



ROCHELLE  
News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
\$1.25

Staff members recognized  
Board approves personnel changes

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education and District Superintendent Jason Harper recognized district staff members that will soon be retiring at the upcoming end of the school year.

Retiring teachers include Theresa Crystal (math teacher, Rochelle Middle School, 21 years experience), Kristen Kida (second grade, Central School, 20 years), and Margaret Taylor (preschool teacher, 20 years). Two support staff members will be retiring including Denise Montgomery (maintenance, 18 years) and Lester Davis (maintenance director, 20 years).

“All of those folks are right around the 20-year mark, so it’s about 100 years of service to District 231 and our community that will be retiring and



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting, Rochelle Elementary School District Superintendent Jason Harper recognized district staff members that will soon be retiring at the end of the school year.

enjoying their retirement,” Harper said. “On behalf of the administration, teachers and staff here, we want to thank them for all of their great service to our students and community.”

Personnel

The board unanimously approved personnel changes including the resignations of Becky Cox (principal, Tilton, end of current school year) and Justine Miller (eighth grade PE teacher, end of current school year), and the transfer of Klm Lumzy (Spanish language arts to English language arts, RMS, continues to work half-time as student growth coach).

See ELEMENTARY BOARD page 9



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Trustees Pam Pittman and Eileen Braski and saw them sworn in.

Pittman, Braski appointed and sworn in as Hillcrest trustees

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST — At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Trustees Pam Pittman and Eileen Braski and saw them sworn in.

Both previously served on the board but did not run for reelection on April 1 due to believing they would not be able to commit to continuing

to serve as trustees. Circumstances changed and they were brought up for reappointment, Village President Rick Rhoads said. Braski and Pittman will run for reelection in two years.

Braski has served as finance trustee and Pittman has served as community relations trustee in the past. The board now has a full seven trustees.

See HILLCREST page 8

Pegasus Special Riders hosts students from Lee County Special Education Association  
Instructor: ‘It was the most joyful I’ve ever seen some of them’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On May 6, Pegasus Special Riders in Oregon hosted a class of students from the Lee County Special Education Association’s Transition Program for a workshop that focused on horse care and interaction.

Pegasus Special Riders was formed in 1997 as a nonprofit organization to provide therapeutic equine services to individuals with special challenges in Ogle County and surrounding counties. The purpose of its programs are to improve lives in ways that can only be accomplished with the help of a horse.

The Lee County class that visited PSR is composed of nine students, ages 18-22, with various disabilities, including Autism, Down syndrome, and traumatic brain injury, among others. The students are still in school, working on their independent living and vocational skills.

Two of the class’s students, Emily Conderman and Anthony Burke, shared their experiences from their day at Pegasus Special Riders.

“‘It was fun,” Conderman said. “Because I like



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On May 6, Pegasus Special Riders in Oregon hosted a class of students from the Lee County Special Education Association’s Transition Program for a workshop that focused on horse care and interaction.

horses. I’ve ridden horses before. But it was fun leading them around. I learned how to put a halter on a horse. I want to do it again. The class had fun there.”

“I got to work with the horses and lead them around,” Burke said. “It was awesome. I’ve done it before. It helped me and made me happy. We thought it was cool.

I miss Pride, the horse. I met him while I was there. He was my best pal. He’s 25 and I’m 21.”

Kevin Hendley is that class’s instructor, and said the day came about when the class’s paraprofessional saw PSR and thought the class should go there.

“‘We’re always looking for fun things to do,” Hendley said. “We

read a book about a horse recently in class. We set it up. I think it was helpful to our students. I knew we’d have students that were interested in it. The way that the rest of the students took to it surprised me. It was the most joyful I’ve ever seen some of them.”

See PEGASUS page 3

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Ogle 4-H holds food drive

The recent Ogle County 4-H food drive was a success.
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WEATHER

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HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
72 48	63 44
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
58 49	57 47

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

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OBITUARIES

- DONNA L. CHALLAND
- KENNETH DALE ADAMSKI
- RONALD HENRY SCHABACKER

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- MENARDS

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# LOCAL NEWS

## RTHS holds 2025 Honors Night, \$185,000 in local scholarships presented

**ROCHELLE** — On May 5, Rochelle Township High School held its annual honors night recognizing students for academic achievement and saw over \$185,000 in local scholarships presented.

Individual scholarship recipients included:

Alumni Association Scholarship recipients:

Class of 1964 - Noah LeFevre. Class of 1953 - Jackson Smith. Class of 1972 - Francisco Diaz and Julia Livingston. Larry Casey Memorial - Veronica Vaughn. Virginia Ravaas Memorial - Lucas Smardo. Julian Family Digital Dream - Ryan Senne. Wade Miller Memorial - Isabella Chavez. Mabel Miller Memorial - Brisa Zepeda. Dr. C.E. Motlong Memorial - Lilian Drobnick. Pearl Motlong Memorial - Luis Blas. Mr./Mrs. Willard Klewin Family - Julia Livingston. Willard Gieske Memorial - Julissa Torres. Marguerite Thomas Memorial - Bianca Herrera. Richard Family Math/Science - Riley Doyle. Richards Family/Vocational - Caleb Esterday. Richards Family/Vocational - Frankie Pelan. Keith Wehner Memorial - Giselle Garcia. Tom Carmichael Memorial - Erin Murphy. Christopher Heisner Memorial - Logan Frye. Sandra Colwill Memorial - Abigail Jarvis. Stanley Ohlson Memorial - Emma Kennay and Alison Ohlinger. John M. Roe Memorial - Makayla Ludwig. Prabhakar Family - Lauren Dyer. William Parsons Memorial - Flor Magana.

General Alumni Scholarship recipients: Aaliyah Belmonte, Cash Budde, Christopher Castellanos Garcia, Elijah Harley, Makayla Lara, Zoe Malley, Denia Rincon, Marina Vazquez, Yaretzi Villalobos, and Arline Villanueva.

Steve Tobler Memorial: Payton Cesarone, Matthew Lynn, and Jacob Ost. Leonard Carmichael Community Service: Taelynn Rodeghero. Rochelle Township High School Education Association: Marina Vazquez. Tyler Smith Memorial: Paloma Arrez and

Frankie Pelan.

Curtis Clegg Memorial: Taelynn Rodeghero.

John Havens Memorial/Kiwanis Golden K: Drake Ramos, Manuel Cruz, Cash Budde, and Charlotte Simmons.

Charles Engel Rochelle Rotary: Emma Kennay.

Ed Fenwick Memorial: Luis Blas and Cash Budde.

Rochelle Lions Club: Abby Jarvis and Luis Blas.

Olivia Heitter Memorial: Mason Moore, Lydia Osborne, Payton Cesarone, and Cassidy Vincent.

Rochelle Hospital Auxiliary: Abby Metzger and Taelynn Rodeghero.

Rochelle Junior Tackle: Abby Jarvis and Ryan Senne.

Constellation Corporation-Byron Station: Marianna Saldana.

Rochelle Masonic Lodge: Christopher Hickey, Paloma Arrez, and Isaac Belmonte.

Rochelle Fire Department: Aaliyah Losoya.

Richard Barth Memorial: Jackson Smith and Zoe Malley.

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists: Alison Ohlinger.

ELLOS: Arline Villanueva.

BPAC: Flor Magana and Viviana Fulgencio.

Central Bank: Elijah Harley.

First State Bank: Christopher Castellanos.

Resource Bank Centennial Scholarship: Taelynn Rodeghero, Viviana Fulgencio, Logan Frye, and Abby Metzger.

Rochelle Chamber of Commerce: Abby Metzger and Jack Pavlak.

Rochelle News-Leader Scholar Athlete: Jack Tilton and Erin Murphy.

Rochelle Athletic Booster Club: Abby Metzger, Emma Kennay, Riley Doyle, Elijah Harley, and Carson Lewis.

Floyd J. Tilton VFW, Post 3878: Erin Murphy and Lillian Drobnick.

Auxiliary to the Floyd J. Tilton VFW: Ryan Senne and Lydia Osborne.

Rogene Fraley Memorial/Auxiliary to the VFW: Lucas Smardo.

William E. Eickman Memorial: Abby Metzger.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**On May 5, Rochelle Township High School held its annual honors night recognizing students for academic achievement and saw over \$185,000 in local scholarships presented.**

Debby Van Dyke Memorial: Allison Drobnick.

RTHS Agriculture Foundation: Paloma Arrez.

Denise H. Moore Memorial: Emma Kennay.

Rochelle Wrestling Club: Kaiden Morris.

Jane Reineck Memorial: Emma Kennay.

Francis Schumacher Jr. Memorial: Ryan Senne, Jordan Spears, and Xavier Villalobos.

Rock River Chapter - ISPE: Abby Metzger.

Dement Township: Dempsey Atkinson and Alton Polansky.

Chris Roberts: Erin Murphy, Abby Metzger, and Jacob Ost.

Shirley and George Smardo Memorial: Lucas Smardo.

RTHS Renaissance: Colton Czekala.

American Legion Post 403 Arnold Heltness: Abby Metzger.

Rochelle Police Department Tammy Kovacs Memorial: Isabella Chavez.

School Resource Office Jim Jakymiw: Lillian Drobnick and Jack Pavlak.

Hayden Family: Trent Kreider and Makayla Lara.

Brandon Dodrill Memorial: Logan Frye and Cassidy Vincent.

Kishwaukee College Presidential Scholars: Allison Drobnick, Flor Magana, Yaretzi Villalobos, and Brisa Zepeda.

Kishwaukee College

Academic Achievement Scholars: Luis Blas, Bianca Herrera, Abigail Jarvis, Adamary Lopez, and Arline Villanueva.

Kishwaukee College Dual Credit Scholars: Jack Carmichael, Bianca Herrera, Abigail Jarvis, Jasmynn Lipscomb, Adamary Lopez, Marina Vazquez, Richard Woods, and Brisa Zepeda.

Kishwaukee College Foundation Scholarships: Ken & Sue Doubler Scholarship - Josue Albanil. The Albert & Frances Besserman Endowment - Luis Blas. Tom & Nancy Roberts Endowment - Natalie Higueros-Lopez. Diane McNeilly Education Endowment - Aaliyah Losoya. Les & Deanie Springmire Endowment - Jennifer Monroy. Charles & Mary Roberts Memorial Endowment - Brisa Zepeda. Vernon & Dorothy Smith Scholarship - Brisa Zepeda. Emma Anderson Scholarship - Jasmynn Lipscomb.

Students were also recognized for receiving institutional and other scholarships. This year these scholarships and monetary awards exceeded the \$2,000,000 mark! Those students reporting these scholarships included: Dempsey Atkinson, Yasmin Bahena, Luis Blas, Rafaela Braga Caputo Canaan, Xitlali Brizuela, Isabella Chavez, Manuel

Cruz, Riley Doyle, Caleb Esterday, Logan Frye, Elijah Harley, Corbin Harris, Emma Kennay, Julia Livingston, Makayla Ludwig, Zoe Malley, Abby Metzger, Erin Murphy, Ali Ohlinger, Jacob Ost, Bridgett Ramirez, Drake Ramos, Taelynn Rodeghero, Ryan Senne, Lucas Smardo, Marina Vazquez, and Cassidy Vincent.

Awards which were given out at Honors Night included:

Principal's Education Award: Abby Metzger, Allison Drobnick, Alton Polansky, Canyon Ritter, Cash Budde, David Bialas, Drake Ramos, Julissa Torres, Lillian Drobnick, Lucas Smardo, Noah LeFevre, Olivia Faivre, Riley Doyle, Ryan Senne, and Xitlali Brizuela.

Illinois State Scholars: Aaliyah Losoya, Abby Metzger, Alison Ohlinger, Allison Drobnick, Canyon Ritter, Cash Budde, David Bialas, Drake Ramos, Erin Murphy, Julia Livingston, Julissa Torres, Lillian Drobnick, Lucas Smardo, Noah LeFevre, Olivia Faivre, Riley Doyle, Ryan Senne, and Xitlali Brizuela.

Principal's Leadership Award: Erin Murphy.

SAR Good Citizen: Colton Czekala.

DAR Good Citizen: Emma Kennay.

ICTM Student of the Year Award: Riley Doyle.

ISTA Student of the Year Award: Noah LeFevre.

National Technical Honors Society: David Bialas, Isabella Chavez, Ellyse Dalen, Ethan David, Logan Frye, Ava Horner, Makayla Lara, Cammyla Macias, Connor Macklin, Evileth Mendez-Arguelles, Jaicee Ramos, Rylin Tabor, and Jack Tarvestad.

Education Endorsement Recipients: Luis Blas, Xitlali Brizuela, Kaiden Morris, and Marina Vazquez.

The Silver Service Program honors those students who volunteer their time and talents in service-based ways. The Silver Service Honor Cord is presented to any senior who volunteered at least 400 hours during their four years at RTHS.

Silver Cord Recipients: Cash Budde, Sydney Carmichael, Isabella Chavez, Riley Doyle, Logan Frye, Viviana Fulgencio, Natalie Higueros-Lopez, Abigail Jarvis, Emma Kennay, Trent Kreider, Julia Livingston, Makayla Ludwig, Zoe Malley, Abby Metzger, Kaiden Morris, Erin Murphy, Alison Ohlinger, Jacob Ost, Denia Rincon, Taelynn Rodeghero, Jackson Smith, Arline Villanueva, and Brisa Zepeda.

Congratulations to all of the students who were recognized for their achievements.

## Fritts honors Flight Deck for April Local Business Highlight

**ROCHELLE** — For this April 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.

"This month, I chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle because of their continued efforts to support and give back to our community," Fritts said. "Ashley Bick, owner of Flight Deck, is on the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Board and the Destination Committee for the City of Rochelle. She also sponsors and hosts many events at her restaurant, such as free photos with Santa, community fireworks shows with the Chicagoland Skydiving Center, Small Business Bingo, the annual Fireman's Ball, and so much more."

Bick began as the general manager at Flight Deck in 2017. In 2019, she

bought the restaurant. She is a mother of six, with two of her children currently working at Flight Deck.

Rep. Fritts continued, "I also want to commend Ashley and her family for their dedication to keeping Flight Deck open, even after the challenges of remaining open through the COVID-19 pandemic. She has continued her hard work and recently bought a catering truck to support her expanding operations. That kind of hard work and determination should always be celebrated in our community."

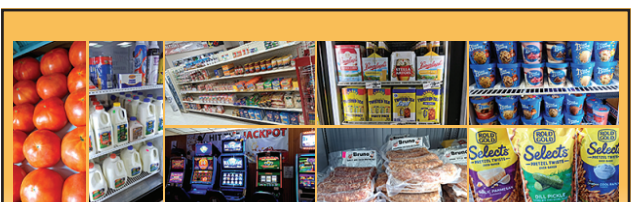
Flight Deck is located at 1207 Gurler Road in Rochelle.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**For his April 2025 local business highlight, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.**



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## ENAG workshop set for June 28

**OREGON** — Eagle's Nest Art Group is offering an Art Glass Workshop on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at the Conover Square ENAG Studio, from 10 a.m. to noon. The workshop is taught by artist Valerie Butcher. It is open to all and is not limited to just

ENAG members.

The cost is \$35 and includes all of the glass and tools required to create your personally designed bird. If you would like to take this workshop, register by calling Valerie at 815-441-2161 or email her at vabutcher@outlook.com



# LOCAL NEWS

## PEGASUS: Oregon-based nonprofit hosts special education students

From page 1

“I’ve known Anthony for nine years and it was the happiest I’ve ever seen him. Emily said it was the best day ever. When they did the haltering of the horses you could see the confidence building in them.”

Hendley thanked the staff at PSR for its time with the students and tailoring the program to them.

“It was very impressive,” Hendley said. “It was a wonderful experience. We’ll absolutely go back. I felt proud seeing them work with the horses. Students spend four years in this program. We work together all day every day. When we went to Pegasus, I got to see how mature and responsible they were in public and how they handled things professionally.”



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Lee County class that visited PSR is composed of nine students, ages 18-22, with various disabilities, including Autism, Down syndrome, and traumatic brain injury, among others. The students are still in school, working on their independent living and vocational skills.



### Rochelle Chamber holds 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kickin’ It for a Cause tournament

The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce hosted its Fifth Annual Kickin’ It for a Cause Kickball tournament on May 10 at VFW Park. Taking home first place was team “We Got the Runs”, and taking second was Ralfie’s BBQ and Catering. The event is held in partnership with the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District and raises money for the chamber’s scholarship fund and the park district’s ENGAGE program. Food vendors from Kiwanis Golden K and Los 3 Molcajates were on hand. The event was sponsored by Rochelle Community Hospital, Wheatland Tube and Central Bank. (Courtesy photos)

## Rep. Fritts announces 2025 Summer Tour

DIXON — Today, State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) announced his 2025 Summer Tour of District 74. “I am excited to begin my third annual summer tour to speak with constituents,” said Rep. Fritts. “These annual summer tours have become one of my favorite parts of being a State Representative. It allows me to meet with hundreds of constituents and have authentic conversations about their needs and priorities. Being able to assist them with state issues or bringing their ideas back with me to Springfield is what this job is all about.”

The tour consists of coffee & conversation events and town halls held

on most Wednesdays from June 4 to Aug. 27. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also be touring local businesses, attending community events, and more.

Rep. Fritts continued, “I look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, as I work to better understand the needs of every community in the 74th District.”

The tour begins with a coffee & conversation event at 8 a.m. in Franklin Grove and a town hall at 6 p.m. in Waterman on June 4.

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit Rep. Fritts.com/SummerTour.

## Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announces DDE results

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office announced it issued three citations and five warnings for cell phone violations during April’s Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign. These citations were a part of 270 citations that Sheriff’s deputies issued during the month.

These citations included: 22 citations for DUI and illegal transportation of alcohol, four citations for illegal consumption of alcohol as a minor, two citations for cannabis violations, 24 citations for suspended, revoked or no valid driver’s licenses, 111 citations for speed-related offenses, 32 citations for no insurance, 44 citations for registration violations,

and 30 citations for other offenses.


“We strongly enforce traffic laws for one reason — to save lives,” said Sheriff Brian VanVickle. “This increased enforcement was implemented to help motorists avoid the often-deadly consequences of distracted driving with a simple reminder: Put the Phone Away or Pay.”

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

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

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


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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](mailto: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:	
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815-561-2153	
Emailed photos* can be sent to <a href="mailto:kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com">kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com</a>	



# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Donna L. Challand

**STEWART** — Donna L. Challand, 82, of Stewart, passed away Monday, May 12, 2025, at Manor Court of Rochelle. She was born March 18, 1943, in Rochelle, the daughter of Milo and Margaret (Hannon) Pullin. She married Chalden F. "Chal" Challand on November 9, 1963, in Rochelle.

Donna was a 1961 graduate of Rochelle Township High School. She had an avid love for music and played numerous instruments, including clarinet, piano, and organ. She was the organist for Methodist churches in Scarboro, Compton, and Paw Paw. She was a member of the Rochelle Municipal Band from high school through 2021. She loved singing in the yearly holiday cantata at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church. Donna worked as an administrative assistant in the precast

industry for over 35 years. She served as an election judge for Willow Creek Township as Lee County. She loved taking trips to Disney World with her husband, Chal, and family. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and will be missed by all who knew her.

Donna is survived by her three children, Stephen (Stephanie) Challand of Winthrop Harbor, IL, Mark (Kari) Challand of Stewart, and Dawn Challand of Earlville; three grandchildren, Matthew (Ashley) Thorson, Megan (A.J.) Wiley, and Austin (Christina) Challand; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Mike (Karry) Pullin; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, Donna is preceded in death by her husband, Chal Challand; and her sister,



Carol Pullin.

Cremation care has been provided by Torman Funeral Home, Paw Paw. A celebration of life will take place at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 370 Wiley Avenue, in Paw Paw with Pastor David Hamer officiating. Memorial visitation will be from 2:00 P.M. until the time of the service on Saturday at the church. Private interment will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Shabbona at a later date. Please visit [www.TormanFuneralHome.com](http://www.TormanFuneralHome.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Kenneth Dale Adamski

**ROCHELLE** — Kenneth Dale Adamski, 75, passed away Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois. Kenny was born on March 25, 1950 to Robert C. and Marcella (West) Adamski in Antigo, WI. He graduated from Rochelle High School in 1968, and he proudly served in the United States Marines from 1968-1972. On August 12, 1972 he married Marilyn Strang in Rochelle, and they were married for just shy of 53 years.

Kenny spent all his life as a Butcher, first at Eagles and then at Sullivan's. He also owned AAA Mowing, which became a lifelong hobby. With some lifelong friends, Kenny was also a co-owner of Valleyland Trucking. Kenny and

Marilyn spent their whole lives together, raising Niki and Kevin, but Kenny's most cherished role was always Grandpa. Whatever Kennedy and Bishop were doing, that's where Grandpa was too because after Marilyn, there was no greater love than for his grandkids.

Kenny is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn of Chana, IL; two children: Niki Adamski and Kevin (Steph) Adamski both of Chana, IL; two grandchildren: Kennedy and Bishop Adamski; brother, Jerry (Wilma) Adamski of Rochelle, IL and sister, Gail Skorberg of St. Charles, IL.

The visitation will be from 4:00 - 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.



The funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the funeral home with military services provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard and the United States Marine Core. Cremation care will follow the service. Burial will be at a later day in the Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Ronald Henry Schabacker

**ROCHELLE** — Ronald Henry Schabacker, 87, passed away Thursday, May 15, 2025 at his home in Rochelle, Illinois. Ron was born on July 22, 1937 to Conrad and Frieda (Felgenhauer) Schabacker in Flagg Center, IL. On September 17, 1966, he married Gail Ettner in Elgin, IL.

Ron was a farmer first and foremost, but he worked for 22 years at Northern Illinois University in the Building Services Department. He loved volunteering at the Rochelle Food Pantry for many years and thoroughly enjoyed the three years of being a cross guard for St. Paul Lutheran School. Seeing the kids was always a highlight. He was a lifetime member of St. Paul Luther-

an Church in Rochelle. Ron loved listening to gospel and country music. His family lovingly refers to him as a stubborn man who was always up for a good "debate".

Ron is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gail of Rochelle; two children: Amy (Kenneth) Bartle of Oswego, IL and Mark (Susan) Schabacker of Rockford, IL; two granddaughters: Abby Bartle and Autumn (Albert) Miller; and his beloved dog, Tula.

In addition to his parents, Ron is preceded in death by a stillborn daughter in 1967 and two brothers and sisters-in-law: Carl (Lu) Schabacker and Conrad (Carolyn) Schabacker.

The visitation will be from 9:00 - 11:00 A.M., Friday, May 23, 2025 at



St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1415 10th Avenue, Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 11:00 A.M., Friday with Pastor Michael Wolff officiating. Burial is at Flagg Center Cemetery with military honors provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard and the Army Honor Guard. Memorials may be made in Ron's memory to the Frieda Pickreign & Jane Reineck Fund. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Immeasurable impact gained through dedication of Illinois Extension volunteers

**URBANA** — They are friends, neighbors, family members, or someone we run into at local community events. More than 5,000 of these individuals are University of Illinois Extension volunteers.

These volunteers make a difference in their communities daily by supporting Illinois Extension's mission of extending knowledge through partnership, lifelong learning, and lifelong impact. Sharing their passions through volunteering finds them alongside programs for community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, health, partnership, technology and discovery, and workforce excellence.

In 2024, volunteers contributed \$15,735,213 in value back to their communities. Without their dedication and time, Extension could not have reached over 730 communities and over 800,000 program attendees statewide, from Jo Daviess to Alexander counties.

"When visiting an Extension office, there is a high probability of run-



(PHOTO: ILLINOIS EXTENSION)

**A group of Illinois Extension staff and volunteers converse at a garden tour event.**

ning into a volunteer or five on any given day," says Sheila Powers, volunteer relations associate with Illinois Extension. "Whether they are there working help desk hours for the Master Gardener program or meeting with Extension staff to plan future events, they always have a great story to share."

While the numbers show impact, it is the individual stories and relationships that are worth a lifetime. Alongside Extension, volunteers thrive through values including collaboration, credibility, inclusivity, and learning.

Without each and every volunteer throughout Illinois Extension's 111-year

history, the organization could not be available to individuals in every county throughout the state. Extension impacts people's daily lives, and volunteers continue to help drive the change.

To all of those who are Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Illinois 4-H leaders, Money Mentors, and anyone who participates in Extension's volunteer programs, thank you.

Take a moment to thank those who positively impact communities and learn more about Illinois Extension's volunteer programs at [go.illinois.edu/ExtensionVolunteers](http://go.illinois.edu/ExtensionVolunteers). For questions, contact Extension at [extension@illinois.edu](mailto:extension@illinois.edu).

#### OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On May 12 at approximately 9:42 p.m. Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Freepoint Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Abdulameer T. Abdulameer, 19, of Freeport for no valid driver's license. Abdulameer was also cited for speeding. Abdulameer was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On May 12 at approximately 10:38 p.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle property damage accident at 3720 E. Flagg Road in rural Ashton. After investigation, David C Kmiec, 44, of Rochelle, was placed

under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Kmiec was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was also cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident and expired registration. Kmiec was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 14 at approximately 2:46 p.m. deputies conducted a motorist assist in the 3,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After an investigation, deputies placed Ariel Williamsen, 33, of Sterling, under arrest for driving with a suspended license. Williamsen was also charged with possession of cannabis 30-100 grams. Williamsen was transport-

ed to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On May 14 at 6:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of South Anterior Road. As a result, deputies arrested Christopher D. Rasmussen 48, of Dixon for driving while license revoked, and an active Lee County warrant for contempt of court. Rasmussen was transported to the Ogle County Jail, and released on the driving while license revoked charge with a future court date. Rasmussen was detained on the Lee County warrant.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

#### ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On May 12 at 10:16 a.m. Benjamin Cintora, 76, of DeKalb was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 3 p.m. Otto P. Heisner, 77, of Lindenwood was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and failure to give information/render aid. He signed a promise to comply and was given a

June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 3:36 p.m. Boadong Yong, 52, of Alhambra, California was cited for illegal parking. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 13 at 1:46 p.m. Melvin Aquino, 19, of Melrose Park was cited for speeding 48 in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 13 at 8:34 a.m. Richard H. Kelly, 79, of Mendota was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 6 Rochelle court date.

On May 14 at 1:26 p.m. Rigoberto Galvan, 70, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### Burdin named Rockford University Spring 2025 Distinguished Scholar

**ROCKFORD** — The following full-time (12 or more credits) students attending Rockford Uni-

versity were named Distinguished Scholars for the Spring 2025 semester, earning at least a 3.75 with

no grades below "C" and having completed all requirements for the semester: Nathan Burdin of Rochelle.

### Hegge named to SNHU President's List

**MANCHESTER, N.H.** — Trevor Hegge of Rochelle has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Spring 2025 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have

earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

#### REPORT POLICY

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

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Ogle and Lee County Fairs receive grant from Compeer Financial

**SUN PRAIRIE, Wis.** – For the eighth year, Compeer Financial is helping county fairs across the Upper Midwest improve facilities and attendee experiences through its Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative’s giving program. In Illinois, 21 fair organizations will each receive up to \$4,000 to support their fairground projects.

In total, Compeer Financial is awarding \$242,000 to 61 county fairs across Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin for a wide range of repairs and upgrades through this year’s County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program. “County fairs are a summer highlight for families involved in agriculture and living in rural communities,” said Kar-

en Schieler, manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial. “These grants help fair organizers enhance the experience for exhibitors and visitors by funding essential updates to buildings and grounds. Fair organizers work tirelessly to ensure a positive, memorable event each year, and we’re proud to support their efforts.” County fairs are ru-

ral staples in bringing together people of all ages to learn about and experience agriculture up close. Last year’s fairs saw an average attendance of 42,298. Compeer Financial designated the County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program to uplift the rural communities it serves. The grant program is a critical tool that enables organizers to continue

offering the best possible experience to fair-goers by funding upgrades and repairs of fairground livestock buildings, 4-H buildings and livestock judging arenas. Since its establishment in 2018, the Fund has awarded 483 County Fair Facility Upgrade Grants for a total impact of more than \$1.6 million that has improved the experiences of fair organizers, partic-

ipants and attendees. The grant will open for 2026 applications in March 2026. The 21 organizations in Illinois earning a County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant include: Lee County Fair Association: Replacing doors and openers in the commercial exhibit building. Ogle County Fair Association: Replacing the walkway and driveway seal.

## Ogle County property tax bills mailed out on May 13

**OREGON** — Ogle County Collector Tiffany O’Brien reports that property tax bills were mailed out on May 13. The first installment will be due on Friday, June 13 with the second installment due on Friday, Sept. 12. This single document will contain

tax information and payment stubs for both installments. Therefore, property owners need to save this bill as no additional notice will be mailed prior to the second installment. Payment methods include cash, check (payable to Ogle County Collector)

or credit card. In-person payments can be made at the Treasurer’s office or at any bank in Ogle County. The Treasurer’s office is in the old Courthouse located at 105 S. 5th St. in Oregon. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday excluding holidays. Their

mailing address is Ogle County Collector, P.O. Box 40, Oregon, IL 61061. Mailed payments must be postmarked by the due date to be considered timely. Late payments will incur a fee of 1.5% per month or part of a month after the due date and must be

remitted by mail or at the Collector’s office. Collector O’Brien’s office is also offering the option of online payments. You may go to the Ogle County website at [www.oglecountyil.gov](http://www.oglecountyil.gov) and then select the Treasurer’s department. Choose the On-

line Tax Payments link and click the Pay Now button. Fill in the information as prompted. Be sure to receive a payment confirmation for your records. Please note that this service carries a fee; review the convenience fees prior to making payment.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# LOCAL VIEWS

## Battle of the beetle: Dutch Elm disease

THE invasion began in 1931. The enemy traveled from Asia to Europe around 1920 and made its way to Cleveland, Ohio in 1931. The University of Illinois was attacked in 1951, with Rockford joining the battle in 1954. Within one year, Rochelle found itself on the front lines. Before it was done, the invasion accounted for the deaths of 75% of the Elm trees in the contiguous United States. The invader was a fungus and the battlefields were the Elm trees of North America. In the early 1900s the Elm was the preferred street tree. The Elm could grow three to six feet a year and reach 80 feet tall. The canopy would reach 120 feet and the tree had a life span of 100 years. Rochelle had been planting Elm trees since 1877 when they began replacing the dirt streets with gravel. The Lincoln Highway project of 1913 created the first cross-country highway from the east coast to the west coast and ran straight through Rochelle. To celebrate, Rochelle bricked Lincoln Highway and added street trees from one end of town

to the other. The Meridian Highway, constructed in 1926, was the first hard-surfaced road from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, once again going through Rochelle. The city planted Elm trees from the south edge of town to the north end. When the trees reached maturity Rochelle could be proud of its tree-lined roadways. The trees created living tunnels of shade for both roads and sidewalks.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) was caused by a fungus. The fungus had one primary victim, the Elm. The fungus was believed to have traveled from France to the United States on shiploads of lumber. Elm was frequently used for quality furniture. The fungus lacked mobility but did not lack transportation. The furniture makers would use their saws to make furniture, they would use the same saw to trim Elm trees. The fungus merely rode the saw from one site to the next. Once the fungus was in the tree it would spread an irritant which the tree would try to block. The tree would block the spread of the irritant by blocking

water-conducting tissue through the tree. The irritant was blocked but the limb would wither and die. The second method of transfer for the fungus was a small beetle, the Elm Bark Beetle. The beetle would bore into the sick part of the tree and set up housekeeping, breeding, feeding, and sheltering for the winter months. In the spring the newborn beetles would leave the nest and fly to trees of their own. The beetles were covered with the fungus and now provided the means for the disease to spread.

The enemy was known and so was the remedy. Dutch researchers had identified the fungus in 1921, thus the name "Dutch Elm Disease". The infested area needed to be removed and burned. Simple sounding but community after community failed to recognize the impact of the problem.

Rockford first identified Dutch Elm Disease in 1954. The "Forest City" went so far as to hire a city forester in 1955. The forester, John C. VanCamp,

recommended a massive tree trimming, removal and burning program. In 1955 Dutch Elm Disease was found. In 1956, 128 dying trees were discovered and 528 by 1957. The City of Rockford quickly realized that things were getting out of hand, so they did what cities do; they quit counting. John resigned his position as forester in 1957. "Rockford tried looking the other way," Rockford Register-Republic declared in 1963. "When the city looked back, its trees were gone."

Rochelle was fortunate, they could watch Rockford and learn from their mistakes, or not. With the first sign of the devastating disease Rochelle began a tree trimming program. The Rochelle High School students did their part and art students prepared posters which were displayed in the windows at Alonzo Maginnis' clothing store. The posters were very complete and served to explain the nature of the problem, how to spot it, and how to notify the city

if you saw a tree in distress. By 1959, Rochelle had to make a choice, and they made that choice clear. "A lot of people are concerned about the Dutch Elm Disease, but the street department has some pressing business on the street first before it does any tree trimming," said the commissioner of streets and highways. Later that year the commissioner once again refused to take definitive action. "Too many communities have spent huge sums of money with misguided 'experts.'" He felt a committee of local citizens could help guide him and the city council in setting up a sound program and help seek out good professional advice and service. Trees were trimmed, cut down and burned, never as fast as they were being infested. The fires became so large and constant that local residents complained about the smoke. The fire department was called to extinguish the fires at night and the street department would try to relight the fire in the morning.

It was estimated that there were about 77 mil-

lion Elm trees in North America in the 1930s. After the Dutch Elm infestation, the number had dropped to less than 20 million. Rockford lost more than 47,000 Elm trees. The city was so devastated that they debated giving up the title of "The Forest City". Rochelle was still in the battle into the early 1970s, but the lack of response only prolonged the inevitable outcome; the Elm trees are gone. Hundreds of trees were removed and smaller, faster-growing trees were planted to fill in the spaces. For Rochelle, like so many others, the majestic Elm tree is a rarity. The towering trees with their massive canopies no longer block the sun. Rochelle will never again enjoy the majestic green archways over our streets. The battle was fought and the beetle (or fungus) won. Let us hope that a lesson was learned; nature is easy to destroy but almost impossible to replace once it has been lost.

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

## Sustained, strategic investment is critical for the stability of our educator pipeline

AS reported in the recent Educator Shortage Report released by Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools and the State Board of Education, Illinois is making progress in growing its educator workforce, but shortages persist in critical areas. Indeed, the stop gap measures that are being used to fill those vacancies keep the education process moving forward for students but are not a sustainable approach to ensuring quality and equity for the long-term.

Bolstered by historic K-12 investments in the Evidence Based Funding Formula, Illinois districts have been investing in an increased number of teachers, administrators, and support staff. This growth was much needed after economic and budget challenges cut down the workforce in the 2010s, and it represents an im-

portant opportunity for smaller class sizes and more manageable caseloads for support staff, which come closer to recommended levels.

But this growth depends upon an adequate candidate pool, particularly for the roles where need is growing, but shortages are most severe: Bilingual and Special Education teachers, school support staff such as psychologists and speech-language pathologists, and paraprofessionals.

While enrollment in Illinois educator preparation programs has grown in recent years, recent data from the Educator Shortage Survey reminds us that in certain geographies, gaps in educator supply and demand contribute to unfilled positions and the hiring of uncertified staff. Such challenges ultimately harm student learning and disproportionately affect

students from low-income households, students of color, rural students, English Learners, and students with disabilities—students who are all more likely to live in districts with high vacancy rates.

Findings from the survey also highlight how district leaders perceive the impact of recent state level statutory or regulatory changes on educator recruitment and retention. Of the five changes rated most impactful, three involve broadening the pool of eligible substitutes or the introduction of temporary changes to licensure that offer districts more flexibility. These actions are helping ease current pain points, but absent longer-term investments, they cannot address the deeper challenges laid out in the report. Sustainable

change requires us to take a strategic long-term view.

So, what does it mean to think long-term about the educator pipeline?

1. Invest in addressing root causes. There is no silver bullet change that will solve shortage challenges. Short-term or temporary

licensure strategies might help around the edges, but don't address root causes. Fortunately, the state has been making key investments in the pipeline, chief among them being increased funding for Early Childhood Education and Care via Smart Start and K-12 schools via the Evidence-Based Funding Formula—investments that allow programs and districts to address underlying funding inequities and inadequacy in compensation and staffing.

2. Sustain investments

long enough to know whether they actually work. In recent years, Illinois has stood up a teacher mentoring program, launched principal recruitment and retention efforts, and supported affinity groups for teachers. Starting in FY24, the General Assembly more than doubled investment in scholarship and preparation investments such as the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship. These programs are getting promising early results in recruitment, preparation, and retention. But we have to continue investments long enough to know if they work. And we must commit to rigorous evaluation so that we understand the critical drivers of success.

3. Don't lose sight of what makes a strong workforce: highly effective, well-prepared and diverse teachers. When we think about addressing shortages, we cannot lose sight of

the elements that research consistently shows drive student outcomes. These objectives can and should work in harmony: strong preparation and early career support increase effectiveness and boost early career retention. Scholarships make the pathway into the profession more affordable, attractive and more diverse. The factors impacting educator shortages are multifaceted, and solutions are not simple. But we cannot let our desire to find that one "quick fix" get in the way of a serious, strategic, and sensible approach. We need to act like our students' future depends on building a strong diverse educator workforce—because it does.

*Robin Steans is president of Advance Illinois, an independent, bipartisan education policy and advocacy nonprofit focused on creating a healthier public education system for Illinois.*

### How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

## Ogle County 4-H food drive was a success

OREGON — On April 26, youth across the country marked National 4-H Day of Service by giving back to their communities, and the Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors were no exception. Partnering with the Ogle County Health Department, the Ambassadors took action locally by stocking the Mini Food Center located behind Conover Square in Oregon.

The community-driven initiative focused on addressing food insecurity in the area. Thanks to generous donations and coordinated efforts, the group collected a wide variety of food items. Their contributions included over a dozen jars of peanut butter, more than 50 cans of vegetables, and even two whole turkeys.

“By working together with the Ogle County Health Department, we were able to help our community and ensure that the food center is better stocked for those who



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Partnering with the Ogle County Health Department, the Ogle County 4-H took action locally by stocking the Mini Food Center located behind Conover Square in Oregon. Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors, left to right: Allissa Martin, Immanuel Arellano, and Raiden Zimmerman.

need it,” said one of the 4-H Ambassadors.

This project not only reflects the values of service and leadership that 4-H instills in its members but

also highlights the strength of community partnerships. The Ogle County Mini Food Center operates 24/7, is completely anonymous to visit, and relies on local

support to remain a dependable resource for families in need. The Mini Food Center’s motto is “Take what you need, leave what you can.”

## Woodlawn Cemetery Memorial Day services set

CRESTON — Woodlawn Cemetery on Woodlawn Road north of Creston will hold its Memorial Day services on Monday, May 26. The services

will be held at 10:30 a.m. The service will include prayer, music, complete roll call of veterans, and a tribute to two veterans buried there, given by

speaker Lyle Headon. Bring your lawn chairs. In the case of inclement weather the services will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 126 E.

South St., Creston. Come join us to celebrate the sacrifices of our veterans. Any questions you may call Dorothy 815-384-5325.

## Dall named to SNHU spring 2025 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on

being named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List: Abby Dall of Rochelle. The spring terms run from January to May. Full-time undergrad-

uate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time

status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



- Apr. 22 - Alyssa Perez, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 23 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 24 - Diane Smith, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 25 - Eva Lenkaitis, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 26 - Odessa Waters, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 27 - Dawn Sperry-Gribbe, Ashton, \$50
- Apr. 28 - Janie Hughes, Oregon, \$25
- Apr. 29 - Chelsey Stolte, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 30 - Beth Costa-Bland, Belvidere, \$25
- May 1 - Joseph Young, Creston, \$25
- May 2 - Andrea DeKing, Rochelle, \$25
- May 3 - Kim Dale, Amboy, \$25
- May 4 - Colton VanKirk, Rochelle, \$50
- May 5 - Hiedi Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
- May 6 - Donna Nass, Rochelle, \$25
- May 7 - Keaton Shumard, Rochelle, \$25
- May 8 - Dale Bergeson, Rochelle, \$25
- May 9 - Scott Swartz, Rochelle, \$25
- May 10 - Lori Miller, Rochelle, \$25
- May 11 - Chrissy Smardo, Rochelle, \$500
- May 12 - Brad Schabacker, Rochelle, \$25
- May 13 - Amanda Headon, Rochelle, \$25
- May 14 - Rose Hueramo, Rochelle, \$25
- May 15 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25
- May 16 - Denise Connor, Rochelle, \$25
- May 17 - Chad Kacvinsky, Lindenwood, \$25
- May 18 - Kristin Flanagan, Lindenwood, \$50

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- May 18 Arianna Thompson
- May 20 Darrell & Beth Bolhaus (anniversary)

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



## Coffee Break

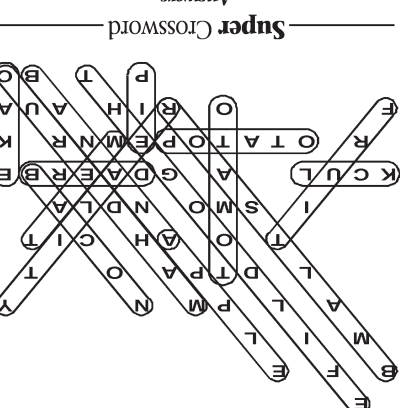
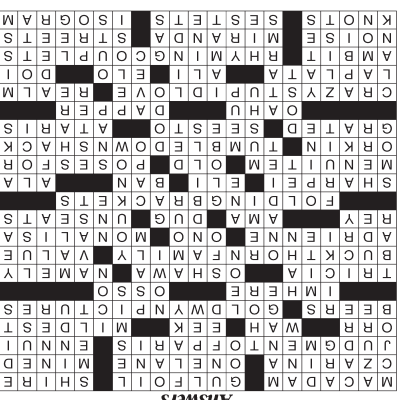
### MAGIC MAZE • A SLICE OF —

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

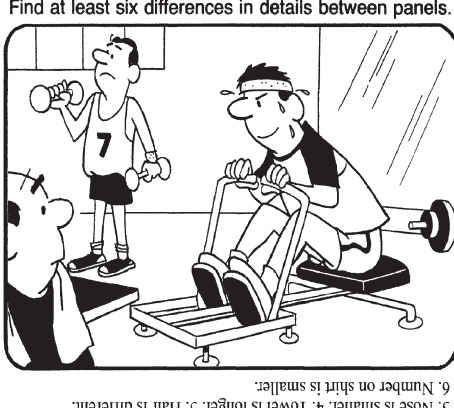
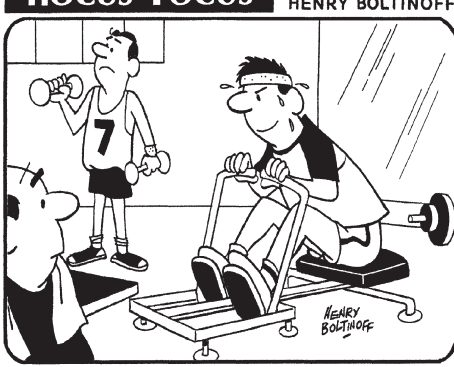
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A GOBLER

- Apple
- Bacon
- Banana
- Bread
- Cake
- Cured ham
- Fruit
- Luck
- Meat
- Pie
- Potato
- Reality
- Roast lamb
- The good life
- Tomato

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### HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

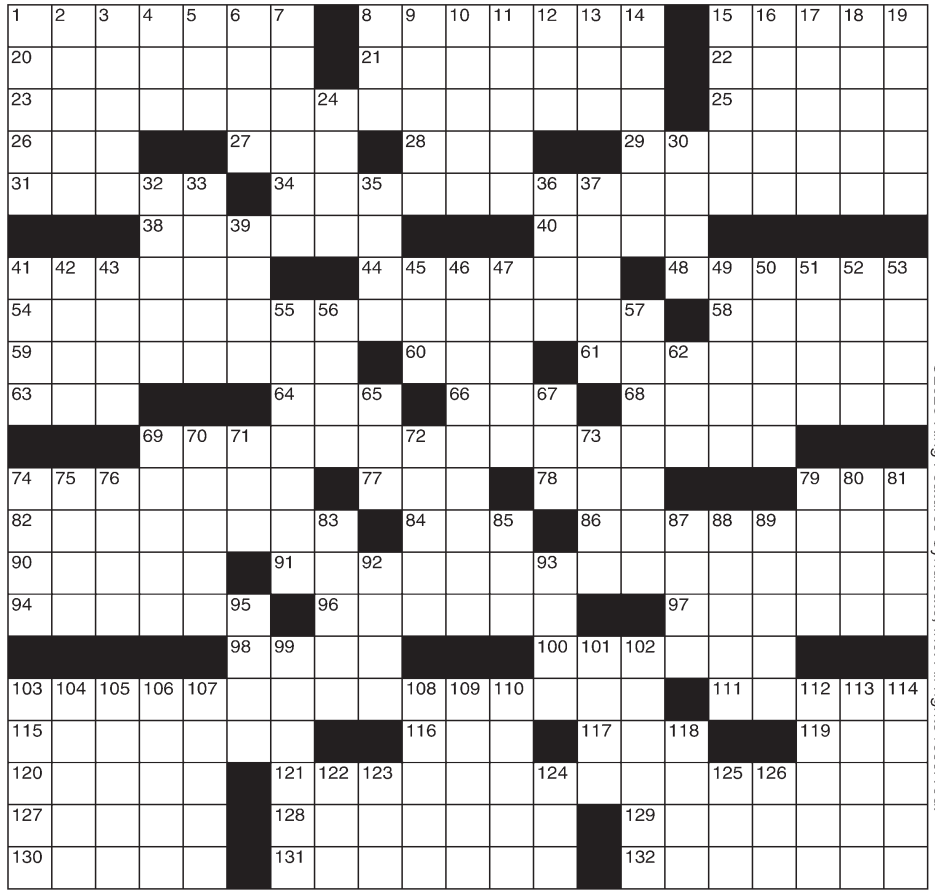


Differences: 1. Stripe on sock is missing. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Towel is longer. 5. Hair is different. 6. Number on shirt is smaller.

## Super Crossword

### DISCRETE CHARACTERS

- ACROSS 1 Broken stone for paving 8 Big petroleum company of the past 15 Actress Talia 20 Erstwhile empress of Russia 21 Very narrow, as a road 22 Got the lead out? 23 Decision to award Eris' apple to Aphrodite 25 Bland feeling 26 NHLer Bobby 27 Upset infant's sound 28 "Look, micel!" 29 Least severe 31 Stein drinks 34 Original lion-logo film studio 38 Arriver's declaration 40 — buco 41 A Nixon daughter 44 City northeast of Toronto 48 To wit 54 Cascara and red ash are members of it 58 Deem worthy 59 Poet Rich or actress Barbeau 60 "Yang Yang" singer Yoko the past 61 Painting in the Louvre 63 San Luis — 64 Doc bloc 66 Shoveled 68 Boots out 69 Hardware pieces for attaching shelves to walls 74 Wrinkly-faced dog 77 Wallach or Manning 78 Outlaw 79 Similar to 82 Diner offering 84 Ancient 86 Sits to appear on the cover of, say 90 Pest control company 91 Hovel 94 Shredded, as Parmesan 96 Takes care of 97 1980s game consoles 98 Honolulu site 100 Snazzily dressed 103 2011 Steve Carell rom-com 111 Sphere 115 Port near Buenos Aires 116 "Louisville Lip" of boxing 117 Jeff Lynne's rock gp. 119 "Is that true about me?" 120 Scope of influence 121 The "AA" and "BB" of an AABB scheme 127 Din 128 "Hamilton" composer Lin-Manuel 129 City grid parts 130 Lace snails 131 Ends of sonnets 132 Phrase with no repeated letters (like each of this puzzle's seven longest answers) DOWN 1 Dead-end work position 2 Sky-blue hue 3 Corps core 4 Uru, neighbor 5 Not well lit 6 Over again 7 Take care of 8 Oozy gunk 9 Lacking in nourishment 10 Skunk Pepé of cartoons 11 Like crumbly piecrusts 12 Rowing blade 13 Reggae's — Kamoze 14 Best Musical before "Phantom" 15 Silvery fish 16 Dharma follower 17 Private 18 Recycle 19 Fixes up text 24 Son of Odin 30 Holy relic 32 Lake of 33 Hit hard, biblical-style 35 Novelist Uris 36 "— get it!" ("Oh, makes sense!") 37 Sacred song 39 Violinist Hilary 41 Kind of ski lift 42 Very impolite 43 2012 hit for Flo Rida 45 Calif. air hub 46 Advertising leaflets 47 Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie —" 49 "Stopl," aseas 50 Stags, e.g. 51 Film director Kazan 52 Intense desire 53 "For" votes 55 Doing Atkins, say 56 Do-fa linkup 57 "Get what I'm saying?" 62 Atlanta-to-Akron dir. 65 Suffix with pent- 67 Chitchat 69 Apple or pear 70 Offer a view 71 Permit 72 Sphere 73 Mafia bigwig 74 Hazy air stuff 75 Mister, in Münster 76 "Lonely Boy" singer Paul 79 At a distance 80 Sets of points, in math 81 Torah holders 83 — pork (Chinese entree) 85 Sleuth: Abbr. 87 Purse part 88 Nitrate, e.g. 89 Ration 92 Pick- — (refresher) 93 Bygone bird 95 Verb before "thou," perhaps 99 Words after man or sergeant 101 With, to Luc 102 House speaker after Ryan 103 Metallic sound 104 Novarro of silent films 105 H.S. science class for college credit 106 Roster of least-sought-after celebs 107 "Eleni" director Peter 108 "— your disposal" 109 Group trying to sack a QB 110 Swiss chocolatier 112 Like — in headlights 113 Ton of, informally 114 Bette Midler's "Divine" stage persona 118 Alibis, e.g. 122 Go quickly 123 Divs. of eras 124 Propane, e.g. 125 In favor of 126 Knee's place



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# LOCAL NEWS

## HILLCREST: Trustees discuss applying for grant for sewer work

From page 1

### Sewer

Trustees discussed the idea of applying for an unsewered communities grant during the meeting to potentially receive money to add sewer service to portions of Hillcrest in the future. Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman inquired whether the board would be interested in applying for the grant, and they resolved Wednesday to move forward with the application.

Most of Hillcrest does not have sewer service and is served by septic. Trustees have looked at adding sewer service in the past but decided against it due to costs.

Rhoads said Wednesday that the grant could provide up to \$5 million in funding if Hillcrest is selected for it, and the amount would depend on the size of the project the village wants to take on.

Rhoads said he and Wright have discussed the idea of running sewer to Hillcrest's business district on Powers Road, and that would be the likely course for a potential project.

"We should move forward with it, keeping in mind that one thing that has held us back from getting more businesses in the village is the lack of sewer going up Powers Road," Trustee Dan Potter said. "Casey's wanted to build a new location in that area and they can't because there's no sewer."

If sewer were to be run to residential homes, hookup would not be mandatory for residents until the time that their septic failed.

### Parking lot

Village trustees also discussed current and future bids for a project that will see a new parking lot in the front and back of Village Hall. The recently-completed Priority 1A water main project saw the Village Hall parking lot torn out and not completely put back into place. The village is looking at whether or not it can use motor fuel tax funds for the work.

The village has received bids already from Elliott & Wood (\$131,000), George Brothers (\$86,000), and Royer Asphalt (\$68,000). Elliott & Wood's bid con-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Hillcrest trustees discussed the idea of applying for an unsewered communities grant during the meeting to potentially receive money to add sewer service to portions of Hillcrest in the future. Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman inquired whether the board would be interested in applying for the grant, and they resolved Wednesday to move forward with the application.**

sists of a full reconstruction of the lot, which the village does not believe is necessary and it plans to ask for a more limited bid. Rhoads said an additional bid from another company

is expected and a vote will likely be taken at the June meeting.

### Sirens

Rhoads said during the meeting that changes are

being made to Hillcrest's siren system and sirens will now sound when Rochelle's do during storms. Ogle County is moving away from its siren system to a text system, Rhoads

said. In the past, when a tornado was sighted in Ogle County, sirens across the entire county would sound. In the future, Hillcrest's sirens will only sound when Rochelle's do.



**On April 30, donors, volunteers, neighbors, elected officials, board members, staff and other community partners gathered for a ribbon cutting, open house and tour of the new Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market in Rockford.**

## NIFB holds ribbon cutting for new Neighborhood Market and Northwest Center

**ROCKFORD** — On April 30, donors, volunteers, neighbors, elected officials, board members, staff and other community partners gathered for a ribbon cutting, open house and tour of the new Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market in Rockford.

The new Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market relocation and expansion offers some significant improvements:

A larger parking lot with better visibility and easier access, right on a major thoroughfare.

An additional 11,000 square feet — which includes two dock doors, increased freezer and cooler capacity, and expanded warehouse space. This means we can store and distribute more food, more efficiently.

The ability to accommodate more volunteers who can help us evaluate, sort, repack and distribute food at one time. We anticipate this will allow us to double the amount of donated food processed.

Our pantries have an expanded shopping area and designated cooler for perishable foods.

A more spacious and welcoming Neighborhood Market — formerly known as the Winnebago Community Market — which now offers an enhanced grocery shopping experience. We're proud to support neighbors through programs like Order Ahead for private online ordering, free grocery delivery through Amazon, and new temperature-controlled lockers for 24/7 grocery order pickup thanks to a grant received by Feeding America, with funding from US Foods.

A dedicated area for wrap-around services and additional resources to fur-

ther support our neighbors in need.

And a new meeting space available for our partners, staff, and the broader community.

Over the past year, the Market has served 1,700 households each week. In Winnebago County, the Food Bank, market, and partner agencies together is serving 57K neighbors monthly, that number continues to climb — even higher than pre-pandemic levels — as inflation and rising costs force families to make incredibly difficult choices.

262 donors supported the

relocation of the Northwest Center and Neighborhood Market. We received gifts ranging from \$1-95,000 and each of those gifts made this Center & Market possible.

Over the past five years, the Food Bank has responded by increasing meal distribution from 5.3 million in FY19 to 8.7 million in FY24 in Winnebago County. How does the food bank meet this incredible need?

Northern Illinois Food Bank collaborates with over 200 member agencies and program sites throughout our Northwest Region in Winnebago,

Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties — which include food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes/shelters, schools, senior centers, and other community organizations — to ensure neighbors have consistent access to nutritious food. These member agencies and program partners are critical to reaching neighbors and meeting the growing need, with dignity, equity and convenience.

For more information about how to donate, volunteer or get groceries, visit [SolveHungerToday.org](https://SolveHungerToday.org).



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

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## Lincoln Manor



Owned and operated by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) offering apartment living for older adults in Rochelle and the surrounding communities.

Rent based  
on 30% of a  
Resident's Adjusted  
Gross Income

- Secure Entry System
- Community room with kitchen
- Activities
- On-site coin operated laundry
- On-site management office
- Dependable 24/7 maintenance service
- On-site parking for residents

Full time Social Service Coordinator is available to assist residents

For more information, please call 815-562-1404

615 N. Lincoln Hwy.  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
TTY 847-390-1460

MANAGED BY:  
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[www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org)

  
07262023



# LOCAL NEWS

## ELEMENTARY BOARD: Harper thanks staff, public for patience with infrastructure projects

From page 1

Approved support staff changes included the retirement of Laura Montgomery (maintenance) and dismissal of Dawn Hasz (technology aide).

Employment for the 2025-2026 school year was approved for Jenna Hale (fifth grade teacher, Tilton), Jack Patting (social studies teacher, RMS) and Shanda Schwartz (sixth grade science teacher, RMS).

For extracurricular/extrareponsibility changes, approved Tuesday were the resignations of Nathaniel Genobana (wrestling head coach), Karen Hall (volleyball head coach), Justine Miller (AM & PM supervision) and Trevor Silz (wrestling assistant coach) and the employment of Alex Bueno (seventh grade boys track coach), Jack Patting (wrestling head coach), Holli Rapp (seventh grade girls basketball head coach) and Chris Underwood (student council advisor).

### Buildings

Harper thanked district

staff and the public for their patience with ongoing infrastructure projects that have started around May and Tilton Elementary Schools.

May Elementary School is currently seeing upgrades to prepare it for its opening as a preschool in the fall after being closed since before the 2021-2022 school year. A grant the district received to allow for preschool expansion will move its offerings from Lincoln Elementary School to May School. Upgrades will include the fitting of seven classrooms, bathroom, and a playground, along with security and lobby improvements.

At Tilton School, the board has a \$14.237 million renovation and expansion project that will begin this summer and be completed in phases through the summer of 2026.

The district is tying in health life safety needs with recommended security enhancements and staff needs and wants, namely alleviating issues caused by limited space in the building. The district's plans include a facelift of



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Superintendent Jason Harper thanked district staff and the public for their patience with ongoing infrastructure projects that have started around May and Tilton Elementary Schools.**

the existing building and additional space to be added in an expansion with additional classrooms,

multi-purpose room, gym, library and music room space, ADA accessibility, technology and climate

control.

### Budget

The board will host an

amended budget hearing at 5:50 p.m. ahead of its regularly scheduled June 10 meeting at 6 p.m.

## Large sale to benefit Chana School Museum scheduled for May 30-31

**OREGON** — A huge sale will be at the Oregon Coliseum inside and outside on Friday, May 30 from 8 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 31 from

8 a.m. to noon to benefit the historical 1883 Chana School Museum. Items may be new or very old depending on what is donated. There will be

small items, clothing, and large items like sofas. This will be the largest rummage this summer. Everything is a bargain and priced to

go. If you have items to donate, drop off days at the Oregon Coliseum are Tuesday, May 27 (3-6 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 28 (9-noon).

Some things we cannot take such as blinds, mattress & springs, and car seats. If you have questions please call Ray at 815-979-2903. If you

would like to volunteer please call Connie at 815-732-2447. This is a great time for students to get community service hours.

## Chana United Methodist Church Blood Drive is May 28

**CHANA** — The Chana United Methodist Church is holding its annual blood drive on Wednesday, May 28 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. (note this year's time change) at the church in

Chana located at 606 S. Main St.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center staff will be accepting both whole blood and doubled red donors of all blood types. Appointments

area preferred, which generally saves the donor time, but walk ins are welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Carole at 815-595-4559 or email [suttonsin-thepines@yahoo.com](mailto:suttonsin-thepines@yahoo.com).

Eligible donors need to be 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 points, and be in good general health.

The RRVBC is the

sole supplier of blood and related for many of the surrounding local hospitals. The center needs to keep an adequate on-shelf supply, so a need for donations is always present to meet patient needs. One in three people will need blood, and you never know when you or someone you love might be the one.

Please consider this community service and gracious gift of life to someone in need. Your

giving and generosity will be greatly appreciated. Donor names will be entered in drawings for one of three gift cards graciously donated by the Oregon Soap Shoppe, AM Florals in Oregon, and The Silver Fox in Ashton. And each donor will receive a give a pint get a pint coupon from the Rochelle Culvers.

We hope to see you on May 28 at the drive. Be sure to eat and drink before donating.

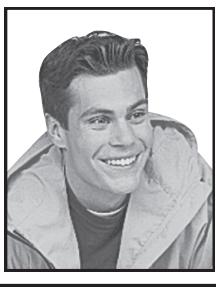
## Gone, But Not Forgotten

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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Arellano Jr. partners with Tollway to host I-PASS ON DEMAND event May 19

**ROCHELLE** — State Senator Li Arellano, Jr. (R-Dixon) has partnered with the Illinois Tollway to host an I-PASS On Demand event on Monday, May 19, in Rochelle. The event is designed to help motorists update their I-PASS technology from plastic transponders to the new Sticker Tags.

The I-PASS On Demand event will take place from 3-7 p.m. at Rochelle City Hall, 420 N. 6th St. Participants are reminded to bring their driver's licenses and license plate numbers to present to Illinois Tollway officials. Attendees should also be prepared for brief wait times.

Illinois Tollway offi-

cials will assist attendees with transferring to the new sticker technology without disrupting their I-PASS account activity. They will also be available to answer questions about I-PASS accounts and resolve Pay By Plate issues.

Once activated, the Sticker Tag can be used on the Illinois Tollway and E-ZPass roadways in other states within 24 hours. There is no deposit required for the Sticker Tag, and the \$10 transponder deposit will be transferred to the new account upon activation.

For more information about the event, contact Michaelene at Senator Arellano's office at 217-782-1650.

## Little Miss Peanut Contest set for Aug. 15

**ROCHELLE** — Kiwanis Golden K's Little Miss Peanut Contest will be at the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival on Aug. 15 from 6-7 p.m.

The contest will be open to all girls ages 6, 7, and 8 years old at the time of the festival. They must attend feeder schools to the Rochelle Township High School to be eligible. Email us at [rochellegoldenken@gmail.com](mailto:rochellegoldenken@gmail.com) and we

will email you an application. You can return it to us via email (preferred) or mail it to us at PO Box 644, Rochelle, IL 61068

The deadline for applications to be received is July 25. Any questions, contact Secretary Jody Taylor at (630) 330-6584.

If you are a previous Little Miss Peanut winner, please contact us so we can recognize you at the festival this year!



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**RTHS Girls Soccer**

# Rochelle sends off seniors with win

## Lara breaks all-time scoring record as Lady Hubs defeat Rockford Auburn 3-0

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Makayla Lara entered the Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team’s Senior Night match against Rockford Auburn needing two goals to break the school’s all-time career scoring record.

Lara tied the record early in the first half, stealing the ball away from an Auburn defender before blasting a left-footed shot into the net during the 13th minute to give Rochelle a 2-0 lead in the match. The senior midfielder had multiple chances to break the record as the half progressed, but several quality shots on net drew the crossbar, the upright or zoomed just outside the goal.

Lara’s aggressiveness ultimately paid off, however, as a through ball found her left foot with one defender to beat during the 56th minute of regulation time. With one step on the defender, Lara booted another left-footed shot that rolled past the outstretched hands of Auburn goalkeeper Angela Orenday and into the lower left corner of

the net. It was the 82nd career goal for Lara, who broke the nearly 20-year-old school record of 81 goals previously set by Tara Rogers.

“Coach [Male] and I looked at the books on Thursday and I knew I had to be close,” Lara said. “It was a goal of mine throughout the match to reach that milestone. It’s a great feeling and it wasn’t anything I ever felt before. I was really happy I was able to accomplish something like this. I’ve always stayed consistent and dedicated to the team and I never gave up, even when our record wasn’t the best. We stuck together and we’ve been able to improve as a team.”

Lara was one of two players to score on Wednesday, when the Lady Hubs sent their seniors off with a 3-0 win over the Knights in non-conference action. Freshman midfielder Paige Harris broke the scoreless draw in the opening phase of the first half, scoring in the ninth minute to give the Lady Hubs (9-15, 2-8 Interstate 8) an early advantage. It was the final regular season match, as Rochelle will compete as



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team honored its seniors after a 3-0 win over Rockford Auburn on Wednesday. Above from left to right are Makayla Lara, Monserratte Marquez, Betty Flores, Emma Kennay, Yasmin Bahena, Anahi Cervantes and Jeanette Valle.**

the No. 6 seed in the IHSA 2A Regional Semifinals at Rockford Boylan on Tuesday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m. Rochelle will face No. 1 seed Boylan.

“It’s been phenomenal to see these young ladies mature the way they have and play the way they

did today,” head coach Brad Male said. “Seeing Makayla break the all-time goals record was extra special. The attitude of our seniors going into every game... They want to win every game and they’re going to be tough to replace. We’re looking

forward to seeing some of our younger players step up and fill those roles, but there will be some big shoes to fill.”

Rochelle dominated the ball on Wednesday, posting 38 shots and 23 shots on goal without allowing a single shot to the Knights.

After the match, Rochelle honored its seven senior players during a brief ceremony. The senior class includes Monserratte Marquez, Anahi Cervantes, Makayla Lara, Betty Flores, Emma Kennay, Jeanette Valle and Yasmin Bahena.

**RTHS Boys Tennis**

# Seniors emerge as Hubs host nonconference foes

## RTHS honors four seniors before meet with Sterling Newman, Rockford Christian

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub tennis team saw all four of its senior netters take the court for varsity matches on Wednesday evening, when the purple and white celebrated Senior Night with a pair of nonconference contests against Sterling Newman and Rockford Christian.

Immanuel Arellano, Alex Duran, Roberto Garcia and William Miller were each recognized in a brief ceremony before the action, which saw Rochelle score a 3-2 win over Rockford Christian and suffer a 4-1 loss against Sterling Newman. Duran, Garcia and Miller earned varsity starts in the match with the Comets, while Miller competed in varsity doubles against the Royal Lions. Rochelle (6-9, 1-4 Interstate 8) resumed non-conference play at Harlem on Thursday evening.

“It’s been a really fun group of seniors to work with,” head coach Kristy Eckardt said. “Two of the seniors were playing tennis for the first time this year and we love when kids try something new. Will’s been doing it for four years and having him as a staple of the program has been great.”

The Hubs took both of their singles matches

against Rockford Christian. Juniors Mark Green and Caleb Mortensen showed confidence on the court, with Green taking down Brady Kneller 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 1 slot and Mortensen dominating David Leston for a 6-0, 6-0 sweep in the No. 2 slot. Senior William Miller and sophomore Owen Carmichael secured the match for the Hubs, cruising for a 6-1, 6-1 win against Thatcher Brown and Sam Huber at No. 3 doubles.

“I think we’re definitely peaking when we should be,” Eckardt said. “There has been a lot of competition during practice and in the matches we’ve had lately. I think we can do some good things. Our singles players are so competitive and they really love a challenge. They’re often going up against really good players from other teams and they’re up for a battle every time.”

Sophomore Amor Lara brought home Rochelle’s lone win during the match against Sterling Newman, recovering from a first-set defeat and displaying tremendous fortitude to emerge with a 4-6, 6-0, 14-12 win over Nathaniel Burger at No. 2 singles. The Hubs are gearing up for the postseason, with the Interstate 8 Conference Championships at RTHS scheduled for Saturday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**The Rochelle Hub tennis team honored its seniors before nonconference action against Sterling Newman and Rockford Christian on Wednesday. Above from left to right are Immanuel Arellano, Alex Duran, William Miller and Roberto Garcia.**

RTHS will also hold the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional on Friday, May 23

and Saturday, May 24.

“We’re still juggling some players around in

doubles, but I like how our doubles teams are playing together,” Eckardt

said. “No matter who’s together, they have really good chemistry.”



# SPORTS

## RTHS Baseball

# Senior Night headlines Interstate 8 series with Ottawa

Rochelle recognizes five seniors before Wednesday evening game against Pirates

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub baseball team recognized its five senior players before taking the field for its Interstate 8 Conference home finale against Ottawa on Wednesday evening.

Seniors Ethan Goodwin and Brandyn Metzger combined for four hits and two RBIs for the Hubs, who have seen their senior class take a considerable leap at the plate throughout the season. Despite scoring two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Rochelle fell behind early, as the Pirates held a 4-0 lead after one frame and tallied three runs in the top of the sixth inning to beat the Hubs 8-3. Rochelle (7-17, 0-14 Interstate 8) faced Ottawa on the road Thursday evening.

“It’s a really nice group of kids we can have fun with and they’re fun to be around,” head coach Jarrod Reynolds said about his seniors. “They’ve made the experience enjoyable and a lot of our seniors are having pretty good years, so it’s been nice to watch them get rewarded for their hard work. Carson [Lewis] is hitting .422 which has been awesome to see and Brandyn’s hitting .376. Ethan’s in the .330 range and it’s really cool to see them have some success this year.”

RBI singles from Brendyn Fuchs and Jacob Rosetto enabled Ottawa (14-13, 6-7 Interstate 8) to score four runs in the top of the first inning, where the Pirates also drew two walks and put a man on base after a hit-by-pitch. Goodwin shot a lead-off single to left in the bottom of the second inning, which led to an RBI single from sophomore Johnny Andrist three batters later.

Ottawa capitalized on an error and a walk to load the bases in the top of the fourth inning, where an RBI groundout from Colt Bryson put the Pirates ahead 5-1. The Pirates singled three

times in the top of the sixth inning, scoring on a two-run single from Jaxon Cooper as well as another run-scoring groundout from the lead-off man Bryson. Down 8-1, Rochelle cut the Ottawa lead to five after Metzger drilled a two-run double into left-center. Metzger doubled twice in the game.

“Offensively, the kids who’ve played varsity baseball before have had pretty good years,” Reynolds said. “The guys with experience have seen some big improvements this year. We’ve worked so much this year on defense and we’re trying to do the basic things well like fielding ground balls and catching popups. We’re still struggling with that a little bit and we’re still giving up too many free bases, so I’d really like to see us avoid giving away free runs or free bases.”

A Senior Night ceremony was held prior to the start of the varsity game. The senior class includes Carson Lewis, Ethan Goodwin, Brandyn Metzger, Ryan Senne and Antonio Trenado.

### Thursday

Senior Carson Lewis went 2 for 4 with two singles as the Rochelle Hubs looked to avoid a sweep during their Interstate 8 Conference varsity series finale at Ottawa on Thursday.

The Pirates limited Rochelle to four hits and handed the Hubs a 9-0 shutout loss to clinch the series. Juniors Brode Metzger (double) and Van Gerber (single) added base hits for the Hubs (7-18, 0-15 Interstate 8), who concluded their conference schedule without a win and have now lost 31 consecutive conference games dating back to the 2023 season. The Hubs returned to action with a home doubleheader against the Dixon Dukes at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Brendyn Fuchs laced an RBI single to give Ottawa (15-13, 7-7 Interstate 8) a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. The Pirates



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub baseball team honored its seniors before Interstate 8 Conference action against Ottawa on Wednesday. Above from left to right are Antonio Trenado, Brandyn Metzger, Ethan Goodwin, Carson Lewis and Ryan Senne.

tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the second inning, where Lucas Farabaugh drilled an RBI single into center field and scored on a wild pitch.

Leading 3-0 after two frames, Ottawa broke the game open with five runs on five hits and three walks in the bottom of the fourth inning. The Pirates loaded the bases for lead-off man Jacob Rosetto, who slapped an RBI single before Adam Swanson cracked a two-run single in the next at-bat. Fuchs and Colt Bryson followed with RBI singles to cap off the five-run frame for Ottawa.

Henry Carretto’s RBI triple in the bottom of the sixth inning scored Bryson and pushed the Pirates ahead 9-0 entering the top of the seventh inning, where Rochelle put two runners on base before a strikeout and a lineout ended the game. Farabaugh tossed

a complete game for the Pirates, striking out six batters while walking two. Sophomore Brody Bruns started for the Hubs, throwing three and two-thirds innings with three strikeouts and five walks. Senior Ethan Goodwin entered in relief, tossing two and one-third innings with two strikeouts and one walk.

### Monday

The Rochelle Hubs broke out the bats during their Interstate 8 Conference series opener against Ottawa on Monday evening, recording 14 hits with five players posting multi-hit games. But a crooked number in the bottom of the third inning proved to be a difference maker for the Pirates, who scored seven runs and held off a fourth-inning rally to beat the Hubs 13-9.

Senior Ethan Goodwin and sophomore Brody Bruns each went 3 for 4

while combining for three RBIs to lead the Rochelle offense in the loss. Seniors Carson Lewis and Brandyn Metzger each recorded two hits and combined for three RBIs for the Hubs (7-16, 0-13 Interstate 8).

Senior Ryan Senne’s two-run double to left field capped off a three-run effort in the top of the first inning for the Hubs, who rallied for four consecutive two-out hits including an RBI single from Metzger. Rochelle turned a 1-6-3 double play in the bottom of the first inning, where Ottawa (13-13, 5-7 Interstate 8) scratched two runs on the double-play grounder and a sacrifice fly and loaded the bases with two outs before a groundout to the shortstop ended the frame.

Lewis delivered an RBI single in the top of the second inning, giving Rochelle a 4-2 lead before the Pirates erupted for seven runs on

two hits and six walks in the bottom half. RBI singles from Ottawa’s Colt Bryson and Brendyn Fuchs highlighted the seven-run frame for the Pirates, who went ahead 9-4 entering the top of the fourth inning, where the Hubs rallied for four runs on one walk and five hits including three consecutive RBI singles from Bruns, Goodwin and Metzger.

Clinging to a 9-8 lead, Ottawa tacked on two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, hitting two singles and capitalizing on an error to carry a three-run lead into the top of the fifth inning. Goodwin’s second RBI single of the game made the score 11-9 entering the bottom of the fifth inning, where a fielder’s choice grounder from Jacob Rosetto provided insurance for the Pirates, who added another run on Bryson’s RBI single up the middle in the bottom of the sixth inning.

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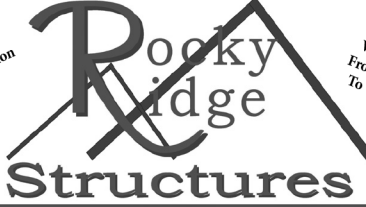


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# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Track



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub track and field team took third in the Interstate 8 Conference Championships at RTHS on Tuesday evening. Above, sophomore Hunter Bivins (top left) pushes through the 110-meter hurdles and junior Caden Goodwin (top right) takes flight during the triple jump. In the middle, senior Jack Tilton (left) clears the bar in the high jump and junior Andrew Nuyen (right) sprints down the runway in the pole vault. Below, junior Declan McGee runs his leg of the 3200-meter relay and junior Jonny Bearrows leaps from the launch pad in the long jump. At bottom, sophomore Jaden Martina sprints his leg of the 400-meter relay.

## Hubs take third at Interstate 8 Conference Championships

### Three Rochelle athletes earn All-Conference honors during meet Tuesday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub track and field team brought home All-Conference honors in several events during the Interstate 8 Conference Championships on Tuesday evening.

Junior Andrew Nuyen and senior Jack Tilton earned conference titles for the Hubs, with Nuyen clearing 4.70 meters to win the pole vault while Tilton cleared 1.93 meters to win the high jump. Junior Jonny Bearrows received All-Conference recognition as well, finishing third with a leap of 6.22 meters in the long jump. Rochelle took third place at both the varsity and freshman levels, with the varsity team scoring 69 points and the freshman boys adding 108 points in the meet.

“We have a lot of great competition in our conference,” head coach Dale Bergeson said. “I was happy with the effort from our team. We were a little short-handed on the freshman division and could have gotten second instead of third. Our goal was to get third for varsity

and prepare for sectionals and we were able to meet those goals. I look forward to competing at sectionals.”

Junior Caden Goodwin finished fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 12.65 meters to earn an All-Conference Honorable Mention this season. Seniors Jacob Ost and Jack Tarvestad led the Hubs in the throwing events, with Ost marking 12.41 meters for ninth in the shot put while Tarvestad launched the discus 30.56 meters for 10th.

Rochelle earned All-Conference Honorable Mentions in both the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Jaden Martina, Nathan Rosas and Richard Pierce) and the 1600-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Pedro Rosales, Hunter Bivins and Nathan Rosas), taking third with respective times of 43.75 and 3:34.15. The Hubs finished fourth in the 3200-meter relay (Elijah Mayen, Chris Hickey, Declan McGee and Pedro Rosales) with a time of 8:40.07 and fifth in the 800-meter relay (Kenny Overton, Victor O’Dell, Nolan Johnson and Connor Macklin) with a time of

1:45.90.

Junior Wyatt Worthington claimed an All-Conference Honorable Mention in the 110-meter hurdles, finishing fourth in 17.03 seconds before taking sixth with a time of 44.95 seconds in the 300-meter hurdles. Sophomore Hunter Bivins finished fifth in both the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles with respective times of 17.28 and 43.02 seconds. Freshman Tyler Johnson secured an All-Conference Honorable Mention in the 3200-meter run, taking fourth in 10:24.15.

Junior Caden Goodwin and senior Richard Pierce each earned fifth-place finishes in the sprints, with Goodwin running the 100-meter dash in 11.53 seconds and Pierce setting a PR with a time of 23.51 seconds in the 200-meter dash. Senior Jackson Smith clocking in at 56.22 seconds for seventh in the 400-meter dash and junior Elijah Mayen ran ninth with a time of 2:16.29 in the 800-meter run. Freshman Tyler Johnson took sixth with a time of 4:47.78 in the 1600-meter run.



### Fresh-Soph

Rochelle won two conference titles at the freshman level, with freshman Zachary Johnson taking the high jump with a clearance of 1.73 meters and the 400-meter relay team (Aaron DeClerck, Justin DeClerck, Mason Bolhous and German Albertson) finishing first in 46.27 seconds. Sophomore Aaron DeClerck earned two

runner-up finishes, taking second in the triple jump with a distance of 11.42 meters and second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.70.

Sophomore Justin DeClerck finished second in the high jump with a clearance of 1.68 meters and third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.17 seconds. Rochelle ran second in both the 3200-meter relay (Danny

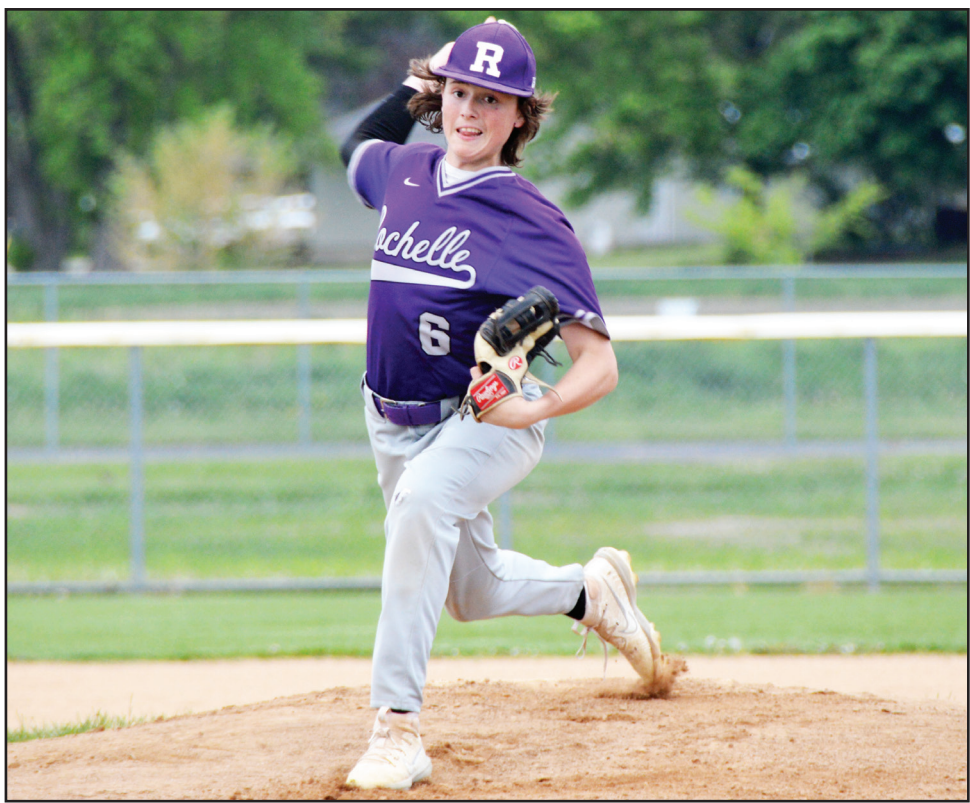
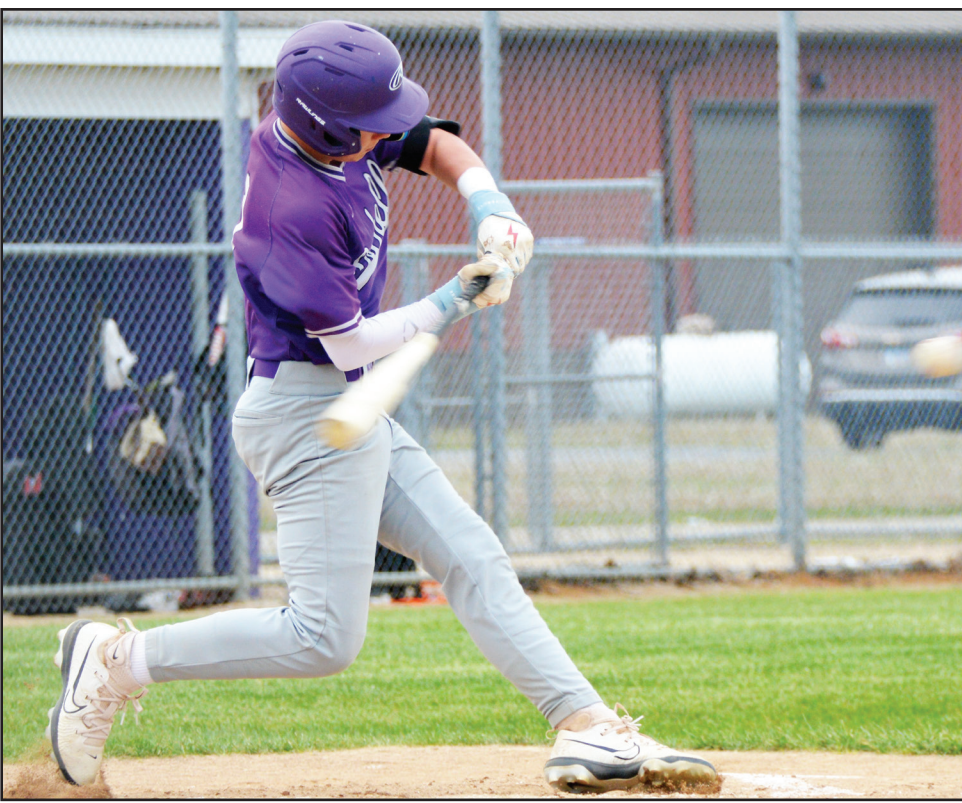
Garcia, Carlos Olazagasti, Eduardo Cisneros and Christopher Lawrence) with a time of 9:52.04 and the 800-meter relay (German Albertson, Aaron DeClerck, Justin DeClerck and Mason Bolhous) with a time of 1:38.89. Freshman Dominick Joyce earned a runner-up finish in the 110-meter hurdles, taking second with a time of 18.82 seconds.



# SPORTS

## RTHS Baseball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



### Rochelle Hub sophomore and freshman baseball teams host Interstate 8 Conference matchups against Ottawa

The Rochelle Hub sophomore and freshman baseball teams took the field for Interstate 8 Conference games against Ottawa this past week. The sophomores fell to the Pirates 16-10 and the freshmen lost to Ottawa 6-1. Above, sophomore Marcus Hansen (left) puts the ball in play and sophomore Bobby Tourdot (right) fires a pitch from the mound. Below, freshman Brayden Harley (left) throws a pitch and freshman Tyson Pavlak (right) swings at a fastball.

## RTHS Softball

# Lady Hubs score extra-inning win over Forreston

## Rochelle concludes Interstate 8 slate with losses against LaSalle-Peru, Ottawa

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**FORRESTON**—A fly ball into right field led to a critical fielding error and the game-winning run for the Rochelle Lady Hubs during their varsity softball game at Forreston on Tuesday evening.

With the score tied after seven innings, Rochelle and Forreston went into the top of the eighth inning, where junior Madigan Williams drew a lead-off walk and freshman Mya Martinez reached on an error at second base. Sophomore Camryn Metzger stepped up with two outs in the frame, sending a ball into right field, where an error on Forreston's Chloe Wee-gens enabled Martinez to round the bases and score from first to secure Rochelle's 8-7 walk-off win over the Cardinals.

Senior Lauren Dyer led the Lady Hubs (7-18, 0-9 Interstate 8) on offense, finishing 4 for 5 with two runs and one RBI in the win. Freshmen Cheyenne Somers and Audrina Rodriguez totaled a combined three hits and three RBIs for the Lady Hubs,

who concluded conference action at Ottawa on Wednesday. Dyer pitched four innings and struck out six batters against Forreston.

The Cardinals (3-26, 0-12 NUIC North) took the first lead of the game, scoring one run on an RBI double from Aubrey Sanders in the bottom of the third inning. Rochelle responded with a trio of runs in the top of the fourth inning, where Rodriguez slapped a two-run single to the shortstop side and Somers followed with an RBI double to right field in the next at-bat.

Forreston's Alivia Ingram laid down a bunt single for an RBI in the bottom of the fourth inning. Leading 3-2, Rochelle tacked on another run in the top of the fifth inning, where Metzger hit a ground ball and reached on an error at third base to score Dyer. A lead-off single from Somers sparked a three-run sixth inning for the Lady Hubs, who surged ahead 7-2 after sophomore Jaclynn Lira's RBI single as well as a sacrifice fly from Martinez and an RBI single from Dyer.

Forreston mounted a furious comeback in the top of the seventh inning, rallying for five runs on four hits and three walks to send the game into extra frames. Kylie Dieterman delivered a key knock for the Cardinals, smacking an RBI single with the bases loaded and one out. Forreston added two more runs after Emma Hunder-tmark walked and Mad-die Chesnek sent an RBI single into left field, making the score 7-6 before a two-out walk to Isabella Thiel tied the game.

An error in the bottom of the eighth put the tying run on base for the Cardinals, but an out on an interference call preceded a groundout to the second baseman Metzger that ended the game.

**Ottawa**

Freshman infielders Mya Martinez and Audrina Rodriguez each finished with two hits at the plate on Wednesday, when the Rochelle Lady Hubs traveled south and concluded their Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a varsity matchup against the Ottawa Pirates.

Three runs in the top of

the sixth inning weren't enough for the Lady Hubs, who fell behind early and were unable to complete their rally against the Pirates, who held a five-run lead through the first four innings and handed Rochelle a 7-3 loss. Senior Lauren Dyer and freshman Cheyenne Somers combined to pitch six innings and strike out six batters to lead the Lady Hubs (7-19, 0-10 Interstate 8), who traveled for a double-header at Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday.

Piper Lewis belted a two-run triple in the bottom of the first inning to give Ottawa (15-10, 5-5 Interstate 8) a 2-0 lead. Rochelle put two runners on base in the top of the second inning, where sophomore Camryn Metzger reached on an error and Rodriguez singles to center field, but a trio of strikeouts ended the frame. The Lady Hubs capitalized on three Ottawa errors during the top of the fourth inning, but a groundout to first baseman Ryleigh Stehl extinguished the threat.

Annamaria Corsolini's RBI double to left sparked a three-run fourth inning

for the Pirates, who went ahead 5-0 after a sacrifice fly and an RBI groundout in back-to-back at-bats. Needing a late rally, Rochelle tallied three runs in the top of the sixth inning, where Dyer slapped a line drive RBI single to center before Somers drilled a two-run single into left two batters later.

A bunt from Ottawa's Rylee Harsted led to an error and a run in the bottom of the sixth inning, where the Pirates scored twice to carry a four-run lead into the top of the seventh. Ottawa's Audrey Davis retired the Lady Hubs in order to end the game and clinch the Pirate victory.

**LaSalle-Peru**

Senior Lauren Dyer earned her 150th career strikeout with the Rochelle Lady Hubs during the team's Interstate 8 varsity softball game against LaSalle-Peru on Monday.

Dyer threw five innings and struck out eight batters for the Lady Hubs, who remained within striking distance until the Cavaliers rallied for six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to hand Rochelle a 10-0 shutout

loss. Sophomore Camryn Metzger recorded the first and only hit for the Lady Hubs (6-18, 0-9 Interstate 8), reaching on a single in the top of the fourth inning.

LaSalle-Peru led 2-0 after the bottom of the first inning, where Taylor Vescogni slapped an RBI groundout to freshman shortstop Mya Martinez before Makenzie Chamberlain drove a line drive RBI single into right field during the next at-bat. Dyer struck out the side in the bottom of the second inning and retired the Cavalier offense in order during both the third and fourth innings, but the Lady Hub offense was unable to capitalize on Metzger's single in the top of the fourth.

LaSalle-Peru (26-3, 9-0 Interstate 8) broke through in the bottom of the fifth inning, scoring two runs on an RBI double from Grace Pecchio and an RBI single from Callie Mertes. The Cavaliers carried a 4-0 lead into the bottom of the sixth inning, where three Rochelle errors and a pair of walks allowed LaSalle-Peru to tack on six runs and clinch the victory via run rule.

## RTHS Boys Tennis

# Hubs take weather-shortened match at Harlem

## Winters wins in singles, Sergeant-Hunley duo nets doubles victory on Thursday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**MACHESNEY PARK**—The Rochelle Hub tennis team picked up wins in both singles and doubles during its weather-shortened nonconference varsity match against Harlem on the road Thursday

evening.

Junior Mark Green continued his recent hot streak in singles play, cruising for a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Sean Austin at the No. 1 court. In doubles, sophomores Sam Sergeant and Connor Hunley showed dominance during their 6-1, 6-1 victory against

Dominic Coletta and Matt McElyea at the No. 1 court.

Rochelle led in two of the three remaining matches, but severe weather ultimately cut the meet short, with the Hubs earning a 2-0 win over the Huskies. Rochelle (7-9, 1-4 Interstate 8) will return home for the Interstate 8 Conference

Championships at RTHS on Saturday before hosting Belvidere for a match at 4:30 p.m. on Monday. The IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional will be held on Friday, May 23 and Saturday, March 24.

Junior Philip Winters came within two points of sealing his No. 2 singles

match against Luca Batina, surging ahead 6-2, 5-2 with a 30-love advantage before the severe weather rolled through. At the No. 2 doubles court, sophomore Noah McKinney and freshman David Eckardt were on the cusp of victory, holding a 6-2, 3-1 lead over Chase Linley and

Lalo Valdez.

Junior Parker Slatten-gren and sophomore Amor Lara appeared to be ready for three sets at No. 3 doubles, where the Hubs bounced back to make the score 4-6, 5-1 with a 40-15 lead in the seventh game before the weather cut the match short.



# CANCER

## Awareness & Prevention

### A look at inherited breast cancer

INDIVIDUALS can make various changes to their lifestyles to help reduce their chances of developing certain types of cancer, including breast cancer. One thing they cannot change is their genes, prompting curiosity about the role of family history in relation to breast cancer risk.

#### First-degree connection

Parents pass down many things to their children, including hair color, height, and various other traits. Parents also can pass on an increased risk for breast cancer. Cancer Research UK says some people have a higher risk of developing breast cancer than the general population simply because other members of their families have had cancer. The organization says having a mother, sister or daughter (also referred to as a first-degree relative) diagnosed with breast cancer approximately doubles a woman's risk for breast cancer. This risk grows even higher when more close relatives have breast cancer, or if a relative developed breast cancer before reaching the age of 50.

#### Inherited damaged genes

Johns Hopkins Medicine says about 10 percent of breast cancers are related to inheritance of damaged genes. Several genes are associated with elevated breast cancer risk, including BRCA1 and BRCA2. Additional genes associated with an increased risk for breast cancer



include PALB2, ATM, CHEK2, CDH1, STK11, PTEN, TP53, and NF1. People who have inherited a damaged gene may have a particularly high risk of developing breast cancer or other cancers, depending on the specific gene and their family history.

#### Getting tested

Johns Hopkins says individuals can be tested for genes that put them at risk for cancer. That is a decision that merits ample consideration, and one that should be carefully discussed with a doctor and family members. Genetic counseling can look for inherited mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, the two most notable for increasing breast cancer risk. A blood test is typically covered by insurance companies and analysis can take a couple of weeks. More can be learned about genetic counseling and testing at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

Whether or not to get genetic testing is a personal decision. However, learning the outcome may help protect future generations. Someone with a genetic mutation

has about a 50 percent chance of passing that trait on to children.

#### Additional risk factors

Heredity is just one risk factor for breast cancer. The American Cancer Society says White women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than some other races and ethnicities. Studies have found that taller women have a higher risk of breast cancer than shorter women, although the reasons for that are not exactly clear. In addition, women with dense breast tissue have a higher risk of breast cancer than women with average breast density. Women who began menstruating early (especially before age 12) have a slightly higher risk of breast cancer. That risk can be attributed to a longer exposure to the hormones estrogen and progesterone. The same can be said for women who experienced menopause later (typically after age 55).

Various factors can increase the risk of developing breast cancer, including genetic markers and family history of the disease.



### Risk factors for thyroid cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer reports that roughly 586,000 new cases of thyroid cancer were diagnosed across the globe in 2020. That made thyroid cancer the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, with more new diagnoses than melanoma of the skin, cancer of the ovaries and pancreatic cancer.

Measures to reduce cancer risk can never guarantee a person will not ultimately be diagnosed with the disease. With that in mind, individuals can study these risk factors for thyroid cancer, which the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center notes differ depending on the type of the disease.

#### Papillary thyroid cancer

The MSKCC reports that most cases of thyroid cancer are papillary thyroid cancer. Papillary thyroid cancer is characterized by a slow-growing tumor that typically begins in one lobe of the thyroid.

Risk factors include:

- **Radiation exposure:** Individuals exposed to radiation as children have a higher chance of developing papillary thyroid cancer.
- **Inherited conditions:** A family history of multiple colon growths is considered a risk factor for papillary thyroid cancer. Similarly, the MSKCC reports that roughly 5 percent of people with papillary thyroid cancer have family members with the disease, though researchers are still working to identify which gene is responsible for this link.
- **Gender:** Papillary cancer occurs roughly three times more often in women than in men. However, the tumor grows and spreads more rapidly in men than in women.

#### Follicular thyroid cancer

This is a slow-growing form of thyroid cancer that can often be cured with the correct treatment. Risk factors include:

- **Low-iodine diet:** Fol-

licular carcinoma is more likely to develop in places where iodine is not added to the salt used in food.

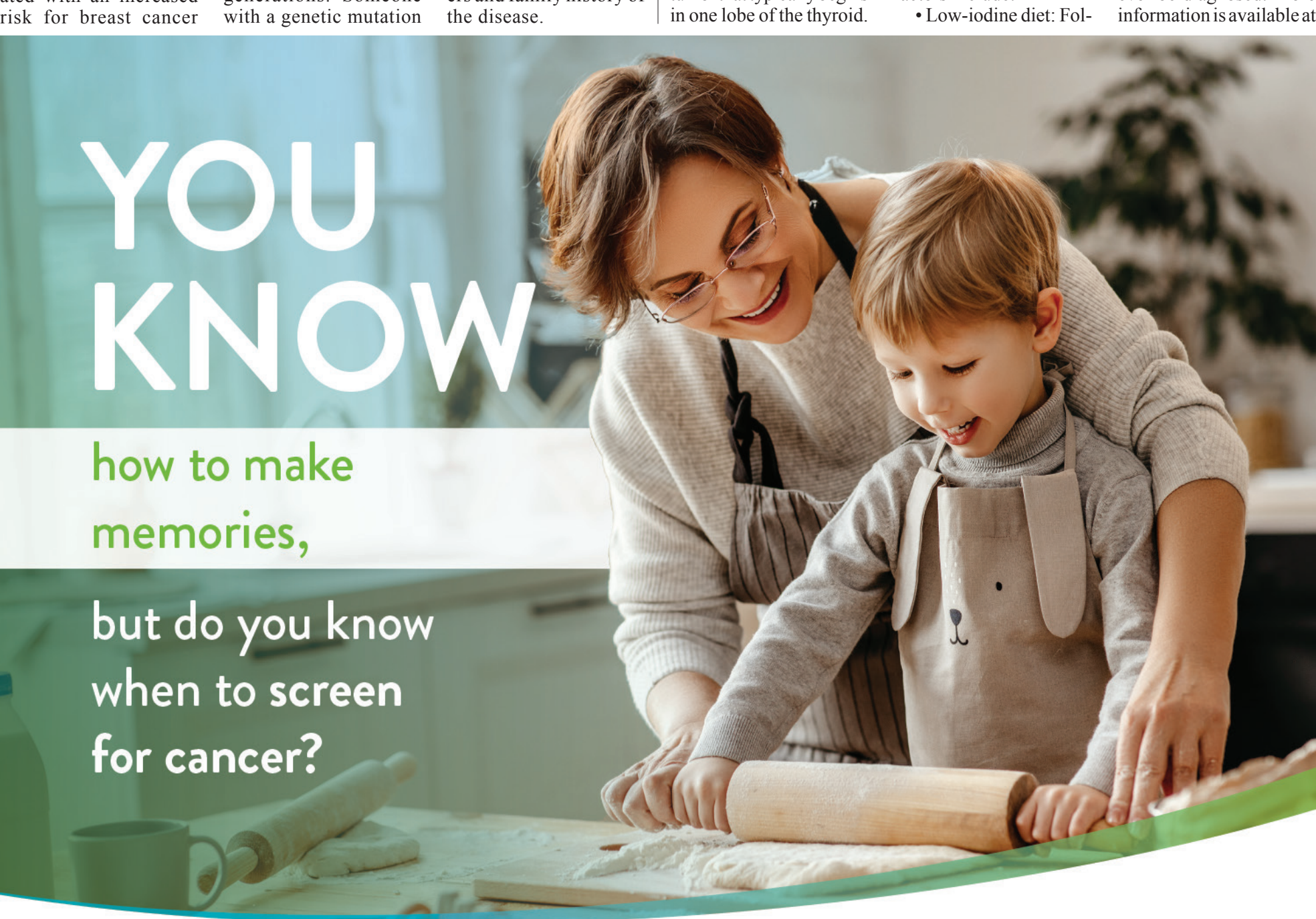
- **Familial conditions:** The MSKCC reports that follicular thyroid cancer is part of certain inherited disorders, including Werner's syndrome.

#### Medullary thyroid cancer

According to the MSKCC, medullary thyroid cancer appears in older adults. Risk factors include:

- **Family history:** Roughly one in four individuals diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer have inherited a mutation in the RET gene.

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America reports that the five-year survival rate for localized thyroid cancer is roughly 99.9 percent. Individuals who recognize their own risk factors for the disease will put themselves in strong position to overcome it should they ever be diagnosed. More information is available at



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# CANCER

## Awareness & Prevention

### A guide to prostate and testicular cancers

Each November, men embrace a popular and fun yet serious phenomenon known as Movember®, an annual effort to raise awareness about health issues that affect men. The prostate and the testes are exclusive to the male reproductive system. Prostate cancer and testicular cancer are two issues that garner much attention thanks to Movember®, so now is an ideal time for men to learn about these conditions.

#### Testicular cancer

The testes are small, egg-shaped glands responsible for making and releasing male sex hormones for growth of muscle, body hair and bone. They also make and move semen and sperm for reproduction.

According to the Urology Care Foundation, testicular cancer occurs when cells in the testicles grow to form a tumor, which is rare. More than 90 percent of testicular cancers begin in germ cells that are responsible for producing sperm. The Mayo Clinic says it can happen at any age, but testicular cancer occurs the most between the ages of 15 and 45 and is first noticed as a bump or lump on a testicle.

Testicular cancer can quickly spread outside of the testicle, but it is highly treatable even if it spreads.

#### Prostate cancer

Unlike testicular cancer, which affects a relatively small amount of men each year, prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer, indicates the Mayo Clinic.



Oftentimes prostate cancers grow slowly and are confined to the prostate gland. Still, some types of prostate cancer are aggressive and can spread quickly.

Catching prostate cancer in its early stages when it is localized greatly improves the odds that treatment will prove successful. The American Urological Association says ethnicity plays a role in prostate cancer, with African American men having a higher risk of the disease than men from other demographics. Men over the age of 55 as well as those who have a grandfather, father or brother with prostate cancer face a higher risk as well.

Sometimes prostate cancer shows no symptoms. In other cases, dull pain in the lower pelvis, frequent urination, trouble passing urine,

blood in urine, and painful ejaculation may be associated with prostate cancer. These symptoms also can be related to a condition called benign hyperplasia, so it's best to speak to a doctor. Doctors will use prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests and other information to check for prostate cancer. Some men never need to have any treatment other than active surveillance or watchful waiting, particularly if they are at advanced ages when a slow-growing prostate cancer is detected.

As with any health abnormalities, individuals should know their bodies and what is normal for them. Anything that seems out of the ordinary, particularly lumps, bumps, pain, blood, or issues around the groin, should be brought to the attention of a physician.



### Symptoms of pancreatic cancer

**M**OVEMBER® is an annual event that originated in 2003 as an attempt to raise awareness about men's health issues. Though the issue Movember® addresses is serious, the annual November effort also has a lighthearted side, as men are encouraged to grow moustaches as part of the approach to raising awareness about men's health. That component adds an element of fun and might even encourage more men to participate in an event that Movember® organizers claim has funded the development of 54 inventions, 70 therapies and 107 diagnostic tests for prostate cancer since 2006.

Movember® organizers have emphasized raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. However, the month of November presents

a great opportunity to raise awareness about additional issues affecting men's health, including pancreatic cancer.

The World Cancer Research Fund International reports that pancreatic cancer is the twelfth most common cancer in men across the globe. In addition, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network notes that men are at slightly greater risk for pancreatic cancer than women. Recognition of pancreatic cancer symptoms can be an important step for men who want to embrace the spirit of Movember® and do all they can to live longer, healthier lives.

The American Cancer Society notes that pancreatic cancers often do not cause any signs or symptoms in their early stages. By the time symptoms present, the cancer has likely metastasized, or spread beyond the pancreas to other parts of the body. However, it's

still beneficial to learn to recognize the symptoms of pancreatic cancer, as such knowledge may compel individuals to report them to a doctor, who can then seek a cause and even develop a potentially life-saving treatment plan. Though the presence of one or more of the following symptoms do not necessarily mean an individual has pancreatic cancer, they should be reported to a physician immediately.

• **Jaundice:** Jaundice is a yellowing of the eyes and skin that the ACS notes is often one of the first symptoms of pancreatic cancer. Dark urine, light-colored or greasy stools and itchy skin are additional signs of jaundice.

• **Back or belly pain:** The pancreas is a gland in the abdominal region, and pain in the back or belly could be indicative of pancreatic cancer. Back pain associated with pancreatic cancer could be the result of the cancer spreading to the nerves that surround the pancreas.

• **Weight loss/poor appetite:** The ACS reports that unexplained weight loss is very common in people with pancreatic cancer, who frequently have little or no appetite.

• **Nausea:** Pancreatic cancer can sometimes press on the far end of the stomach, making it hard for food to get through. The ACS indicates that this can contribute to nausea, vomiting and pain that worsens after eating.

Pancreatic cancer is one of many men's health issues that deserve attention by men who want to live healthier.

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# CANCER

## Awareness & Prevention

### Physical symptoms of breast cancer

**T**HE World Cancer Research Fund International reports that breast cancer is the second most common cancer across the globe, and the number one cancer in women. Nearly three million new cases of breast cancer in women are diagnosed across the globe each year.

Breast cancer poses a notable threat to women's health, but research and resulting advancements in treatment have made the disease more treatable than ever. Women also can play a part in ensuring better outcomes in relation to breast cancer by educating themselves about the disease, including its warning signs. The MD Anderson Cancer Center notes that most changes to the breast are a byproduct of hormonal cycles or conditions that are not as formidable as breast cancer. So women should not jump to any conclusions when spotting such changes. However, the MDACC recommends women visit their physicians if they notice any of the following signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

- **Lump:** The MDACC notes that a lump in the breast or armpit is the most common symptom of breast cancer. Echoing assertions made by the MDACC, the American Cancer Society notes that most breast lumps are not cancerous. The ACS indicates a lump that is a painless, hard mass with irregular edges is more likely to be cancer, though cancerous lumps also can be soft, round, tender, or even painful. The lack of uniformity regarding cancerous lumps is one reason why it pays for women to be extra cautious and immediately report any abnormalities in the shape and feel of their breasts to their physicians.

- **Swelling:** The ACS notes that some women with breast cancer will experience swelling of all or part of a breast even if they do not feel a lump.

- **Dimpling:** The MDACC reports that women with breast cancer may notice dimpling or puckering on the breast. According to the ACS, the dimpling can sometimes make the breast look like an orange peel.

- **Nipple retraction:** The National Cancer Institute notes that nipple retraction occurs when a nipple turns inward into the breast or lies flat against the breast.



Though nipple retraction can be a sign of breast cancer, the NCI notes that's not necessarily the case for all women. Some women experience nipple retraction due to aging, breastfeeding, injury, infection, surgery, or certain conditions of the breast.

- **Changes to the skin around the breast:** The ACS notes some women with breast cancer experience redness on the skin around the breast or on the nipple. Additional changes may include dry, flaking or thickened skin around the breast and nipple.

- **Discharge from the nipple:** The Mayo Clinic notes that it's normal to experience discharge from the nipple while pregnant

and during breastfeeding. However, fluid coming out the nipple when a woman is not pregnant or breastfeeding could be a symptom of breast cancer.

- **Additional symptoms:** The MDACC notes scaliness on the nipple that sometimes extends to the areola is another warning sign of breast cancer. The ACS also reports that swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone can indicate that breast cancer has spread even before the original tumor in the breast has been felt.

Breast cancer is a formidable yet treatable disease. Women who recognize any signs and symptoms associated with breast cancer are urged to



### Oral contraceptive use and breast cancer

**B**REAST cancer may never be far from the minds of women, particularly those who have experience with the disease. The American Cancer Society says about 310,720 new cases of invasive breast cancer are diagnosed in women in the United States in a given year. The World Health Organization says globally 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022, and 670,000 died from the disease.

Naturally, women want to do all they can to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer. While it is not possible for women to eliminate their breast cancer risk, recognition of certain variables that can increase risk can help them make more informed decisions. Such variables include the link between breast cancer and hormonal oral contraceptives.

Oral contraceptives are used by women to prevent pregnancy. The organization Susan G. Komen says that use of oral contraceptives is

linked to a 20 to 30 percent increased risk for breast cancer. However, nearly all of the research on the link between oral contraceptives and cancer risk comes from observational studies, including both large prospective cohort studies and population-based case-control studies, indicates the National Cancer Center. Researchers cannot definitively say if oral contraceptives cause or prevent cancer.

A 2017 cohort study published in the New England Journal of Medicine analyzed the risk of invasive breast cancer in Dutch women who used hormonal contraceptives. The study found that the overall risk of breast cancer from contraceptive use was very low. Relative risk increased with duration of use. Oral contraceptives utilize different hormone combinations and strengths, so results may vary depending on the type of pill being taken.

Once women stop taking birth control pills, their risk for breast cancer begins to decrease, advises Susan G.

Komen. After about five years, the risk of breast cancer among women who have taken an oral contraceptive is similar to the risk among women who have never taken the pill at all.

Low-dose pills also may be linked to an increased breast cancer risk just like older, higher-dose forms of birth control. But Susan G. Komen says that the progestin-only "mini-pill," norethisterone, doesn't appear to be linked to breast cancer. So those who are considering birth control pills may want to speak to their doctors about norethisterone if breast cancer risk is a concern. Similarly, use of a hormonal IUD, a vaginal birth control ring or a birth control patch does not seem to be linked to breast cancer.

Although there is a relatively low risk of breast cancer attributed to use of hormonal birth control, women can conduct their own research so they are in the best position to make informed decisions they can be comfortable with going forward.

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# CANCER

## Awareness & Prevention

### How to reduce risk of cancer recurrence

A cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatments can challenge even the most mentally and physically strong individual. Once cancer is in remission, it may be difficult for some individuals to feel happy because the threat of cancer recurrence is looming in the back of their mind. Fear of recurrence can negatively affect quality of life and contributes to disabling anxiety in roughly 7 percent of patients, according to Cancer Therapy Advisor.

Recurrent cancer happens when cancer cells present in the body grow because they were not fully destroyed or removed during treatment. Sometimes cancer cells are simply too small to show up in follow-up tests, says the National Cancer Institute. These cells can then grow into tumors. Recurrent cancer should not be mistaken for second primary cancer, which is a new cancer that affects a person who has a history of the disease.

Recurrent cancer is categorized as local, regional or distant. Local recurrence is when the cancer occurs in the same place as the original cancer or very close by. Regional means the tumor has grown in the lymph nodes or in tissues near the first cancer. Distant recurrence happens when the cancer spreads elsewhere in the body.

The rate of recurrence can vary widely depending on cancer type and other variables, including genetic factors, treatments and stage. Typically, cancers that are difficult to



treat have high rates of recurrence. For example, glioblastoma recurs in nearly all patients. Ovarian cancer, soft tissue sarcomas and bladder cancer also have high recurrence rates.

There is no way to prevent cancer from coming back, says the American Cancer Society. Even if a patient does everything right there is still a chance for recurrence. However, the healthy habits that can reduce the risk for cancer developing initially also may lessen the risk for recurrence.

- Eat a variety of vividly colored vegetables each day, as well as legumes that are full of fiber.
- Consume nutritious foods rather than ones that provide little nutrition.
- Eat fruits in a variety of colors.
- Limit consumptions of red meat and processed

meats.

- Avoid sugary foods and beverages.
- Engage in regular physical activity, aiming for 150 to 300 minutes per week of moderate-intensity exercise. Include strength training at least two days a week.
- Being overweight or obese is linked to cancer formation, so managing weight through healthy eating and exercise may help reduce risk of recurrence.
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption or skip alcohol altogether.
- Cease usage of tobacco.

Recurrence of cancer is a very real risk and is on the minds of people who already have overcome the disease. There are ways to reduce the risk of recurrence, but there is no way to guarantee cancer won't return.



### 5 fruits and vegetables associated with reducing cancer risk

THE prevalence of cancer is widely known. Affecting people of every ethnicity and across the socioeconomic spectrum, cancer poses a threat to people in all corners of the globe. And that threat could be more significant in the immediate future. Estimates from the International Agency for Research on Cancer indicate that the global population boom and the growth of the world's aging population could result in more than 16 million cancer deaths each year by 2040.

According to the MD Anderson Cancer Center, a healthy diet can help reduce cancer risk. A diet that focuses on plants and emphasizes healthy choices may not eliminate the threat of cancer, but it can be an integral component of a preventive health care regimen. With that in mind, the following are five fruits and vegetables associated with reducing cancer risk, courtesy of the MDACC.

1. Berries: Berries con-

tain antioxidants, which protect the body from cell damage that can contribute to various cancers, including skin cancer, lung cancer and breast cancer, among others. Blueberries, raspberries and strawberries make wonderful additions to anyone's diet.

2. Cruciferous vegetables: Cruciferous vegetables include broccoli, bok choy, cabbage, and brussels sprouts, among others. The MDACC notes that studies have indicated that special plant compounds in cruciferous vegetables may protect the body from stomach cancer and cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, and esophagus.

3. Garlic: The experts at Mount Sinai note that garlic is often linked with reduced risk for heart disease, notably the prevention of atherosclerosis, which affects the arteries through the deposition of plaques of fatty acids along the arterial walls. However, antioxidant-rich garlic also helps the body fight off

harmful free radicals that can contribute to cancer.

4. Spinach: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in the United States. Studies have found that spinach inhibits the growth of colon polyps that can develop into colorectal cancer.

5. Tomatoes: Lycopene is an antioxidant that gives tomatoes their bright red color. According to the National Cancer Institute, though human studies have produced inconsistent results, various in vitro and animal studies have indicated that lycopene may have chemopreventive effects for cancers of the prostate, skin, breast, lung, and liver.

Eating these five fruits and vegetables is not the only way to use diet in the fight against cancer. Individuals are urged to speak with their physicians to learn about the many ways to utilize food in cancer

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUDITH L. PALIAN, Deceased.

NO. 2025PR31 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JUDITH L. PALIAN, of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 29, 2025, to SUZANNA L. PALIAN-GERBER, whose address is 6217 E. Husking Peg R., Chana, IL 61015, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in

the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than November 4, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for SUZANNA L. PALIAN-GERBER, Executor of the Estate of JUDITH L. PALIAN, deceased

No. 0507 (May 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

chelle, John Bearrows, Mayor or Government Bonds or cash in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of bid, shall be submitted with each bid.

The bid shall be marked to identify bid package contents, reference specification 3303 K001.

The successful bidder will be required to:

- Register as a bidder for this project.
- Furnish in duplicate the following executed documents:

- Non-Collusion Affidavit
- Bid Form
- Bid Bond, Certified Check or Money Order
- And any other documents as required by the specifications.

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

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

Date: May 13, 2025

City of Rochelle, Illinois

John Bearrows, Mayor

No. 0517 (May 18, 25 and June 1, 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

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## 113 FINANCIAL

**NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers**

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ROCHELLE News-Leader

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ROCHELLE News-Leader RNLHOUSE

ROCHELLE News-Leader

## Part-time local delivery driver

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

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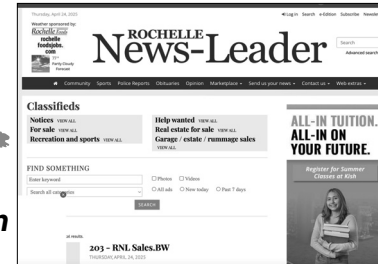


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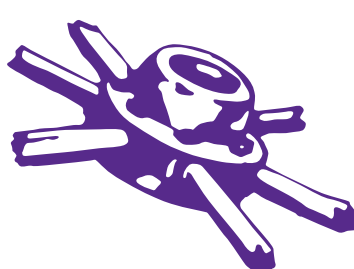
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## HUB SPOTLIGHT

### Murphy advances to IHSA State Championship meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING** — Erin Murphy's historic senior season with the Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team will conclude at the IHSA State Championship meet next weekend, when the talented senior will attempt to earn a state medal after winning her first sectional title on Wednesday.

Looking to improve upon a third-place sectional finish in the shot put during her junior season, Murphy achieved her best throw during the finals, recording a meet-best heave of 11.84 meters (38 feet 10 1/4 inches) to finish in first place out of 27 athletes. Murphy, whose winning throw was only one-quarter of an inch away from her school-record personal best, will be the lone member of the Lady Hubs competing in the IHSA State Championship at Eastern Illinois University.

"I was feeling really good and I've been pretty confident all season," said Murphy, who was an Illinois Top Times qualifier during the indoor season. "I just needed to go in and do what I knew how to do. . . It felt good to finish near my PR at sectionals and it's the confident boost I need going into the state meet. My first three throws, I focused on making safe throws with no chance of scratching. I gave everything and I moved faster across the ring during my last three throws."

Murphy continues a recent trend of RTHS athletes who've qualified for state in shot put over the last few years. Landon Mickley advanced to state in the shot put last season, while former Hub standout Zach Sanford reached state in 2022. Working alongside throwing coach Zach Miller, Murphy said her sound understanding of the fundamentals have enabled her to focus more on small tweaks and fine-tuning her throwing techniques during the course of her senior season.

"It felt really good and I very much wanted to get back after missing by one-tenth of a meter last year," said Murphy, who took eighth with a mark of 29.42 meters (96 feet 6 inches) in the discus throw during the sectional meet at Sterling on Wednesday evening. "It's really cool to see how much I've grown in one year. . . I've seen a lot of progress in practice and I know that I can do it in a meet. When I do it in a meet, I know that I can do it in the next one. I've done a lot better at using my full torque in the throw, getting across the ring faster and using the whole ring."

That work has translated into several PRs and school-record throws for Murphy, who won the Interstate 8 Conference title in the shot put and has taken first in the shot put during every single outdoor meet the Lady Hubs have competed in this spring. It's a tremendous amount of growth in a short time for Murphy, who didn't start competing in track and field until her junior year. Murphy currently holds the indoor and outdoor school records at RTHS.

"I was starting a lot further back last year, but this year, I'm using the whole ring," Murphy said. "My release is a lot better and I'm confident in my release. Staying back a little



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Senior Erin Murphy won the shot put title during the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional on Wednesday evening.**

longer and using my left arm more are the two things I'll be working on in order to hit the 12-meter mark. It's going to be really fun and I'm excited to be at a place with competition at my level that will push myself even more. A lot of these girls went to the indoor state meet, so I'll get to see them again."

Rochelle finished 10th out of 16 schools with 34 points in the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional, which was the final meet of the season for the Lady Hubs. Junior Kyrie Cragin came within a second of qualifying for state in the 800-meter run, setting a PR with a time of 2:25.97 to finish fifth and land 0.85 seconds away from the qualifying time (2:25.12). Freshman Carol Carpenter also set a PR for the Lady Hubs, clocking in with a time of 5:52.32 to finish fifth in the 1600-meter run.

Senior Marianna Saldana went out with a PR in the 300-meter hurdles, finishing sixth with a time of 50.24 seconds. Freshman Gwendolyn O'Dell led the Lady Hubs in the sprints, taking ninth with a time of 13.56 seconds in the 100-meter dash. Senior Taelynn Rodeghero was the top finisher in three field events for Rochelle, leaping 9.59 meters for seventh in the triple jump.

The Lady Hubs ran eighth or better in all four relay races on Wednesday, taking fifth with a time of 10:55.65 in the 3200-meter relay (Marley Cherry, Annaliese Koziol, Rose Luxton and Carol Carpenter). Rochelle ended the evening with a time of 4:20.97 for sixth in the 1600-meter relay (Gwendolyn O'Dell, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning and Kyrie Cragin).

Rochelle finished seventh in the 800-meter relay (Dylan Etes, Katie Toczylowski, Zoe Malley and Alex Neece) with a time of 1:55.24 and eighth in the 400-meter relay (Ryelee Bogle, Zoe Malley, Valerie Saldana and Kalliyah Cathina) with a time of 54.11 seconds.

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Good luck to our local student athletes!