citizens in Rochelle / Ogle & Lee County who are determined to be low- and very low-income individuals. A low- and very low-income individual can be calculated by documenting household income of less than 80 percent of the county median income (approximately \$56,950/Ogle County and \$51,550/Lee County). Opportunities such as job training and employment arise through this Community Development Block Grant project will be directed toward City/County residents.  
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(May 11, 2025)  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (Special Use for a Rooftop Antenna)**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons in the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, that a public

hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rochelle City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North 6th Street relative to the following:  
Petition of Verizon Americas LLC d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless for a Special Use to place LTE/5G antennas on the roof of the subject property, along with base station equipment and electrical and fiber connections.  
The subject property is located at 1133 N. 7th Street, Rochelle, Illinois 61068 and is legally described as:  
PARCEL 1  
Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 40 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian and part of Lot One (1) in Binz and Davis Subdivision, Lot One (1) and part of Lots Two (2), Eight (8) and Nine (9) in Tilton Manor Subdivision, as recorded in Book "J" of Plats at page 1 in the Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois and Units 300 and 400 of Concord Towers Condominium as delineated on Plat of Survey of Lots Eight (8) and Nine (9) of said Tilton Manor Subdivision, more particularly bounded and described as follows:  
Commencing at the Northwest Corner of Lot One (1) in said Binz and Davis Subdivision, said point being on the Easterly Right-of-Way Line of a Public road designated Illinois Route 251; thence South 2 degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds West along said Easterly Right-of-Way Line, a distance of 26.26 feet to the Point of Beginning of the hereinafter described tract of land; thence North 2 degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds East along said Easterly Right-of-Way Line, a distance of 89.50 feet; thence North 47 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 5.53 feet; thence South 87 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 26.38 feet; thence South 2 degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds West parallel with the Easterly Right-of-Way Line of said Illinois Route 251, a distance of 62.05 feet; thence South 87 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 120.21 feet; thence North 87 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 94.83 feet; thence North 46 degrees 29 minutes 02 seconds West, a distance of 5.13 feet to said Easterly Right-of-Way Line; thence North 2 degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds East along said Easterly Right-of-Way Line, a distance of 151.86 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 476.45 feet; thence North 53 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East, a distance of 173.46 feet (172.65 feet deeded); thence South 36 degrees 09 minutes 16 East, a distance of 91.00 feet; thence South 53 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds

West, a distance of 118.00 feet; thence South 12 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 68.83 feet (69.45 feet platted) to the Northerly Right-of-Way Line of a public road designated Tilton Manor Drive; thence Southwesterly along said Northerly Right-of-Way Line, said linee being curved to the left, having a radius of 130.00 feet, a chord bearing of South 46 degrees 39 minutes 46 seconds West, a central angle of 76 degrees 27 minutes 03 seconds and an arc distance of 173.46 feet; thence North 87 degrees 24 minutes 32 seconds West, a distance of 57.32 feet; thence South 2 degrees 32 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 7.95 feet; thence North 87 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds West, a distance of 75.97 feet (76.09 feet platted) to the exterior face of an existing wall; thence North 2 degrees 44 minutes 08 seconds East along said existing wall, a distance of 7.36 feet; thence North 86 degrees 25 minutes 37 seconds West along said existing wall, a distance of 15.87 feet; thence South 2 degrees 44 minutes 08 seconds West along said existing wall, a distance of 14.70 feet; thence North 87 degrees 20 minutes 11 seconds West along said existing wall and the Westerly extension thereof, a distance of 114.22 feet; thence South 3 degrees 22 minutes 40 seconds West, a distance of 53.09 feet; thence South 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West parallel with the North Line of Lot One (1) in said Binz & Davis Subdivision, a distance of 187.68 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.821 acres, more or less; EXCEPTING THEREFROM all units in Concord Towers Condominium as delineated on Plat of Survey of the following described parcels of real estate: Portions Of Lots 8 and 9 of tilton Manor Subdivision as recorded in the Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois in Book "J" on Page 1, a Subdivision in part of the South Half (1/2) of Section 13, Township 40 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, which Plat of Survey is attached as Exhibit "A" to the Declaration of Condominium made by Rochelle Development, Inc., and Concord Inns, Inc., recorded April 12, 1989 as Document No. 563220, together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements; situated in the City of Rochelle, the Township of Flagg, the County of Ogle and the State of Illinois. PARCEL 2 Units 300 and 400 in Concord Towers Condominium as delineated on Plat of Survey of the following Described parcels of real estate; Portions of Lots 8 and 9 of Tilton Manor Subdivision as recorded in Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois in Book "J" on Page 1, a Subdivision in part of the South Half (1/2) of Section 13, Township 40 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, which Plat of Survey is attached as Exhibit "A" to the Declaration of Condominium made by Rochelle Development, Inc., and Concord Inns., recorded April 12, 1989 as Document No.

563220, together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements, all in Ogle County, Illinois; situated in the City of Rochelle, The Township of Flagg, County of Ogle and State of Illinois. The petition is on file and available for examination in the office of the Community Development Director, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois during normal business hours. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact Michelle Knight at mknight@rochelleil.us or call 815-562-6161 to make arrangements. Rose Hueramo, City Clerk  
City of Rochelle  
No. 0512  
(May 11, 2025)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (Preliminary & Final Plat of Subdivision)**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons in the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rochelle City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North 6th Street relative to the following:  
Petition of St. Paul Lutheran Church for a preliminary & final plat of subdivision.  
The subject properties to be subdivided are zoned R1 Single Family Low Density Residential, are located at 1415 10th Avenue, Parcels 24-23-226-001 and 24-23-226-002 and have the following legal descriptions:  
The South 1/2 of Lots 7 and 8 of the Subdivision of the North East 1/4 of the North East 1/4 of Section 23, in Township 40 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat of said Subdivision recorded in Book E of Plats, page 60, in the Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois.  
The North 1/2 of Lots 7 and 8 of the Subdivision of the North East 1/4 of the North East 1/4 of Section 23, in Township 40 North, Range 1 East of the 3rd P.M., according to the plat recorded in Book E of Plats, page 60, in the Recorder's Office of Ogle County, Illinois, situated in the City of Rochelle.  
The petition is on file and available for examination in the office of the Community Development Director, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois during normal business hours. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact Michelle Knight at mknight@rochelleil.us or call 815-562-6161 to make arrangements. Rose Hueramo, City Clerk  
City of Rochelle  
No. 0513  
(May 11, 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.

**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**  
"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."

**127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS**  
Furman's Lawn Care & Tree Service. 26 Years of Experience. Fully Insured. Weekly Mowing, Spring Clean Up & More. Call Jeremy 815-761-9619 (RNL04162025)

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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.

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

**307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**  
BUNDLE Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. Available Monday-Thursday 815-562-4171 (9AM-3PM) Rochelle News Leader.

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

## 203 HELP WANTED

  
**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.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

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

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


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137 Acres MOL, DeKalb County  
134.45 Crop Acres with 136.9 P.I.  
**MALTA TOWNSHIP**  
Bid Deadline: June 2, 2025  
Bid Packets Available May 7, 2025  
To request a bid packet with complete details, Contact:  
Steve Larson 815-786-2249  
Manager, Larson Malta Farm LLC  
or Jim Stoddard 815-748-0380  
Klein, Stoddard, Buck & Lewis LLC  
2045 Aberdeen Ct. Suite A,  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
jstoddard@kleinstoddard.com

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Public Service Announcement



# MOTHER'S DAY

## Mother's Day crafts Mom will cherish forever

MANY mothers will attest that few things are better than a little rest and pampering on Mother's Day. And when it comes to gifts, homemade items are among the most heartfelt.

Although schools and day care centers may take the lead and guide children through Mother's Day crafts, parents and caregivers looking to encourage kids to make crafts at home can explore these ideas that can turn into wonderful gifts or decorative items for Mom.

**Floral votive holders**  
Kids can create special candle holders that they customize with pressed or paper flowers. New jars can be purchased from a craft store or empty jars at home can be repurposed. Using

Modge Podge or another durable adhesive, children can attach dried, pressed flowers to the outside of the jar by painting the adhesive over the flowers; otherwise, paper flowers cut out from tissue paper or construction paper can be used. Once dry, attach a piece of decorative twine, yarn or ribbon around the mouth of the jar. Place a tealight candle inside for Mom to enjoy.

### Writing pen bouquet

Why not give Mom something that is both beautiful and functional this Mother's Day? Children will have fun making flower pen bouquets. All it takes are a few inexpensive disposable pens, floral tape and artificial flowers. Place an artificial flower stem alongside the pen. It should be short enough that it will



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not impede writing, so cut if necessary. The petals of the flower should be up at the non-writing end. Starting at the non-writing end of the pen, begin to wrap floral tape snugly around the stem and pen to just before the tip of the writing end. It is better to use too much floral tape than not enough. Repeat the process for as many pen flowers as you'd like to make, then offer as a gift in a vase.

### Jewelry dish

Mom can keep her favorite pieces of jewelry safe with a heartfelt clay jewelry dish. It's easy to make with only a few materials. Using air-dry clay and a heart-shaped cookie cutter, children can roll out the clay and cut out the shape. Turn up the edges slightly to make a rim so that rings or earrings won't fall out of the dish later on. Then kids can press decorative items, such as beads, small seashells, sequins, or faux



gems, into the clay. The jewelry dish is beautiful as-is, or it can be painted after dry.

### Faux stained glass

This project mixes paint with glue to create a stained glass effect. The colors can be painted on any acrylic surface, whether it's a flat, plastic photo protector in a picture frame or clear, plastic cosmetic bottles. When the light hits the items, it will produce a prismatic effect just like the real stained glass. Take painter's tape and mark off a desired

design, such as writing "I Love Mom." Using separate small containers (an empty foam egg carton would work well), add a little bit of clear school glue and a few drops of desired colors or acrylic paint. Paint the different colors as they pertain to the design or pattern. The glue and paint should dry quickly and extra coats can be applied depending on how intense you want the color to be. Once the stained glass is dry, peel off the painter's tape and gift.

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*Mother's Day Window*

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