



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

Today's RNL issue sponsored by CommunityUnity member:

BEVERAGE
Family Funeral Home

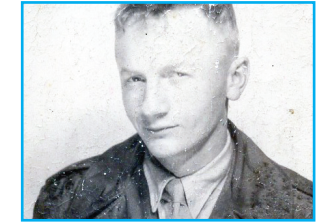
704 6th St.
815-562-6872

Vol. 106 • No. 6

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 \$1.25

Helping you create the life you want.

KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE
kish.edu



Swinton served with Marines

Creston's Lester Swinton served with the U.S. Marines.
Pages 4-5

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
80 59	89 63

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
84 61	74 57

Today's RNL issue sponsored by CommunityUnity member:

900 N. 2nd St.
815-562-2181

OBITUARIES

• CARMEL MAUREEN KLEIN

See page 3

INSERTS

• FARM & FLEET
• RUNNINGS
• OLLIE'S

INSIDE

Local News.....2
Obituaries.....3
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



Special use permit for new childcare center approved

Quarter percent increase in non-home rule sales tax approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a special use permit for a new childcare center planned for 450 Coronado Drive in Rochelle.

The location is currently a vacant building which was previously a medical facility and has been vacant for a few years. On Monday, May 5, the city's Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and voted 6-0 to approve the special use permit for it to go on to the city council.



At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a special use permit for a new childcare center planned for 450 Coronado Drive in Rochelle.

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said a developer is in the process of closing on the property.

"This is an established childcare center in Sycamore named Mother's Little Helper Learning Center," Pease said. "The owner has seen a need for it here in Rochelle. It's just south of the Walmart facility."

The daycare would be the second of its kind in Rochelle. Little Hubs Learning Center is located at 1010 N. 15th St. and

opened in town in early 2023. Prior to that, Rochelle had been without a daycare since 2020 when Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed at the same location.

"From what I've heard, the existing facility is pretty full," Mayor John Bearrows said. "So I think this is a great thing. I've heard the stories about working folks that drive to Rockford to

drop their kids off at daycare and then drive back to Rochelle or DeKalb to work. This will be a great addition."

Tax

The council unanimously approved the implementation of a .25 percent increase in non-home rule sales tax in response to the state's elimination of a one percent local grocery tax that previously

benefited the city at the beginning of 2026.

The grocery tax applied to food intended for off-premise consumption, such as groceries purchased for home use. It did not apply to take-out meals, alcohol, candy, or soft drinks. Non-home rule sales tax does not apply to as many items as the grocery tax does.

See CITY COUNCIL page 2



On May 8, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Mindful Matters Therapy at 516 4th Ave. in Rochelle.

Ribbon cutting ceremony held for Mindful Matters Therapy

'I really hope to make a difference...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On May 8, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Mindful Matters Therapy at 516 4th Ave. in Rochelle.

The business is owned by Loni Nolte, who is a licensed clinical social worker. Mindful Matters Therapy offers compassionate support and evidence-based treatments to help individuals navigate life's challenges. In-person and/or telehealth appointments are available for both privacy and ease or practicality in a busy life.

Nolte grew up in Paw Paw and received her master's degree in social work from Aurora University. Both of her parents own their own businesses in Paw Paw, and she never saw her

career transpiring that way, until she changed course.

"I wanted to help people," Nolte said. "I really hope to make a difference with people. I hope to have more conversations with people here and in the community. I try to make everyone feel like they're a friend when they come through my door. I think life is hard and if you live it, you get bumps and bruises. In the mental health game, that can look like anxiety and depression. When those things go untreated, they become worse and can be really hard. When you find tools, support and a safe place to work through them, they become part of your story and what makes you tough and what makes you survive."

See MINDFUL MATTERS page 2

Grand opening held Saturday for new Creston-Dement Public Library

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — On Saturday, a grand opening event was held for the recently-constructed Creston-Dement Public Library. The festivities included a ribbon cutting, food, music and tours of the new building at 201 N. Main St. in Creston.

The building opened to the public for operations in March after a yearlong construction project to build it. 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.

Library Board President Doug Kroupa said about 300 people attended the grand opening, including local officials and community members.

See LIBRARY page 2



On Saturday, a grand opening event was held for the recently-constructed Creston-Dement Public Library.

Local Lenders. Local Decisions.

FREE Pre-Approvals
COMPETITIVE Rates
LOCAL Servicing
EXPERIENCED Lenders

Best Bank
Best Loan Officer | Diana Davidson
Best Mortgage Lending Services

Diana Davidson
Mortgage Lender
815.645.2029
dianad@stillmanbank.com
NMLS No. 746408

www.stillmanbank.com

COME SEE YOUR FRIENDS

Brent Ohlinger
Community President
NMLS #454385

FIRST STATE BANK

David Eckhardt
Vice President/Loan Officer
NMLS #454387

304 East Highway 38
firststatebank.biz | 815.562.2200

LOCAL NEWS



Mayor John Bearrows read two proclamations during the meeting. The first was in honor of National Police Week (May 11-17) that was presented to Rochelle Police Department Chief Pete Pavia and RPD officers. The second was in honor of National Public Works Week (May 18-24) and was presented to Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley.

CITY COUNCIL: RACF's Anaya presents at meeting Monday evening

From page 1

It does not apply to groceries, prescription drugs or large items like vehicles.

To offset the impact of the change, the state granted non-home rule communities like Rochelle the authority to implement their own local grocery tax of up to one percent. Additionally, communities may raise their non-home rule sales tax, provided the total does not exceed one percent.

The elimination of the state grocery tax will result in an estimated \$320,000 annual loss to the city's general fund, which supports services such as public safety, public works, community development and capital improvement projects (CIP).

Based on last year's data, the new non-home rule sales tax is projected to generate between \$350,000 and \$500,000 annually. Revenues must be allocated for infrastructure-related purposes. Half of the new revenue will be transferred to the general fund to support salaries and benefits for public works and engineering personnel. The remaining half will be directed to the CIP fund for infrastructure improvements.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said Monday the city will continue working toward stabilizing its portion of the property tax levy at its current rate of \$0.92 per \$100 of assessed valuation, with the goal of reducing the rate to \$0.90 or lower by 2028.

Rochelle's combined sales tax rate, including all taxing bodies, will be 7.25 percent, below that of neighboring communities such as Rockford and DeKalb.

RACF

Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Anaya made a presentation on the RACF Employee Giving Campaign that city staff has been taking part in during recent years.

City employees have raised over \$100,000 for RACF causes through payroll deduction. The Rochelle-area charitable organization recently marked 20 years in operation and \$1.3 million in reinvestment into the community.

"Over the years, our partnership with the city has been nothing short of inspiring," Anaya said. "This is a powerful testament to your shared belief in the strength of this community and your commitment to giving back."

Proclamations

Bearrows read two proclamations during the meeting. The first was in honor of National Police Week (May 11-17) that was presented to Rochelle Police Department Chief Pete Pavia and RPD officers. The second was in honor of National Public Works Week (May 18-24) and was presented to Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley.

(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)



The ribbon cutting event was attended by members of the community and hosted by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rochelle. Speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera and Mayor John Bearrows. Herrera thanked owner Loni Nolte for choosing to locate her business in Rochelle.

MINDFUL MATTERS: Ribbon cutting ceremony held for therapy business on May 8

From page 1

The ribbon cutting event was attended by members of the community and hosted by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rochelle. Speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera and Mayor John Bearrows.

Herrera thanked Nolte for choosing to locate her business in Rochelle.

"We chose to do this in May because it's Mental Health Awareness Month," Herrera said. "We want to celebrate that with you and recognize that. We just want to thank you for being a part of our community and our downtown. We always like to celebrate with new businesses and having someone that is already so involved and such a part of our community is very exciting for us. Welcome to Rochelle."

Bearrows spoke about the importance of mental health resources in the community and said having Mindful Matters Therapy in Rochelle will help people in the city to overcome hurdles.

"It's an extremely big problem," Bearrows said. "It's the hardest thing to get help for someone that there ever is. You can have cancer or any other health issue and get help. Mental health is tough. This is near and dear to my heart. I know she's going to do great things for many people in our community. We've talked about how we have a mental health ambulance call and they transfer them and two hours later they're back on the street because nobody wants to help. I'm very excited to have you in this town to help those that are less fortunate and need the help."

(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

LIBRARY: 'Everyone who put the work in to make it happen came to celebrate'

From page 1

"It was an absolutely amazing day," Kroupa said. "People that started the process of a library in Creston back in the 1980s attended. Our architect and building manager came. Everyone who put the work in to make it happen came to celebrate. There were so many people from the area who have helped to continue the growth process."

The library project had to undergo a redesign due to an unexpected \$800,000 funding gap due to not receiving a state grant and higher-than-anticipated building costs. The redesigned plans made the project about a third smaller. The redesign caused about a year-long delay.

The building was made smaller and reconfigured, while retaining its planned amenities with the exception of study rooms. The new design also allows for potential future expansion. Despite the prices of building materials rising almost 75 percent following the COVID-19 pandemic, the library's construction was able to be done very close to its original budget, Kroupa said in recent months.

"When you get the support from the community to make something like this happen, it means a lot," Kroupa said. "I just want to thank everyone who put in so much work to make it happen. Let's just keep it going good and strong. It's important that we continue to use the library and fully realize its potential."

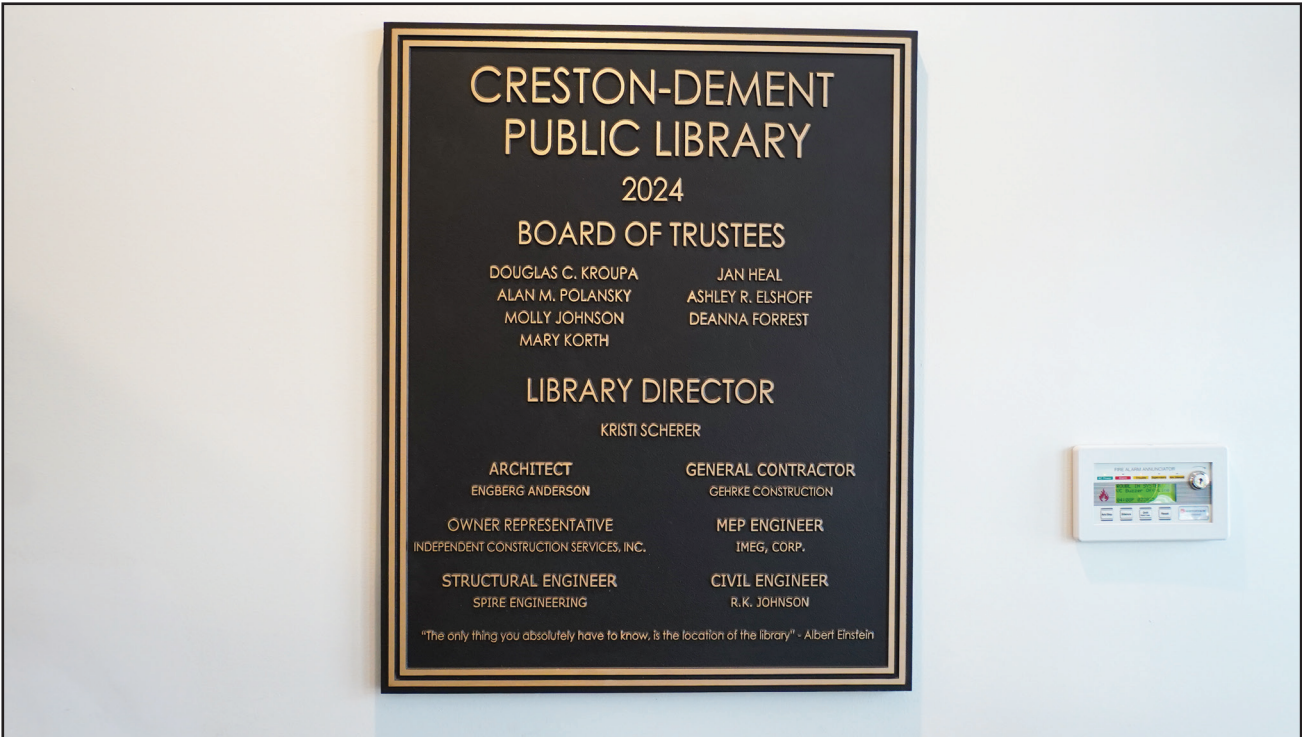
In recent years, the library's longtime space saw increased use, which made a renewed push for a new library in the community. The new building and property will lend itself well to accessibility, multiple events at once, more programs, a community garden, and less impact from trains. Kroupa said in March.

"Things have gone great since we moved into the new library," Kroupa said. "We've seen a lot of foot traffic. It's been vibrant. We've made about 40-70 brand new library cards. Our circulation has gone up. A lot of people have been coming in to see it."

Kroupa said he enjoyed showing members of the community around the new library facility and detailing its amenities. The grand opening saw attendance by people of all ages and the new library is ADA compliant, unlike its previous location. The final work remaining on the library will include landscaping and the addition of a community garden.

Kroupa and the library's leadership thanked everyone who helped the project reach completion, namely the Berg family for their donation of the land for it 20 years ago to put the project in motion.

"It was a dream come true," Kroupa said of the grand opening. "People can sometimes feel a let down after planning for a big event. We didn't feel that. It was everything we hoped it'd be with everyone participating. The community was thankful to us, but that's not why we did it. We did it to continue to grow and share knowledge and improve education."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The building opened to the public for operations in March after a yearlong construction project to build it.

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Carmel Maureen Klein

ROCHELLE — Carmel Maureen Klein of Rochelle, Illinois, formerly of Baltimore, Maryland, passed away on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at Franklin Grove Nursing Home in Franklin Grove, IL. Carmel was born in Storm Lake, IA, August 08, 1928 to Matthias V. and Julia (McFadden) Roethler. She first married John A. LaRue and together they had two sons, Todd and John Kevin. After the divorce, she later married Henry Klein who preceded her in death.

Carmel was a devout Catholic and a faithful member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle. She spent most of her adult life working in and around Baltimore, where she was employed by Standard Carpet and later by the Social Security Administration. Upon retiring, Carmel

found her greatest joy as a nanny to the Gloth family children, Paul, Katy, Alex and Michael, a role she cherished deeply. In 2001, Carmel moved to Rochelle to be closer to family. She loved the Vowels family, often spending birthdays and holidays with them.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, her parents; her brother, Tom; her sister, Pat; her son, John Kevin and her grandson, Jon Michael.

She is survived by her son, Todd, granddaughters: Cassandra (Lance) Heaton and Alexis LaRue; grandsons: Daniel Eubank, Matthew LaRue, and Michael LaRue, and nine great-grandchildren.

Carmel's family would also like to acknowledge Mary Erdman, her devoted caregiver and friend, who cared for her for many years.

In accordance to her



wishes, Carmel will be cremated. A funeral mass will be held at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle, IL on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. A graveside service will follow the funeral mass at St. Patrick Cemetery with a gathering of family and friends for a meal in the St. Patrick's Parish Center. Memorials may be made to the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle, IL. Visit www.ungerhorn.com to sign the online guest book.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On May 9 at approximately 4:59 p.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Maple Avenue. An initial investigation determined a Kia Sportage, driven by Mario A Castro, 31, of Rochelle was traveling northbound on Illinois Route 251 before beginning to turn onto Maple Avenue. A Chevy Suburban, driven by Quinton Horton, 36, of Rockford, struck the Kia on the driver's side of the vehicle. Both vehicles came to rest off the northwest side of the roadway. Castro was later transported to the Rochelle Community Hospital with minor injuries. After further investigation, Horton was placed under arrest for driving while license

revoked. Horton was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date. Horton was additionally cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Ogle County deputies were assisted by Rochelle EMS.

On May 9 at approximately 5:48 p.m. deputies responded to 15602 E. Lindenwood Road in reference to a violation of an order of protection. After investigation, deputies placed Blaine Henley, 44, of Franklin Grove under arrest for violation of an order of protection. Henley was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On May 10 at approxi-

mately 10:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 38 and Mulford Road. After investigation, Jose L Barraza, 59, Rochelle, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Barraza was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was subsequently charged with driving under the influence of alcohol with a BAC over .08. Barraza was also cited for speeding and improper lane usage. Barraza was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 10 at 2:46 p.m. deputies conducted a civil process service in the 400 block of Errett Road in Hillcrest. After a brief investigation, Daniel Metzger, 26, of Rochelle, was arrested on an active McLean County warrant. Metzger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On May 10 at approximately 12:44 p.m. deputies were dispatched to a disturbance call in the 300 block of East Third Street in Leaf River. After an initial investigation Wesley Lane, 18, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for possession of a firearm without a FOID card. Lane was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear bond. A 15-year-old juvenile male from Leaf River was taken into custody for unlawful possession of a handgun by a minor, possession of a firearm without a FOID card, possession of ammunition without a FOID card, trespassing, and unlawful possession of a weapon. The juvenile was transported to the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

Work on Illinois 64 in Ogle County begins May 19

DIXON — The Illinois Department of Transportation announced May 12 that weather permitting, construction on Illinois Route 64 in Ogle County will begin Monday, May 19. The nearly eight-mile work zone is from Chana Road to Illinois Route 251.

Work will mill and re-surface the road. There will be daily lane closures controlled by flaggers during the \$3.1 million project, which is anticipated to be completed in September.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through

this area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices, and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as

part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at @IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map on GettingAroundIllinois.com.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Dale Sveta will be celebrating a milestone birthday on May 18. He will be turning 100 years young.

Sveta to celebrate 100th birthday

STEWART — Dale Sveta will be celebrating a milestone birthday on May 18. He will be turning 100 years young.

In those years he has seen the world change extraordinarily. He has spent his whole life farming in the Stewart-Rochelle area and continues to remain active on the family farm.

Dale has always been active, and that is a testament to his long life. He still serves on the Stewart Village Board, and occasionally works at the Food Pantry in Rochelle.

Dale values most his faith in God, family and friends. He will enjoy spending his birthday with



his three children, eight grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Dale would enjoy receiving cards for his birthday, but no gifts please.

P.O. Box 73 Stewart, IL 60553.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On May 7 at 7:13 a.m. David A. Bruce, 61, of New Lenox was cited for speeding 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 7 at 5:38 p.m. Michael A. Reinford, 21, of Chana was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 8 at 3:15 p.m. David E. Wickson, 52, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and

was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 8 at 7:28 a.m. Matthew E. Black, 24, of Chicago was cited for failure to stop for highway construction, entering construction zone with employees, improper U turn, and disregarding a traffic control device. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 10 at 8:22 a.m. Christian Enna, 32, of Leaf River was cited for canceled/revoked/suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given

a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 10 at 12:25 p.m. Chad Burkhart, 51, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and driving with no license or permit, and cited for no valid registration, illegal transport/carry of alcohol, fleeing/attempting to elude an officer, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 4 Ogle County court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
Support Community & Shop Local

To be included, contact
Chris Ackland at 815.561.2153
cackland@rochellenews-leader.com

ANDERSON PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Lic# 055-013999

ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-4171

USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$139.99 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$149.99 per year. The circulation department is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For subscription information, contact Kelly White at 562-4171.

IN-COUNTY REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- \$139.99 for one year • \$79 for six months
- \$34.99 for three months • \$13.99 for one month

Call (815) 562-4171 or
Visit our website at
www.rochellenews-leader.com

MasterCard VISA

HOW TO CONTACT US

News-Leader Main Switchboard	(815) 562-4171
General Manager	(815) 561-2124
Newsroom Staff Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor Russ Hodges, Sports	(815) 561-2151 rhodges@rochellenews-leader.com
To Place a Display Ad Chris Ackland	(815) 561-2153 cackland@rochellenews-leader.com
To Place a Legal Ad Mike Feltes	mfeltes@oglecountylife.com
To Place a Classified Ad Chris Ackland	(815) 561-2153
Subscriptions and Delivery Kelly White	(815) 562-4171 kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com

WHO IS UNITY HOSPICE?

- Care provided by the entire hospice team: physician, nurse, social worker, certified nursing assistant, chaplain, dietitian, pharmacist, and volunteers.
- Care is individualized and based on the patient's and family's goals of comfort and quality of life.
- Supplies, equipment and medications.
- Service where the patient resides.
- Specialize in pain & symptom management.
- Spiritual enrichment and bereavement counseling.
- Ancillary Therapies: Music, Physical/Occupational, Speech, Massage, Pet, etc.
- Ability to provide education to caregivers and family members.
- On-call nurse available 24/7.
- Volunteers providing special attention and stimulation.
- Assistance with advance directives and community support.
- Provide Education to those we care for

Unity Hospice and Palliative Care

CALL UNITY:
(815) 561-8866
915 N. Caron Rd.
Rochelle, IL

@unityhospice



Honoring our American Hero

Lester Swinton of Creston served in U.S. Marines

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — Lester “Skeeter” Swinton of Creston served in the United States Marines in the late 1950s.

Swinton was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on April 1, 1936 and was raised on a farm of sand burrs and pickles outside of Wautoma, Wisconsin. He left home for a better life in the Marine Corps when he was just 17, his brother, Dennis Swinton of Rochelle, said.

“He chose to serve at the age of 17 because we had nothing,” Dennis Swinton said. “We lived in a house out in the middle of nowhere that didn’t have running water or electricity. We just had to get away. I’ve always said that anybody who thinks they can’t start over or get started is wrong. All you have to do is go down the road. That’s what happened here. Rochelle took me in and later on, it took my brother in too after his service.”

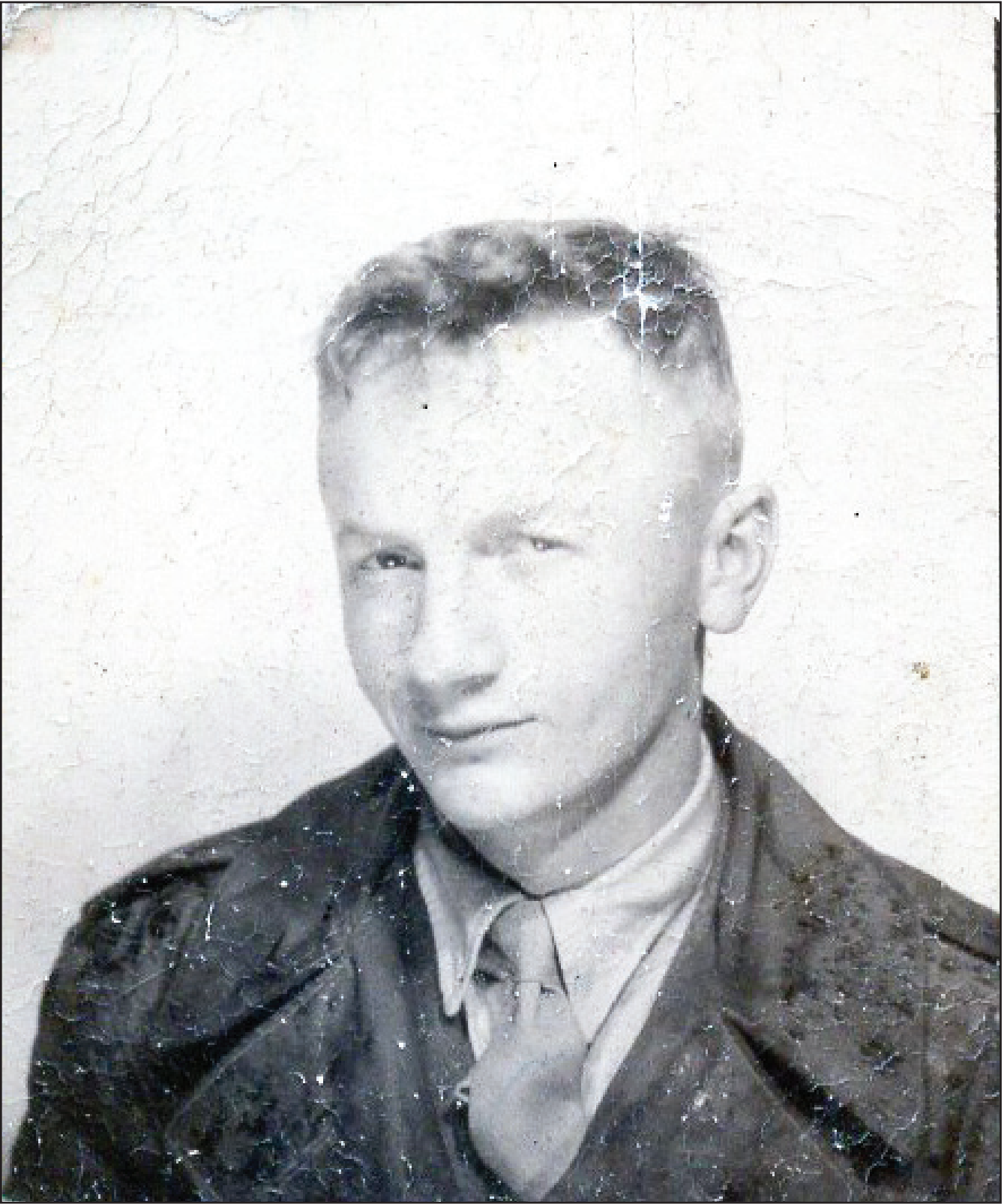
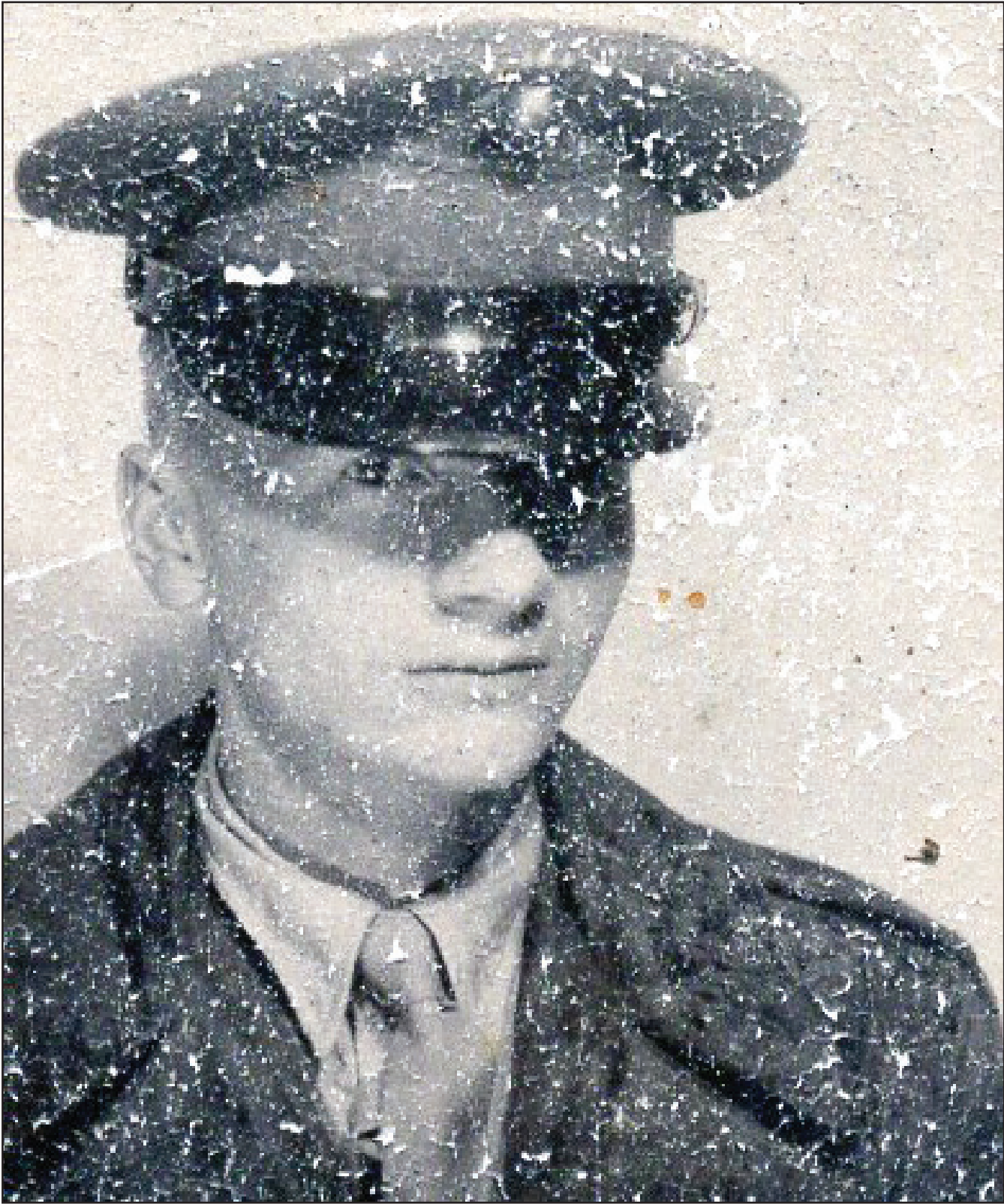
Lester Swinton then traveled to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California, to 1s Recruit Training Battalion. Drill instructors were waiting for his class to step off the bus, and his molding into a Marine began with yelling and cursing.

According to a rendition of Skeeter’s service provided by Dennis Swinton, what followed was shock and later numbness of the body and strict discipline. He learned to endure strenuous and demanding training.

Lester Swinton later contracted blood poisoning from ill fitting boots and was sent to the hospital. While there, he had all of his teeth removed and was fitted for false teeth, which he persevered through, and later graduated as a Marine.

“I just know that even though he was so quiet, he was tough,” Dennis Swinton said. “I was never tough. He was the tough one. He was a brother that always stood by me and helped me. He answered any question I had.”

After boot camp, Swinton was enrolled in Food Service Schools, graduating in 1956. Upon graduation, became a cook in the Officers Mess in the First Marine Division. There, he likely had the best food he’d had in a while. He was promoted from PFC to corporal.



Lester “Skeeter” Swinton of Creston served in the United States Marines in the late 1950s. Swinton was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on April 1, 1936 and was raised on a farm of sand burrs and pickles outside of Wautoma, Wisconsin. He left home for a better life in the Marine Corps when he was just 17, his brother, Dennis Swinton of Rochelle, said.

Lester was then shipped out for a tour of duty in Korea. When his tour was over, he was offered his sergeant stripes if he stayed, but going home to the U.S. sounded a lot better. He came home and was honorably discharged.

“He went to Japan while he was over there and spent some time there and sent me a nylon jacket from Japan,” Dennis Swinton said. “The only thing he taught me was that when he was in Marines cooking school, they had vidalia onions. I used to hate onions. He told me they could be eaten like apples. I said no way. He was really into cooking.”

Lester joined his brother, Dennis, in Rochelle and went to work for Caron International. It was there that he met

his future wife, Marilyn, who also worked there. They were married and had one son, Patrick.

“Skeeter” then went to work for Rochelle Printing Company and he and his family made Creston their home.

“He always smoked a pipe when he worked for Rochelle Printing,” Dennis Swinton said. “I went to work there for a short time and we both worked third shift. I carried paper up and put it in the machine and he’d sit back with his pipe and watch the machine run. I thought that wasn’t fair (laughs). He worked there for several years and when it closed he went to Northern Illinois University as a maintenance worker and retired from there.”

Lester “Skeeter” Swinton passed away on March 8,

“We just had to get away. I’ve always said that anybody who thinks they can’t start over or get started is wrong. All you have to do is go down the road. That’s what happened here. Rochelle took me in and later on, it took my brother in too after his service.”

Dennis Swinton

2000. He will forever be a Marine.

“He took a lot of pride in being a veteran,” Dennis Swinton said. “He was really proud of it.”

Honoring Our American Hero is a series that prints

twice a month in the News-Leader. If you know an American Hero you would like to have featured, contact Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@rochellenews-leader.com or call 815-561-2151.

★ Thank you ★
★ to our ★
★ Hometown ★
★ Heroes! ★

EST. 1853
ROCHELLE
ILLINOIS

Davis Family Health LLC

Kelly Ann Tonielli Davis
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC-CNE

We Fix Boo Boos

Proudly Veteran Owned
and Operated

Voted BEST DOCTOR & BEST FAMILY PRACTICE

1212 Currency Court, Rochelle, IL 815-561-8500 1201 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 815-538-1800

Primary Care, Physicals, Weight Loss, Dermal Fillers, Botox Injections, Suboxone Program
(Most insurances accepted)

In Recognition
of all
U.S. Veterans
who served and
are currently
serving.

Arnold Heltness
American Legion Post 403
Rochelle, IL
Rochelle.Post403@gmail.com
815-766-0208

**IN HONOR OF EVERY HERO
THAT HAS SERVED OR IS
CURRENTLY SERVING IN
OUR MILITARY,
WE THANK YOU!**

Rochelle Foods

Job Opportunities
1001 S. Main Street | **Rochelle**
815-562-4141 | rochellefoodsjobs.com

IN HONOR OF OUR
VETERANS

Rochelle
Community Hospital

900 N SECOND ST, ROCHELLE, IL
815-562-2181
ROCHELLEHOSPITAL.COM

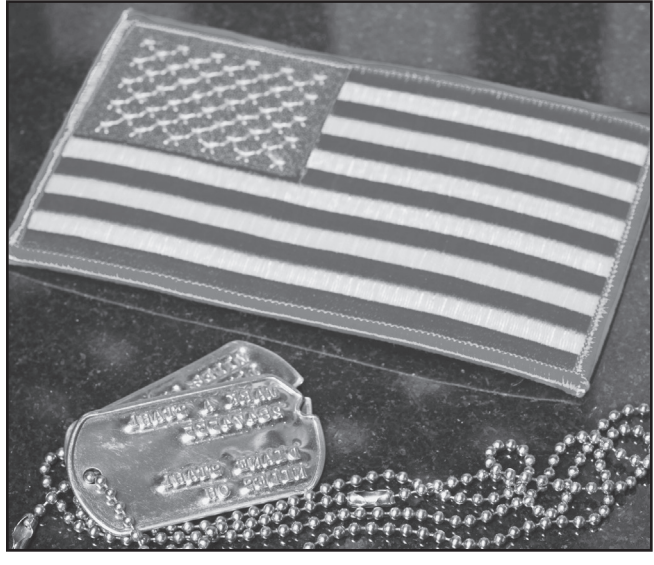
Thank You to All of Our
Service Men & Women,
past & present.

**MAINTAIN YOUR SMILE
DENTAL**

1001 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle | 815-562-2030
1110 South Mulford Road, Rockford | 815-398-3879
5473 Reimer Drive, Roscoe | 815-623-2193
maintainyoursmile.com

Thank you,
Veterans,
past, present
and future

Floyd J. Tilton
VFW Post #3878
318 4th Ave., Rochelle, IL
(815) 562-3878



Beverage-Lyons
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICES

704 N. 6th Street, Rochelle 815-562-6872
601 Richardson Avenue, Ashton 815-453-2441
beveragefamilyfh.com
Respect. Honor. Remember.

Free
Caskets for
Funerals or Urns
for Cremations
for Veterans

Honoring All Veterans &
Those Currently Serving
Our Country

Precious Pastures

*Delicious, Quality Raw Milk
Fresh at the farm!*

Every Day 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM
& 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
(Please bring your own containers.
24 hours Notice Required.)

387 S. Malta Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068
815-762-6867 • PreciousPastures.com

LOCAL VIEWS

Kurt Wolter: The telegraph in Ogle County

COMMUNICATION technology is the phenomenon that occurs when humans control their lives using tools, machines, knowledge, & resources by sending and receiving messages to other humans or machines. It is worthwhile to learn about communication technology systems because they have great influence over us and the rest of the world. Communication technology shapes and controls our lives, and by understanding more about these systems we can adapt to them and make choices about how they affect us. This understanding can start with having a general knowledge of their history and how they work.

All communication technology involves messages. These messages are composed of data, which is a general term used to describe the smallest pieces of the message content. If we think of a message as if it was a puzzle, the data are the puzzle pieces. By themselves, the puzzle pieces represent only the color or object they are a part of, while the entire puzzle is the entire message. It's only when combined in an organized way with all its pieces in their

proper place that the whole message makes sense and provides its information.

As I discussed in a previous article, the telegraph emerged during the mid-1800s as a new, nearly instantaneous process to move a message over a long distance. Before that, nearly all messages needing to be transmitted over long distances were encoded on paper as letters and numbers and then moved physically by horseback or stagecoach or sailing ship. The telegraph machine enabled a skilled telegraph operator to encode data into electrical pulses of dots and dashes (the data bits) which were sent over wire circuits strung up on telegraph poles to transmit the bits to their destination. There, they were decoded by another telegraph operator in real time as they "arrived". Interestingly, telegraph operators could recognize other operators based upon the style of their dots and dashes!

Telegraph communication technology arrived in Chicago in 1848. At this time the city was a young metropolis, and lots of its residents needed to communicate with people on the East Coast. Chicago developed rapidly

along with the railroads, and its location near the Great Lakes and gateway proximity to the growing West made it a center of communication need. By 1858, the Chicago Board of Trade received real time market news and pricing from New York City. By the 1880s it was a central hub in the nation-wide telegraph network, and it was second only to New York in the number of messages transmitted. Farmers looking to maximize their profit for grain and commodity could use this pricing information to their benefit and the telegraph was a way to deliver that data.

Railroad companies quickly recognized the immense value of the telegraph for managing their complex operations over increasing distances, utilizing it for tasks such as coordinating train schedules, ensuring the safe passage of trains, and relaying crucial information about traffic and broken tracks. Because it was very efficient to place telegraph wire lines and poles along railroad tracks as the new tracks

were laid, and because railroad terminals were also hubs of commerce and transportation, most railroad stations throughout Illinois were also telegraph offices. Many towns that developed around the railroad depots have the word, "center" added to their names because they were indeed centers of transportation as well as communication.

Here in Ogle County, the Ogle & Carroll County railroad chartered in 1857, eventually connecting Rochelle to Oregon in the spring of 1871. Although specific evidence of a telegraph was not found, the Biographical Record of Ogle County, Illinois (1899) includes a mention of a telegraph operator working in Harper, Ogle County, as early as 1857. In 1854 the Air Line railroad arrived in Rochelle (then Lane) which later became part of the Chicago and North Western Railway. And the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad connected Rochelle to Galena, a major city at the time, by 1855. In Lee County, the Dixon Evening Telegraph, a prominent



Kurt Wolter

newspaper, was founded in 1851 and included the name of the technology which it used to bring news, sports, and world events to those hungry for information from outside of our area.

As railroad stations typically housed telegraph offices, the first telegraph office in Rochelle was likely situated within the Air Line Railroad (later Chicago North Western) depot. Other depots for other railway companies, such as the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, suggest a continued growth and expansion of telegraph services in Rochelle, mirroring the development of its rail infrastructure.

The Illinois and Mississippi Telegraph Company played a crucial role in the early development of telegraph networks in our region. Formed in the early 1850s, this regional company established communication routes across Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. With its connections to Ottawa, Illinois, the Illinois and Mississippi Telegraph Company was a likely early provider of telegraph service to Ogle County, before Western Union's complete consol-

idation of the market. By the 1850s, the telegraph industry saw the formation of six major regional monopolies, including the Illinois and Mississippi Telegraph Company, indicating its significant footprint in the Midwest. Over time, however, Western Union continued its expansion, eventually absorbing many of its competitors, including the Illinois and Mississippi Telegraph Company, to become the leading telegraph provider in the nation.

But just as all good things usually come to an end, the telegraphs days as the hot new communication technology were numbered. Another new thing, the telephone, was going to become the next "must have" technology. Hang on the line for more information about that in the future!

Kurt Wolter has studied and taught technology, including production, transportation, energy, and communication, for over 30 years. He enjoys trying to understand technology and its past, present, and future while also attempting journalism. He can be reached at technohistory100@gmail.com.

The battle after service, helping veterans struggling with addiction

AS Memorial Day approaches, Americans nationwide prepare to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Ceremonies will be held, flags will be flown at half-staff, and families will gather to pay tribute. But amid the solemnity and gratitude lies a quieter, often overlooked truth. Many of our heroes return home not to peace but to a new battlefield, one waged within.

It's a battle that doesn't make headlines and is waged silently behind closed doors, far from the front lines. Military service members and veterans face unique and profound challenges that can linger long after their tours of duty end. While we rightfully celebrate

their courage and sacrifice, we too often fail to recognize the invisible wounds many carry, particularly those that lead to substance use disorders.

The harsh reality is that exposure to combat, traumatic injuries, and the pressure to reintegrate into civilian life all contribute to an increased risk of developing a substance use disorder, experiencing drug overdose, or suicidal ideation.

The connection between military service and addiction is not often discussed, but it should be. According to census data, in 2022, 475,496 veterans lived in Illinois. While it is challenging to know how many veterans in local communities struggle with addiction and mental health issues, there are some national and state

trends among veterans and the general population that offer some insight into the problems.

Veteran suicide data in Illinois, for example, show that after accounting for age differences, the veteran suicide rate in the state was significantly higher than the national general population, according to Veterans Affairs. In 2022, there were 162 veteran suicide deaths in the state.

Nationally, the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports that 6.3% of veterans had a substance use disorder in the past year. Alcohol use, for example, was common among 56% of veterans, while 22% engaged in binge drinking,

and 5.2% experienced an alcohol use disorder.

Alcohol abuse, in general, unfortunately, is a common precursor for addiction and suicidal ideation and increases the risk of drug abuse and drug overdose. Opioids, for example, were responsible for 3,261 overdose deaths in 2022, an 8.2% increase from 2021, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Opioids accounted for 83% of all drug overdose deaths in 2022.

We need to normalize conversations around mental health and addiction within military culture. We should also support community-based organizations and non-profits doing critical work

in this space. Many of these groups offer holistic, veteran-centered services that go beyond what traditional institutions can provide, from non-traditional therapy and outdoor rehabilitation programs to job training and sober housing.

We must also expand access to comprehensive, trauma-informed care, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce. Fortunately, there are some resources to help, such as the Veterans Crisis Line; dial 988, then press 1, or text 838255 anywhere in the state. The Illinois Helpline is also available by calling 1-833-234-6343 or texting "HELP" to 833234. The Illinois Warm Line is available at 1-866-359-7953 for individuals or family members with mental health or substance

use challenges. The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs can be reached at 1-800-437-9824.

The connection between military service and substance use disorders is not a comfortable topic. But it is a necessary one. To truly honor the men and women who defend our freedoms, we must be willing to confront the unseen battles they face and commit ourselves to being part of their recovery. This Memorial Day let's do more than remember the dead. Let's fight for the living.

Jody Boulay is a mother of two with a passion for helping others. She currently works as a Community Outreach Coordinator for DRS to help spread awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Darin LaHood
1424 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
20515
(202) 225-6201

IL Sen. Li Arellano Jr.
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0535

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochellenews-leader.com)

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

* Denotes Chairman/President

Rochelle City Council

*John Bearrows	jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes	bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga	rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso	bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Steve Builta	sbuilt@rochelleil.net
Ashley Jackson	ajackson@rochelleil.net
Stephanie White	swhite@rochelleil.net
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@rochelleil.net
Jennifer Thompson	jthompson@rochelleil.net
Evan Tracy	etracy@rochelleil.net
Stacey Dunphy	sdunphy@rochelleil.net

Rochelle Township High School Board

*Jeff Tilton	jeff.tilton@rthsd12.org
Bobby Chadwick	bobby.chadwick@rthsd12.org
Brent Ohlinger	brent.ohlinger@rthsd12.org
Laurie Pillen	laurie.pillen@rthsd12.org
Joel Thompson	joel.thompson@rthsd12.org
Trisha Vaughn	trisha.v Vaughn@rthsd12.org
Janet Kacvinsky	janet.kacvinsky@rthsd12.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Brent Carmichael	bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs	jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells	dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden	thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart	jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis	jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Austin Gillis	agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller	dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms	jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4

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

Creston Village Board

*Tom Byro	tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net
Justin Hibshman	jhibshman20@gmail.com
Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman	mark@headons2go.com
Reid Elliot	oneluckydog7@gmail.com
Jennifer Payton	creston.clerk09@gmail.com

Hillcrest Village Board

*Richard Rhoads	rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman	ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter	dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball	tball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta	jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski	ebraski@hillcrestil.us
Patricia Garcia	pgarcia@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township

Sue Messer	supervisor@flaggtownship.org
Joanna Patrick	clerk@flaggtownship.org
Rachel Berry	assessor@flaggtownship.org
Scott Seebach	commissioner@flaggtownship.org

Board of Trustees

Lance Noggle	noggle62@gmail.com
Eric Gruben	egruben@comcast.net
Susan Hager	susanhager303@comcast.net
Jim Kenney	jimk@rocketsupply.com

Flagg-Rochelle Library

Jaqueline Dickow	dickow@comcast.net
*Teresa Haggstad	haggstads@comcast.net
Kelly Johnson	kellyjohnson0927@yahoo.com
Lanning Nicoloff	nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera	alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge	nit1prl22@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip	doobs12@comcast.net

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.



County Regional Planning Commision meeting canceled

Court House, First Floor
Conference Room #100,
105 S. Fifth St., Oregon.

May 20
Darrell &
Beth Bolhous
(anniversary)

King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

31 Morning
moisture
34 — Moines
35 Muffin choice
37 Cover with
cloth
38 Wagers
39 Power co.
supply
40 "East of
Eden" girl
41 Optimum
42 Bitty biter
43 Sicilian spout-
er
44 Privation
46 French article
47 AOL, for one

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: 

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **F** equals **B**

SLWY IXCYS AT L BYKKQJTSY
UYOCXBY BTOQTOLAXTS
KTBLAYG XS FXOWXSIJLW'U
UALAY: WTFXKY LKLFLLWL.

©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

Answer

[illegible]

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

Cryptology

ANSWER

Name given to a cellphone service corporation located in Birmingham's state: Mobile Alabama.

We're Thankful for the Best Kind of People



VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank all of the individuals listed below, who volunteer their time to help us provide the very best care and service to RCH patients and visitors.

We can't do it without you!

Board of Trustees

Brent Ohlinger, Chairman
Noah Carmichael, Secretary
Todd Prusator, Vice Chair
Kendall Vogeler, M.D., Chief of Medical Staff Elect
Satish Cullath, M.D. Chief of Medical Staff
Maria Van Hise, President Hospital Auxiliary
AJ Querciagrossa - OSF Representative
Karen Tracy, Chief Executive Officer
Geri Dee Hayden
Crystal Dyer, Treasurer
Earl Fleming III
Jason Popp, M.D., Former Chief medical Staff
Alexander (Al) Duthie
Renelle Carmichael, Co-President Hospital Auxiliary

Foundation Board

Reed Harris, Board President
Will McLachlan, Vice President
Brandon Svela, Treasurer
Debbie Kersten, Secretary
Darlyne Keller
Pat Zilm
Tonya Sarver
Doris Dickey
Nancy Williams

Auxiliary and Gift Shoppe Volunteers

Maryann Carmichael
Renelle Carmichael
Pat Casey
Linda Cater
Sharon Clucas
Sheryl Holden
Becky Huntley
Judy Johnson
Linda Kenney
Debra Kersten
Jackie King
Sandy Mace
Kathy Pfeiffer
Lyn Scanlan
Sue Sevedge
Jeni Sparrow
Judy Truckenbrod
Maria VanHise
Vonnie Wilkinson
Kathy Windland

*In honor of our volunteers,
RCH has made a donation
to the Rochelle Rescue Mission.*



Become a
Hubs Super Fan
today!

ROCHELLE
News-Leader



GO HUBS!

Contact your sales representative today!
Christel Ackland
815-561-2153
cackland@rochellenews-leader.com



SPORTS



SIGNING DAY AT RTHS

Rochelle Township High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day on Thursday.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Softball



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Saturday was ‘Dyer Day’ at Rochelle Township High School, where the Lady Hub softball team honored its lone senior, Lauren Dyer, before scoring a 15-0 win over Genoa-Kingston in nonconference action. The team wore special ‘Dyer Day’ T-shirts before the game.

Rochelle sends off senior with win over G-K

‘Dyer Day’ celebration highlights 15-0 victory against Cogs on Saturday morning

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Freshman Mya Martinez said she learned one important thing from senior teammate Lauren Dyer after the Rochelle Lady Hub softball team’s victory Saturday morning. “No matter what,

smile,” Martinez said. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen Lauren not smile.”

Martinez was all smiles as she rounded the bases after crushing a two-run homer in the bottom of the second inning, where Rochelle erupted for seven runs to take a commanding 11-0 lead over Genoa-

Kingston. It was ‘Dyer Day’ for the Lady Hubs, who honored and celebrated their lone senior with a 15-0 win in four innings, snapping a three-game losing streak. Martinez went 3 for 4 with three runs and two RBIs for the Rochelle offense, which compiled 13 hits in the win.

“I’ve been struggling a little bit recently, but I felt like I was able to find the gaps and hitting one over felt good,” Martinez said. “She pitched the ball into my wheelhouse, which is right down the middle, and it’s a sign of the work I put in. It’s a good feeling, especially since we have a

bunch of hard games coming up next week. It builds our confidence and proves that we can do it.”

Dyer enjoyed a stellar showing of her own, pitching four shutout frames while striking out four batters and limiting the Cogs (10-17-1, 7-6 Big Northern) to five hits. Dyer,

who reached base four times and scored three runs on Saturday, was one of nine players to take at-bats in the first inning, where the Lady Hubs (6-17, 0-8 Interstate 8) tallied four runs on three hits.

See **DYER DAY** page 2



Rochelle Lady Hub JV softball team takes on Genoa-Kingston in nonconference action at RTHS on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Lady Hub JV softball team hosted a nonconference battle with Genoa-Kingston on Saturday afternoon, falling to the Cogs 24-20 in a high-scoring affair. Above, sophomore Alexa Soto makes a play at first base and junior Hailey Bunger (right) fires a pitch. Below, junior Addison Bingham scoops up a ground ball and freshman Preslee Sanders puts the ball in play. (Photos by Robin Rethwill)

SPORTS

RTHS Athletics

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Rochelle Township High School holds 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony on Thursday afternoon

Rochelle Township High School held its 2025 Athletic Signing Day Ceremony in the main gymnasium on Thursday, May 8. A total of 19 athletes signed to continue their academics and athletics at the collegiate level next year, with two athletes unable to attend. The following student-athletes participated in the ceremony: Dempsey Atkinson (Wrestling - Quincy University), Breydan Andrews (Baseball - Monmouth College), Colton Czekala (Football - Monmouth College), Kendyl Darby (Basketball - Kishwaukee College), Lauren Dyer (Softball - Wartburg College), Fernando Diaz (Soccer - Kishwaukee College), Betty Flores (Soccer - Rock Valley College), Logan Frye, (Bowling - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater), Bryan Garcia (Soccer - Rock Valley College), Grant Gensler (Football - University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), Trent Kreider (Cheerleading - North Central College), Makayla Lara (Soccer - Waubensee Community College), Carson Lewis (Football - North Park University), Kaiden Morris (Wrestling - University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), Ali Ohlinger (Volleyball - University of Toledo), Taelynn Rodeghero (Volleyball - Grand Valley State University), Jackson Smith (Track & Field - University of Dubuque), Jack Tilton (Track & Field - Carthage College) and Cassidy Vincent (Bowling - Rock Valley College). Student-athletes not pictured include Alexis Duran (Cross Country - Kishwaukee College) and Jeanette Valle (Soccer - Kishwaukee College).

DYER DAY: Rochelle honors senior during home win over Genoa-Kingston

From page 1

Sophomore Briel Metzger capped off the four-run frame, shooting a two-run ground ball single up the middle. “It feels really nice to win because we’ve been struggling this season, but it felt good to play for Lauren and have fun with the team,” said Metzger, who went 3 for 3 with three RBIs in the win. “We all played well today. I just went in there and paid attention to where the ball was going and did my best to drive it and get a hit. We’ve learned to play for our teammates instead of playing for ourselves. That’s something Lauren has taught me over the past few years and it means a lot. It’s helped me grow as a teammate, not just in softball, but in

volleyball and cheer too.” Martinez’s homer was one of six hits in the bottom of the second inning for the Lady Hubs, who went ahead 7-0 after an RBI double from freshman Audrina Rodriguez, who belted a line drive into deep left field. Rodriguez went 2 for 2 with three runs and three RBIs in the ‘Dyer Day’ win. “It’s a great feeling because I love these girls and I love this team,” Dyer said. “Everything came together today. I’ve enjoyed the friendships I’ve made and I’ve made new friends every year that will last a lifetime. Today showed that we can hit the ball and our defense was great today. It gives us a lot of confidence going into next week. My advice for the girls is to have fun and

don’t let mistakes define you because it makes the game less fun. Just smile and have fun.” An RBI single from freshman outfielder Cheyenne Somers continued the seven-run second frame for the Lady Hubs, who tacked on two runs in both the third and fourth innings to clinch their shutout victory. Sophomore infielder Camryn Metzger, who went 3 for 4 and scored twice, smacked the first of two run-scoring singles in the bottom of the fourth inning to seal the win. The Lady Hubs capitalized on good plate discipline Saturday morning, drawing eight walks while striking out only one time. Rochelle returned to action with a road game against LaSalle-Peru at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.



Senior Lauren Dyer and her parents were recognized in a pregame ceremony before the Rochelle Lady Hubs took the field against G-K on Saturday.

COMMUNITY BOARD

Need to get the word out about a product or service you offer? Give us a call at 815-561-2153. We can reach over 9,000 homes!

Concrete

Bruns
Construction, Inc.

- Residential & Commercial Concrete
- Additions

FREE ESTIMATES!

Tim & Roger Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

815-561-0099
Free Estimates • Fully Insured
www.brunsconstructioninc.com

Decking

DECKS UNLIMITED
Let Me Deck You

Custom Decks • Swimming Pool Decks • Wheel Chair Ramps • Stairs • Pergolas • Porches • Windows • Doors • Add-Ons • Tear-Downs • Staining • Power Washing • Complete Maintenance

Free Estimates
Guaranteed Workmanship

815-393-3514
Michael P. Nelson

Over 1,300 Decks Built with
40 Years Experience

Gutters, Roofing & Siding

THEISEN
ROOFING

Free Estimates!

ROOFING
SIDING
GUTTERS

CONTACT US
815-758-8998
THEISENROOFING@COMCAST.NET
Family owned & operated for over 50 years

Heating & Air Conditioning

HULL
HVAC

Heating, Cooling & Duct Cleaning Specialist

815-561-6551
www.HullHVAC.com

Air Conditioner Clean & Check \$60.00

After \$35 rebate.
Promotion only available to RMU customers.

Ask about duct cleaning and protecting your home's air quality.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

ANDERSON
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Storage Sheds

Rocky Ridge
Structures

FREE Sales Rep. Evaluation At Your Site

We Deliver! From Our Lot To Your Site

We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Competitive Pricing
- Many Options Available
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

Advertise Here

What Service Do You Offer?

561-2153
The Rochelle News-Leader

SPORTS

RTHS Girls Track Lady Hubs take fourth at Interstate 8 Championships Nine athletes receive All-Conference honors, two receive Honorable Mentions

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team crowned several All-Conference athletes during the Interstate 8 Conference meet at Morris on Friday evening. Rochelle finished fourth out of six schools with 72 points at the varsity level and fifth with 71 points at the JV level. The Lady Hubs will travel west for the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional on Wednesday.

Varsity

Senior Erin Murphy earned All-Conference honors with a win in the shot put and set a PR in the discus to lead the Lady Hubs in the

throwing events. Murphy finished first in the shot put with a heave of 11.58 meters and fourth in the discus with a throw of 30.91 meters. Senior Taelynn Rodeghero took fifth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.37 meters, eighth in the long jump with a distance of 4.14 meters and eighth in the triple jump with a distance of 9.19 meters.

Junior Samantha Overton finished sixth in the pole vault with a clearance of 2.13 meters and sophomore Elyse Manning finished seventh in the triple jump with a distance of 9.37 meters to round out the top field event finishers. Two relays brought home All-Conference honors for the Lady Hubs, with

the 3200-meter relay team Annaliese Koziol, Rose Luxton, Carol Carpenter and Kyrie Cragin finishing second in 10:54.25 and the 1600-meter relay team (Gwendolyn O'Dell, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning and Kyrie Cragin) finishing second in 4:14.70.

Rochelle finished fourth in the 400-meter relay (Rylee Bogle, Valerie Saldana, Zoe Malley and Alex Neece) with a time of 54.31 seconds and fourth 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 led Rochelle in the hurdles, with Saldana clock-

ing in with a time of 50.89 seconds for second place and All-Conference honors in the 300-meter hurdles. Walsh and Saldana went fourth and fifth with times of 18.10 and 18.93 in the 100-meter hurdles. Walsh also took fourth with a time of 52.69 in the 300-meter hurdles.

Sophomore Vivian Worthington and freshman Carol Carpenter led the charge in the distance events, with Worthington setting a PR of 13:59.52 for seventh in the 3200-meter run and Carpenter clocking in at 5:56.51 for fourth in the 1600-meter run. Junior Kyrie Cragin paced her way to All-Conference honors in the 800-meter run, finishing

second with a PR of 2:28.35.

Freshman Gwendolyn O'Dell and senior Alex Neece led the way in the sprints, with O'Dell finishing fifth with a time of 13.54 seconds in the 100-meter dash and Neece clocking in at 29.03 seconds for seventh in the 200-meter dash. Junior Katie Toczylowski ran a PR of 1:14.14 for ninth in the 400-meter dash.

Junior Varsity

Freshman Gwendolyn O'Dell (1.32 meters) took second in the high jump and sophomore Elena Daugherty (8.55 meters) took third in the triple jump. Junior Samantha Overton finished fourth in both the 100-meter hurdles (21.45 seconds)

and the 300-meter hurdles (1:10.15). Rochelle placed second in the 400-meter relay (Zoey Schabacker, Abygail Losoya, Dylan Etes and Kaliyah Cathina) with a time of 55.41 seconds and fourth in the 800-meter relay (Abygail Losoya, Reese Kissack, Zoey Schabacker and Kaliyah Cathina) with a time of 2:00.56.

Junior Annaliese Koziol (2:50.20) took second in the 800-meter run and sophomore Lydia Von Haden (15:54.60) took third in the 3200-meter run. Senior Zoe Malley (14.27) finished fourth in the 100-meter dash and freshman Kaliyah Cathina (4.14 meters) finished fourth in the long jump.

RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



Rochelle Lady Hubs concede nonconference road finale at Oregon on Saturday morning

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team played its final nonconference regular season road match of the 2025 season on Saturday, when senior midfielders Makayla Lara and Emma Kennay scored goals in a 3-2 loss against Oregon. Rochelle (8-15, 2-8 Interstate 8) will host Rockford Auburn for Senior Night on Wednesday night. Above, freshman Abigail Dougherty (left) battles with Ava Carreno and freshman Zoe Norberto (right) boots the ball forward. Below, freshman Martha Landa (left) stops the ball in front of attacker Sarah Eckardt and senior Jeanette Valle (right) avoids contact from defender Melanie Carillo.

Antiques & Collectibles

Belvidere Collectible Coins

www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

We Pay Highest Prices For Gold, Silver, Platinum, Jewelry, Coins, Flatware, Dental & Bullion

**10% More For Jewelry
With This Ad!**

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:00pm • Sat. 10:30am-2pm

~ Call For Directions ~ **(815) 547-7111**
880 Belvidere Road • Belvidere, IL

THIS & THAT

Collectibles

520 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL

815.909.1069

Open 7 days a week

Antiques, MCM, Primitives & Vintage
Dixie Belle Paint Company Elite Retailer
Redesign with Prima Retailer

SYCAMORE ANTIQUES

JAMES AND ANN TUCKER,
PROPRIETORS

321 WEST STATE STREET
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

OPEN
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM FRIDAY
815-895-4720

Be included in the Antiques & Collectibles spotlight!

Call:

Christel Ackland 815-561-2153

Chris Grimm 815-561-2125

SPORTS

RTHS Girls Soccer

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



Rochelle Lady Hubs fall in nonconference road match against Dixon on Thursday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hubs went west for a nonconference varsity road match against Dixon on Thursday, May 8. Senior midfielder Makayla Lara scored the lone goal for the Lady Hubs, who fell to the Duchesses in a 7-1 defeat. Rochelle (8-14, 2-8 Interstate 8) resumed nonconference play at Oregon on Saturday. Above, sophomore Cali Zies (left) clears the ball away from a Dixon attacker and freshman Morgan DeLille (right) battles with Dixon's C.J. Frey for possession of the ball.

RTHS Boys Track

Hubs finish fifth at Northern Illinois Invitational

Nuyen, Johnson break school records during 13-team meet in Beloit on Friday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BELOIT, Wis. — Junior Andrew Nuyen and freshman Tyler Johnson set school records to lead the Rochelle Hub track and field team during the Northern Illinois Invitational on Friday evening.

Nuyen finished first in the pole vault and eclipsed his own school record, clearing 5.21 meters (17 feet 1 inch) and breaking his previous record of 17 feet set at the Hub Relays on April 19. Johnson broke the fresh-soph school record in the 3200-meter run, winning with a time of 9:57.49 and shattering the previous record of 10:04.00 set by David Bergeson in 1998.

The Hubs finished fifth out of 13 schools, scoring 71 points across the varsity and fresh-soph levels.

"I'm really impressed with our team," head coach Dale Bergeson said. "We made a big leap in a lot of our events. The team's hard work has paid off. This meet was a great test for us, as we went up against many big schools with really good teams. We have two more athletes who are right around the state-qualifying mark and two events that are ranked very high in the state. I'm really looking forward to seeing what our team can do at the conference and sectional meets."

Varsity

Rochelle won three total

events at the meet. Senior Jack Tilton set a personal record in the high jump, winning with a clearance of 2.03 meters (6 feet 7 3/4 inches). Junior Caden Goodwin and senior Virgil O'Dell led the Hubs in the jump pits, with Goodwin hitting a PR of 12.73 meters for fourth place in the triple jump and O'Dell leaping 5.88 meters for eighth place in the long jump.

Seniors Jack Tarvestad and Jacob Ost led in the throwing events, as Tarvestad set a PR of 35.62 meters for 15th in the discus and Ost recorded a heave of 12.24 meters for 17th in the shot put. In the relay races, Rochelle finished fifth in the 3200-meter relay (Elijah Mayen, Chris

Hickey, Declan McGee and Pedro Rosales) with a time of 8:31.99 and seventh in the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Hunter Bivins, Nathan Rosas and Richard Pierce) in 43.93 seconds.

The Hub took seventh in the 800-meter relay (Jaden Martina, Aaron DeClerck, Justin DeClerck and Caiden Redlarczyk) with a time of 1:35.86 before placing eighth in the 1600-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Hunter Bivins, Pedro Rosales and Nathan Rosas) with a time of 3:38.51 to close out the meet. Junior Wyatt Worthington and sophomore Hunter Bivins led Rochelle in the hurdles, with Worthington clocking in at 16.66 seconds for sixth place in the 110-meter

hurdles before Bivins ran a final time of 41.65 seconds for fourth place in the 300-meter hurdles.

Juniors Declan McGee and Elijah Mayen ran PRs on Friday evening, with Mayen posting a 2:10.48 for 10th in the 800-meter run and McGee finishing in 4:55.04 for 13th in the 1600-meter run. Senior Virgil O'Dell ran a PR in the sprints, clocking in at 12.08 seconds for 19th in the 100-meter dash. Junior Reece Harris posted a season-best time of 24.52 seconds for 14th in the 200-meter dash and senior Jackson Smith ran a 55.56 for 14th in the 400-meter dash.

Fresh-Soph

Rochelle took two of the field events at the fresh-soph level. Sophomore

Jaden Martina reached the state-qualifying standard in the long jump, finishing first with a PR of 6.51 meters. Freshman Zachary Johnson added a win for the Hubs, clearing a PR of 1.73 meters to win the high jump. In the hurdles, sophomore Hunter Bivins ran a time of 17.40 for third in the 110-meter hurdles and freshman Edwin Mendez ran a PR of 49.63 seconds for fourth in the 300-meter hurdles.

Freshman Tyler Johnson led the Hubs in the distance events, taking third in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:44.56. Sophomore Jaden Martina stepped up for the Hubs in the sprinting events, finishing first in the 100-meter dash and setting a PR with a time of 11.66 seconds.

CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2025
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

**ATTENTION
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF THE
CLASS OF 2025!**



Submit a high quality, scannable baby photo and senior photo of your favorite graduating senior, a message with up to 15 words and a \$12 placement fee to the Rochelle News-Leader office at: 211 Hwy 38 E or mail to PO Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068.

High quality photos* and message can be emailed to kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com.

Please call 815.562.4171 to arrange payment or use QR code on this ad.



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

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

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

*Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

ENTRY FORM

GRADUATE'S FIRST/LAST NAME

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

Person submitting photo: _____

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

Photos may be picked up after May 25, 2025. Entries must be received by 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment (\$12) along with this completed form to:

Rochelle News-Leader • PO Box 46 • Rochelle, IL 61068

815-561-2153

Emailed photos* can be sent to kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 9AM-3PM & FRI 9AM-1PM

RTHS Baseball

Hubs beat Marengo to end seven-game losing streak

RTHS outscores Indians 14-10

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MARENGO — An offensive outburst enabled the Rochelle Hubs to break a seven-game losing streak during their non-conference varsity baseball matchup at Marengo on Friday evening.

Senior Carson Lewis and sophomore Brody Bruns each recorded three hits for the Hubs, who exploded for 10 runs in the top of the second inning and withstood a late rally to score a 14-10 win over the Indians. Four players finished with two RBIs for the Hubs (7-15, 0-12 Interstate 8), who totaled 12 hits during their road victory against Marengo. Rochelle will resume conference play with a three-game series against Ottawa beginning on the road at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

Senior Brandyn Metzger delivered an RBI single to right-center field in the top of the first inning, giving Rochelle a 1-0 lead before the Hubs blew the game open with their 10-run effort in the top of the second inning. Rochelle ripped five singles in the second inning, where both Bruns and Lewis collected run-scoring hits while sophomore Dylan Manning smacked a two-run hit into right field. Marengo recorded



two runs on two extra-base hits in the bottom of the first inning.

The Indians faced an 11-2 deficit entering the bottom of the third inning, where Marengo rallied for three runs on two errors and three hits including RBI singles from Justin Oine and Alten Bergbreiter. Sophomore Johnny Andrist came through with an insurance run in the top of the sixth inning for the Hubs, slapping a single through the left side for his second RBI of the game.

Rochelle carried a 12-5 lead into the bottom of the sixth inning, where the Indians capitalized on three errors and drew four walks to score five runs and bring the Hubs within two with one frame remaining. Drew Litchfield's RBI double was the highlight of the sixth inning for the Indians, who couldn't contain the Hub offense in the top of the seventh inning, as Rochelle answered with a two-run single from senior Ethan Goodwin, who went 2 for 4 with two runs scored in the game.

SPORTS

RTHS Boys Tennis

Four Hubs earn ribbons at Interstate 8 F/S Championships

Heller-Hartnett, Dassie-Peeling duos record top-3 doubles finishes on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

LASALLE — Four members of the Rochelle Hub tennis team brought home awards during the Interstate 8 Conference Fresh-Soph Championships at LaSalle-Peru on Saturday.

Freshmen Austin Hartnett and Brock Heller finished third at No. 2 doubles with a 2-1 record over three matches. Hartnett and Heller beat Kaneland 10-4 before losing to Sycamore 10-6. The RTHS duo came from behind to edge LaSalle-Peru 11-10(7-3) to clinch third place.

Sophomore Elliot Peeling and freshman Kristian Dassie finished third at No. 3 doubles with a 2-1 record over three matches. The Hubs fell to LaSalle-Peru 10-1 before earning a win by default over Kaneland and outlasting Ottawa 10-8 to seal a third-place finish.

Junior Ben Foster and sophomore Derek Swartz took fifth at No. 1 doubles with a 1-1 record, losing to Ottawa 10-4 and beating Kaneland 10-1. Sophomore Bryson Stewart took sixth at No. 1 singles with an 0-2 record.

Mendota

Success in singles resulted in another victory for the Rochelle Hub tennis team on Monday evening, when the purple and white traveled for a varsity match against Mendota.

Juniors Mark Green and Philip Winters combined for two wins in singles play, while the Hubs claimed two of the three doubles points to outduel the Trojans 4-1 in nonconference action. The win clinches a two-match winning streak for the Hubs (5-8, 1-4 Interstate 8), who swept both singles matches in their 4-1 victory over Dixon last week. Rochelle



Freshmen Brock Heller and Austin Hartnett (left) took third at No. 2 doubles, while freshman Kristian Dassie and sophomore Elliot Peeling (right) took third at No. 3 doubles during the Interstate 8 F/S Championships.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

will return to action at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, when the Hubs welcome Sterling Newman for Senior Night.

Winters dominated at the No. 2 singles court, cruising for a 6-1, 6-1 win against Trey Lee. Green fended off

a second-set rally from Alex Holland to earn a 6-1, 6-4 win at the No. 1 singles court. In doubles, sophomore Noah McKinney and freshman David Eckardt continued their strong recent play, sealing the team victory by

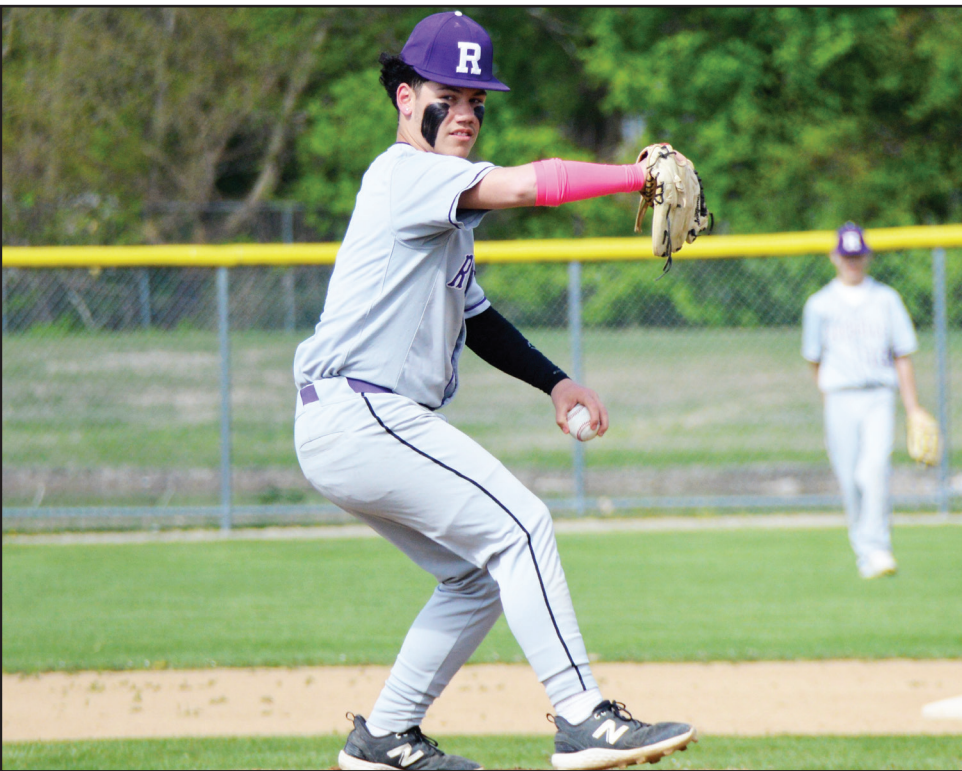
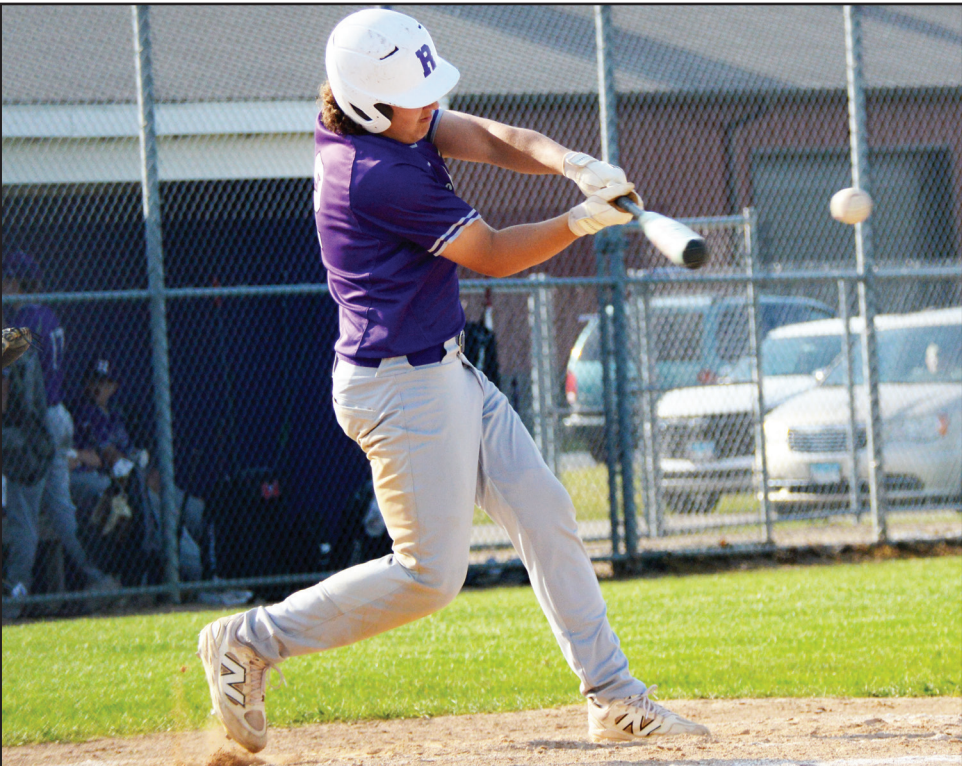
taking down B.J. Bresley and Harlan Gallagher 6-3, 6-1.

Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Amor Lara earned the No. 3 doubles point, trailing 5-7, 1-2 in the match against Wyatt Sondageroth and Ryder Woods,

who were forced to retire. Sophomores Connor Hunley and Sam Sergeant represented Rochelle at the No. 1 doubles court, falling just short in their 5-7, 3-6 loss against Aden Tillman and Cameron Escatel.

RTHS Baseball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Rochelle Hub sophomore and freshman baseball teams take on LaSalle-Peru in Interstate 8 Conference action at RTHS

The Rochelle Hub sophomore and freshman baseball teams faced off with LaSalle-Peru in Interstate 8 Conference action this past week. Above, sophomore Tyler Gensler (left) puts the ball in play and sophomore Preston Borris (right) fires a pitch. Below, freshman Sebastian Albertson (left) throws a pitch and freshman Dayton Mellor (right) swings at the ball over the plate.

ANDERSON

PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

Lic# 055-013999

Teach Kids about Electrical Safety!

Some important lessons include:

- Water and electricity do not mix
- The only objects that go into outlets are electric plugs
- Never stick fingers or objects in electrical appliances
- Electric cords should be left alone

Rochelle
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Local People Providing Local Services

815-562-4155
333 Lincoln Hwy., Rochelle • www.rmu.net

AFC NEWS



Coffman, Sprague awarded scholarships

The 2025 Ashton Fire Protection District Scholarship Award winners were recently named: Mallory Coffman and Jersey Sprague. (Courtesy photo)

AFC baseball team collects wins

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity baseball team played an extra-inning affair against Polo on Tuesday, April 29, falling just short in a 10-9 defeat over eight frames. Logan O'Brien went 3 for 3 with two RBIs, while Caleb Thomas and Aaron Lester each went 2 for 5 and Chase Hayes-Near went 2 for 4 to spark the Raider offense in the loss.

AFC scored a 10-9 walk-off win over Wethersfield/Annawan in eight innings on Wednesday, April 30. Caleb Thomas went 3 for 3 with three RBIs while

knocking in the game-winning run for the Raiders. Logan O'Brien went 2 for 4 with three RBIs to aid the AFC offense.

AFC earned its revenge against Polo on Friday, May 2, scoring an 11-0 shutout win. Caleb Thomas went 3 for 3 with three RBIs and pitched six innings while striking out eight batters. Logan O'Brien went 2 for 5 with two RBIs and Nolan Rueff went 2 for 4 with an RBI in the win.

AFC played a close game against Morrison on Tuesday, May 6, falling

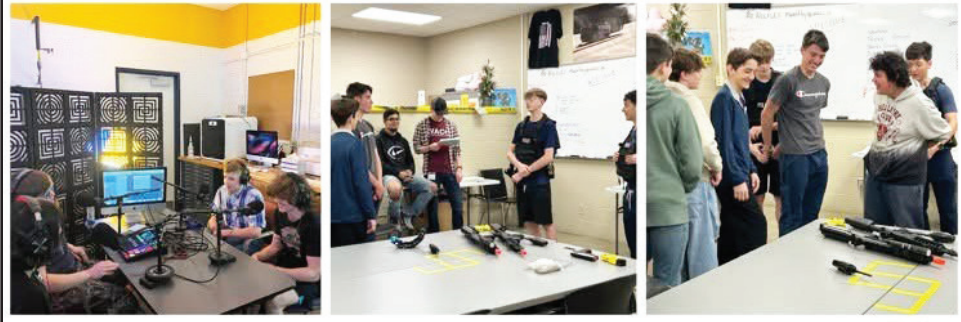
just short in a 10-9 defeat. Aaron Lester went 3 for 5 with an RBI from the lead-off hole, while Nolan Rueff went 2 for 4 and scored two runs. Brock Lehman went 3 for 3 with two runs and three RBIs.

AFC scored a 9-4 win against River Ridge on Saturday, May 10. Aaron Lester went 2 for 4 and scored three runs, while Brock Lehman went 2 for 2 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Logan O'Brien went 1 for 2 with two RBIs and Caleb Thomas went 2 for 4 with an RBI in the win.



AFC music students hold combined rehearsal

Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School fifth and sixth grade music students visited AFC Junior Senior High School May 6 for a combined rehearsal. There were 42 band students and 26 choir students working together to prepare for their concert. They had a great time and are looking forward to performing on May 15 at 7 p.m. at the AFC High School gym. (Courtesy photos)



AFC 8th graders tour WACC, SVCC

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District eighth grade class recently explored college and career options with tours of Whiteside Area Career Center and Sauk Valley Community College. (Courtesy photo)

Woman cited for DUI after accident in rural Dixon

DIXON — On May 4 at approximately 7:06 p.m. the Lee County Sheriff's Office received a call for a multiple-vehicle crash in the area of Illinois Route 2 and Plock Road in rural Dixon.

Investigating deputies learned a white 2013 GMC Acadia driven by Sandra L. Seeley, 52, of Dixon was traveling east bound on Illinois Route 2 at a high rate of speed. Sandra's vehicle struck a white 2014 Ford Fu-

sion driven by Elizabeth L. Elsasser, 18, of Mt. Morris, that was also traveling east bound. The crash caused the 2013 GMC Acadia to cross the median into west bound traffic, crashing into a black 2012 Dodge Charger driven by Jason K. Kopitas, 37, of Ashton.

All three drivers were checked by medical personnel at the scene. Elsasser was transported to OSF St. Katherine Hospital for

minor injuries.

Seeley was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and issued a citation for improper traffic lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Illinois State Police, Dixon Rural Fire Department and Advance EMS Ambulance Services.

COMMUNITY MATTERS



Beverage Lyons Funeral Home

601 Richardson Ave., Ashton
815-453-2441
beveragefamilyfh.com

Electricians

Hilliker Electric LLC
1417 Franklin Rd.,
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
815-456-7036
office@hillikerelectric.com

Funeral Home

Beverage Lyons Funeral Home
601 Richardson Ave.,
Ashton, 815-453-2441
beveragefamilyfh.com

Real Estate

Lori Patterson Real Estate
811 Main St., Ashton
815-751-0510

Schools

Ashton-Franklin Center
CUSD #275
611 Western Ave., Ashton
815-453-7461

LORI PATTERSON

Real Estate

(815) 562-7617 | 811 Main St., Ashton, IL

Let me put my 30+ years of real estate experience to work for you!

Lori Patterson

Designated Managing Broker/Owner

(815) 562-7617

loripatterson22@gmail.com

<http://loripattersonrealestate.com>

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



ROCHELLE • HILLCREST • CRESTON • STEWARD • KINGS • ASHTON

101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Rochelle Township High School District 212 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on June 16, 2025 at 5:20 pm for the purpose of amending the FY2025 budget. The amended budget is available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent. This hearing will be held in the RTHS Boardroom, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, Illinois, prior to the regular monthly meeting. Jeff Tilton, School Board President Rochelle Township High School District 212 No. 0514 (May 14, 2025)

NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Rochelle Community Consolidated School District 231 Board of Education will

hold a public hearing on June 10, 2025 at 5:50 pm for the purpose of amending the FY2025 budget. The amended budget is available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent. This hearing will be held in the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria, 1450 20th Street, Rochelle, Illinois, prior to the regular monthly meeting. Steve Builta, School Board President Rochelle Community Consolidated Board of

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:

**Multimedia Sales Position
Rochelle News-Leader
ATTN: Will McMacken
P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068
or email to
bmcacken@newsmediacorp.com**

ROCHELLE News-Leader
RNLHOUSE

Find Sell Buy

Consult our classified ads or place your own!

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford Refrigeration

6331 11th Street | Rockford



New, Used, Scratch & Dent

Refrigerators
Freezers
Washers/Dryers
Stoves
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

815-262-3900

advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

301 ANTIQUES

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

103 AUCTIONS

Real Estate Auction

Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

Auction Held On Site - Live Only

(Home will be open at 3 PM day of the auction for viewing)

This Ranch home has approx. 800 sq ft. It has 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath and Kitchen. The home is situated on a large lot (56x132') with the back yard fenced in. furnace was updated a few years back, as well as the electrical service meter base and service entrance. The home is in need of complete remodeling and updating, however it is a very solid home. If you are looking for a project that has tons of potential, look no further, this is a home with "good bones". This property is located at 316 Ave. "G" in Rochelle IL. The property will be offered in its as-is condition without any contingencies.

TERMS: \$5000.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance due on or before July 3rd, 2025. Contact Auctioneer John Bearrows for more information.

Gerald Griffin Estate - Owner

Attorney for the Trust - Paul Chadwick - Fearer, Nye & Chadwick - Rochelle IL

For more information, Contact:

Auctioneer: John Bearrows - 815-739-9150

BEARROWS
REAL ESTATE & AUCTION CO.
(815) 562-5113

361 W. Hwy. 338 • PO Box 420 • Rochelle, IL 61068
www.bearrows.com



AUCTIONEER:
JOHN BEARROWS, Rochelle, IL
(815) 739-9150

103 AUCTIONS

COUNTRY ESTATE AUCTION

Estate of Bill & Yolanda Butenas

9527 Shabbona Grove Road, Waterman, IL

Saturday, MAY 17th Starting at 10:30 a.m.

* Cadillac * Horse/Pony Tack * Country Collectibles *

2009 Cadillac DTS 4-door Sedan. 106,159 miles, front

wheel drive, 4.6 L V-8. **Simplicity Regent lawn tractor.** 48"

mower deck, 23 hp hydro. **JUST LIKE NEW!** IH 2500 Series

A gas Loader tractor w/ IH Hyd loader, 3pt. PTO. 1979

Shelby 20x6 Gooseneck livestock trailer. Tires are dry rotted

and will need replacement. Several Pony carts, including a

nice parade wagon. Lots of Pony and Horse tack, harnesses

and the like. 25Ft Bale conveyor; 10ft x 18ft across wire corn

crib with steel cone roof. Safe T Mill Horse treadmill, Horse/

Pony carousel exerciser; Several 14-16ft pipe and galvanized

gates; Lots of old barn lumber; misc. tools and old country col-

lectibles; Lots of household furniture, dressers, tables, chairs,

household furnishings and housewares; Nice antique china

hutch; Like new Ariens Deluxe 30 snowblower w/ electric

start; Craftsman Trax 5-23 snow blower; Electric dryer and

washer, both in good working order; 6ft. Aluminum side tool

box, 6ft long; Other yard and garden tools and decor and other

items of interest and collect-ability.

Terms: Cash, Checks, Credit Cards w/3% convenient

fee added. Not Responsible For Accidents, Injury or Theft.

Announcements made day of sale take precedence over all

other advertisement. Bring your truck and a friend. All items

sell to the highest bidder. Join us for this great Estate Auction.

Almburg Auction, Malta, Illinois. 815-739-3703. Pictures on

web site www.almburgauctions.com

Estate of Bill & Yolanda Butenas, Owner

All Our Auctions With Pictures Are Advertised Worldwide • www.almburgauctions.com

ALMBURG AUCTIONEERING

APPRAISALS REAL ESTATE LIQUIDATORS
815-739-3703

Education District 231 No. 0515 (May 14, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

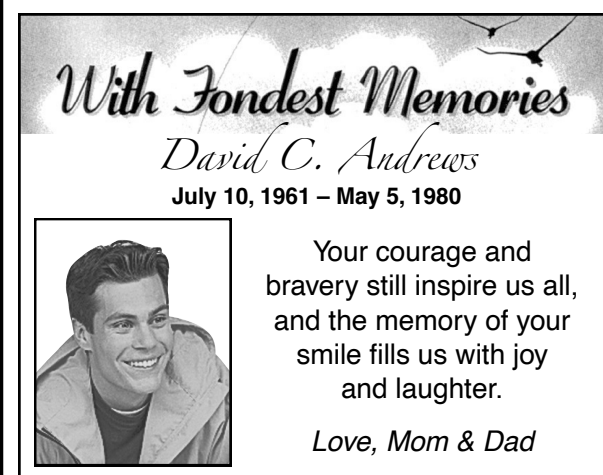
NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Remember your loved one with a special tribute this Memorial Day.



With Fondest Memories

David C. Andrews
July 10, 1961 - May 5, 1980

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of Memorial Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Name Of Deceased: _____ Verse Number: _____

Relationship To Me: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Passing Date: ____/____/____

Additional Information _____

Your Name _____

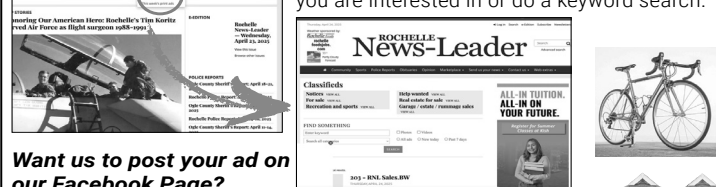
Address _____ Phone Number _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In Lieu of Verse, my message is: _____

VIEW CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE!

Go to Marketplace and click on the section you are interested in or do a keyword search.



Want us to post your ad on our Facebook Page?

Call Christel Ackland at 815-561-2153 or email cackland@rochellenews-leader.com





The businesses featured on this page are "Hubs Super Fans"

They proudly support our local athletes and students.
Please show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

Let's Go!



WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Makayla Lara will be continuing her academics and her soccer career at Waubonsee Community College next year. Lara intends to study kinesiology.

Lara commits to play soccer at Waubonsee Community College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — With over 70 goals and 20 assists to her name, senior midfielder Makayla Lara has cemented herself as one of the most accomplished players in the history of the Rochelle Lady Hub soccer program. A two-time All-Interstate 8 honoree at RTHS, Lara has committed to continuing her academics and her soccer career at Waubonsee Community College next year.

"I have a friend who played there and graduated as a sophomore this year," Lara said. "She let them know about me and then I scheduled a visit there. I felt a connection with their coach right away and I liked the way he spoke about their program. It's a program I'd like to be a part of and they take things quite seriously. I'm looking forward to having fun and I want to continue playing for as long as I can. It's my passion and the program is something I really want to be a part of."

Lara is in her fourth year as a starter for the Lady Hubs. Lara, who has played midfield and forward during her high school career, became an immediate contributor as a freshman, when she led Rochelle with 24 goals and six assists and was named an All-Interstate 8 Honorable Mention. Lara ascended to being an All-Interstate 8 First Team honoree during her sophomore

season, when she scored 22 goals and dished out four assists during a seven-win campaign.

"One of my biggest strengths is being able to see the full field and I think that will benefit the Waubonsee team because I can play wherever I'm needed to and I can see the field wherever I am. I'm going to work my hardest and stay determined the whole time. Playing at Rochelle has helped me come out and be myself more and I'm hoping that I can do that at Waubonsee."

Despite a tough junior season in which the Lady Hubs managed only three wins, Lara once again led Rochelle with nine goals and eight assists to earn an All-Interstate 8 Honorable Mention for the second time in her career. Now a senior, Lara is on track to post a career best for goals in a season as the Lady Hubs (8-14, 2-8 Interstate 8) approach the 10-win mark. Lara, who currently has a team-leading 24 goals and four assists during her senior season this spring, said she intends to study kinesiology in order to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

"I feel like I've matured a lot, especially with my communication," Lara said. "It's easier for me to communicate now and I've learned different ways of communicating. I've learned that people take things in different ways and I think that understanding how everybody thinks is a good thing to know. I want to improve anywhere I can and I want to be the best version of myself."

"One of my biggest strengths is being able to see the full field and I think that will benefit the Waubonsee team because I can play wherever I'm needed to and I can see the field wherever I am."

Makayla Lara

Alfano's
Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant
Taste The **TRADITION**
Taste The **DIFFERENCE**

- Best Pizza • Pasta
- Italian Restaurant
- Appetizer/small plate
- Family Restaurant • Local Business

Pizza • Pastas
Sandwiches • Salads and Lots More!

Dine-In • Carry Out • Home Delivery
1115 TURKINGTON TERRACE, ROCHELLE
815-562-3312

ANDERSON
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Water Heaters, Water Softeners,
Drinking Water Systems, Iron Filters,
Sewer Rodding & Jetting & More!

Since 1976

621 First Ave., Rochelle
(815) 562-8784

"Proudly Serving the Rochelle Area Since 1945"

Berg-Johnson
Electric

FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed and Insured

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

24 Hour Emergency Service
815-562-4937
500 Cleveland Avenue

Bruns
Construction, Inc.

FREE ESTIMATES!
Tim & Roger Bruns,
Owners
Established 1997

- Residential
- Commercial
- Concrete
- Additions

815-561-0099
Free Estimates • Fully Insured
www.brunsconstructioninc.com

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOAN

Loans For All Your Needs
Auto • Home Improvement • Vacation

Jami Rees • Tonia Holland

815★561★4035!

310 Eagle Drive, Rochelle
All loans subject to our normal credit requirements and policies.

Busy Schedule?
Leave the cooking to us.

- Large menu of foods
- Rochelle's famous chicken by the dinner or bucket
- Hand dipped ice cream (16 flavors)

COUNTRY SCHOOL
DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT
251 N. ROCHELLE • 562-6039

JOHNSON TRACTOR

SALES • PARTS • SERVICE

200 Steward Road
800.262.1680
www.johnsontractor.com

EVE Lassiter
HOME AUTO - LIFE BUSINESS
Go Hubs!
Lassiter Agency
1220 Currency Ct., Rochelle, IL
815-787-8280
elassiter@farmersagent.com
License IL, WI, & MI Insurance

CERTIFIED PUBLIC NOTARY
MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR
NMLS: 2516202

Stillman BANK

GO HUBS!

Earning Your Trust Since 1882
www.stillmanbank.com

Home & auto.
Easy & affordable.

Call me for a quote today

State Farm
Huber Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
Shane Huber, Agent
221 E Route 38
Rochelle, IL 61068-2303
Bus: 815-562-7011
shane@shanehuber.com
www.shanehuber.com

Local People Providing Local Service

Rochelle MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Water • Waste Water
Electric • Communications

Phone: 815-562-4155 333 Lincoln Highway
Fax: 815-562-5861 Rochelle, IL

www.rmu.net

Rochelle Community Hospital
Your Local Healthcare Resource.

900 N. 2nd Street, Rochelle
815-562-2181
www.rochellehospital.com

Rochelle Chiropractic Clinic
Dr. Chad M. Pillar

227 E. Rt 38 • Rochelle, IL
815-562-8706
www.rochellechiropractic.com
Now Accepting New Patients!

QUEEN'S TRUCKING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Small or Big Construction Jobs, We Do Them All!

Queen's Trucking & Construction, Inc.
322 Errett Road, Rochelle
815-562-6064 | queens-trucking.com

Hiring Class A CDL Drivers

MORTON BUILDINGS
If you can dream it, we can build it.

Rochelle Sales Office • Hwy. 251 N. • 877-613-3050

MEYERS FURNITURE & FLOORING

209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N
Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-8792
www.meyersfurniture.com

GO, HUBS!

Good luck to our local student athletes!