



Lady Hubs earn awards in track and field

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

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Ohlinger earns scholarship

Alison Ohlinger received Northern Rehab's annual Health & Wellness Scholarship. Page 3

WEATHER







SATURDAY

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60 46



1212 Currency Court 1201 Meriden St. - Mendota

OBITUARIES

- GREGORY JAMES NINK CURTIS SCOTT WHITNEY
- SHIRLEY VERA (ENGELKES) FRAHM

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• FARM & FLEET OLLIE'S

INSIDE

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Community.....



Jinkins recognized upon retirement after 33 years Personnel changes approved Monday

BY JEFF HELFRICH

MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School Board of Education recognized RTHS Librarian Ann Marie Jinkins in its yearly retiree recognition. Jinkins will retire at the end of the school year after 33 years at RTHS. She's been RTHS's librarian for 22 years.

Jinkins started at RTHS in 1992 as a Spanish teacher before moving into the English department at the old RTHS building. She took over as librarian in 2004.

"Her legacy is one of somebody who has tirelessly advocated for that library space and to have it open and accessible and reflective of all of our students," RTHS District Superintendent Jason Harper said. "She has a really well-established student worker program. She has established extracurriculars such as the Fiction Addiction student literature club, a crafting club, a Lego club, and a podcast club. She's done a great job and has been an integral member of



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle **Township High School Board of Education rec**ognized RTHS Librarian Ann Marie Jinkins in its yearly retiree recognition.

our staff. She's been phenomenal and we're definitely going to miss her."

Personnel

The board unanimously approved personnel changes including the resignation of Amy Creuziger (theater arts director, effective June 30) and the 2025-2026 employment of Judy Fulgencio (parttime school counselor assistant) and Jack Patting (volunteer wrestling coach).

Awards

RTHS Assistant Principal Brett Zick made a presentation to the board on recent staff awards. Susan Naylor recently received the 2025 Northwest Illinois IPA Teacher Leadership Award. Deanna Jacobs recently received the RTHS Student Council Extra Effort Award, and Rachel Plock received the RTHS Education Association Teacher of the Year Award.

See RTHS BOARD page 9





(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle **Community Park District Board of Commissioners** saw the swearing in of recently re-elected Commissioners Dale Wells and BT Carmichael.

Re-elected board members sworn in for new terms

BY JEFF HELFRICH

MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners saw the swearing in of recently re-elected Commissioners Dale Wells and BT Carmichael. Board President Tim Hayden was not present at the meeting and will be sworn in privately at a later

date.

The board also voted unanimously to keep its officer structure as is, including Havden as board president, John Dobbs as vice president, Wells as treasurer, Carmichael as secretary, Jodie Hart as assistant treasurer and Joe Lenkaitis as assistant secretary. Committee slots will also be filled in the same way they previously were.

See PARK page 9

Rochelle Chamber holds annual awards dinner 11 awards presented to local businesses and individuals Thursday

BY JEFF HELFRICH

MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner at the the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Municipal Utilities' southside campus.

The event saw remarks by Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera and Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows. 11 awards were presented to local businesses and organizations.

"I am proud of the community I grew up in and now serve," Herrera said. "Rochelle is an amazing community and the residents are a shining example of hardworking, midwestern values. Cheers to another great year at the Rochelle Chamber." A surprise award kicked off the night, with

the Community Impact Award. The businesses are owned by Ralf and Tricia Herrera. "What makes them so special is the many ways they give back," Chamber Board President Kari Andrist said. "They're always willing to step up and support the youth of this community by

sponsoring a team, being part of a fundraiser, or

Ralfie's BBQ and Catering and The 302 receiving

donating a dinner before a big game." The Retailer of the Year Award was presented to Rochelle Ace Hardware.

"They set themselves apart from the big box stores by providing excellent customer service," Chamber Board Vice President Haley Brill said. "You're always welcomed by a friendly smile. They support youth sports in town by carrying a full line of Hubs apparel and participate in Chamber programs."

Chamber Board Member Matt Gerard presented the Family Business of the Year Award to Audyn



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner at the the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Municipal Utilities' southside campus.

Boutique, which is located downtown and run by the Hulthen family.

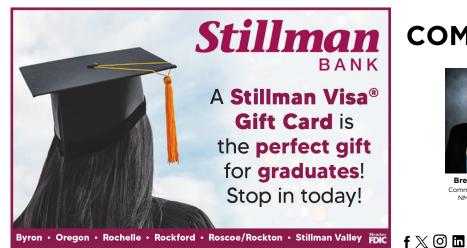
"Their beautiful clothing selection lines the window of their downtown storefront," Gerard said. "They use their beautiful photography and expertise in social media to promote their sophisticated styles. They've made themselves a part of the community, while not being afraid to reach out to other communities to bring shoppers to Rochelle and their storefront."

Chamber Board Member Ben Dougherty presented the Entrepreneur of the Year Award to Erin Bacon of Destiny Studios.

"She uses her creative thinking to uplift others, spark collaboration and create a lasting impact, beyond just the bottom line," Dougherty said. "She's behind the scenes at countless community events donating her time, heart and talents to make them shine."

City Council Member Rosaelia Arteaga presented the Restaurant of the Year Award to Los 3 Molcajetes.

See CHAMBER DINNER page 8



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Ben Schwartz named new principal of Tilton Elementary School Rochelle native previously served as assistant principal at Harvard Junior High School

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 is excited to announce that Ben Schwartz has been hired as the new principal of Tilton Elementary School, a May 14 press release said.

Mr. Schwartz is an experienced instructional leader with a track record for developing a strong school culture during his last four years as the assistant principal at Harvard Junior High School in Harvard, Illinois.

Regarding his new role as Tilton Elementary School principal, Mr. Schwartzsaid, "I'm thrilled to return to Rochelle with my wife and three children to be part of a community that played such an influential role in my own childhood. It's an honor to give back and contribute to the continued success of Tilton Elementary and the Rochelle schools.'

Prior to his administrative experience, Mr. Schwartz served as a math teacher at Harvard Junior High School and Westville Junior High School. "The appointment of

Mr. Schwartz marks an exciting new chapter for Tilton School and our district as a whole. We anticipate his collaborative leadership style and focus on meaningful student growth will help elevate the learning experiences for every student in the building,"noted Superintendent of Rochelle Schools Jason Harper.

"The school board is deeply committed to providing the best possible education for the growth of all our students. The addition of Mr. Schwartz as Tilton Elementary School's new principal is a significant step towards achieving that goal. We look forward to supporting him in his leadership efforts," said Steve Builta, president of the Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 school board.

Schwartz graduated from Illinois State University and obtained a Master of Arts in Educational leadership from Aurora University. His career has taken him from the Indiana border to the Wisconsin border and now back to his hometown of Rochelle.



Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 is excited to announce that Ben Schwartz has been hired as the new principal of Tilton Elementary School, a May 14 press release said.





Happy Cinco de Mayo! It was fiesta time at the May meeting of the Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Participants celebrated by learning about Cinco de Mayo from club member Mateo Torres; enjoyed tostadas made by club mom Lyn Cabanas; and took turns trying to break open a pinata.

Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club holds May meeting, celebrates Cinco de Mayo as; and took turns trying

CRESTON — Happy Cinco de Mayo! It was fiesta time at the May meeting of the Hub Hickory Nuts 4-H Club. Participants celebrated by learning about Cinco de Mayo from club member Mateo Torres; enjoyed tostadas made by club mom Lyn Caban-

to break open a pinata. The pinata almost got the best of us, but as soon as member William Stein came up to bat, there was a candy free for all! Everyone had a great time celebrating Mexican heritage!

was a new club banner for the Ogle County Fairgrounds, a "Go Fish" Tournament for our June meeting, and our County Fair Fundraiser for Heifer International.

Speaking of our fund-

money for the Heifer International Penny War. Clubs compete against each other to earn the privilege of choosing the Heifer package to be gifted. Each penny counts as a point, but all silver coins are subtractraiser, please save up ed from the total. Bring Also on the agenda your change to help raise on the sabotage and may

the best club win!

The Hub Hickory Nuts meet on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Creston. If you would like more information, please call the University of Illinois Extension at 1-815-732-2191.



Henry Steinhagen promoted to surveyor with Fehr Graham Olson hired as senior accounting analyst, Kulikowski added as marking coordinator

ROCHELLE – Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the promotion of Henry Steinhagen to surveyor.

Steinhagen, who works in the firm's Rochelle office, surveys projects by gathering legal records and collecting field data. He uses Civil 3D and OpenRoads Designer to draw and finalize plats. He also communicates project information to ensure accuracy and efficiency.

Steinhagen earned a bachelor's degree in Geography with a minor in **Business Administration** from Northern Illinois University and a Surveying Technology Certificate from Vincennes University.

He recently received a Survevor Intern License from the State of Illinois.

Olson

Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Holly Olson as a senior accounting analyst.

Olson will help build the Project Accounting function for the firm by owning the life cycle of projects. These crucial



Henry Steinhagen

tasks involve key financial aspects of our projects from initial setup to monitoring the progress of budgets to



Holly Olson

billing coordination and invoice management.

Olson supports the firm's 13 offices in Illinois, Iowa

Meg Kulikowski and Wisconsin. She earned an associate degree in Applied Science, Business Administration from Robert Morris University.

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June 18	IL Concelead Carry Permit Renewal 12pm
July 19	IL Concelead Carry Permit Renewal 9am

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Kulikowski

Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Meg Kulikowski as marketing coordinator.

Kulikowski helps with marketing and brand development for the firm. She has experience in writing, editing and social media management. She works closely with the marketing team and firm leaders to write and edit case studies, new hire materials, news releases and more. Kulikowski supports recruitment and retention, working closely with human resources and senior leadership to highlight Fehr Graham's commitment to its employees.

Kulikowski holds bachelor's degrees in Creative Writing and Literary Studies from Beloit College.





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Catch The Twain: The Musical comes to White Pines State Park June 10 -12

MT. MORRIS — The White Pines Lodge welcomes "Catch The Twain: The Musical" for three matinee shows at the Dinner Theater on June 10, 11 and 12. The theater is located at 6712 W. Pines

"Warren Brown is Mark Twain." said folk musician and songwriter Mark Dvorak who provides the soundtrack to Brown's performance, performing old-time banjo tunes, period songs and audience participation."

"Warren is hilarious. We've been crossing paths for years and it's been a lot fun working with him to put this show together."

"Mark and I have been developing this chautauqua style program for over two years now," said Warren Brown, who has spent over thirty years researching the life and work of Twain. And just like Twain himself, "we





The White Pines Lodge welcomes "Catch The Twain: The Musical" for three matinee shows at the Dinner Theater on June 10, 11 and 12.

like to play off the audience members and each other with stories, jokes and songs."

The Blue Island Public Library calls the show, "Better than Holbrook... almost as good as Twain," and Humanities Nebraska says, "Brown reaches out to people and makes them laugh and learn at the same

Since 1989 the Pines Dinner Theater has blossomed into a well-known

live professional theater features talent from around the country presenting more than thirty shows each year.

Silver tickets are \$62, Gold \$65 and Platinum \$72. Reserve at 815.655.2400 or log on at www.whitepines.com.

Learn more about "Catch The Twain' at www.catchthetwain.

Find Mark Dvorak at www.markdvorak.com



ent Alison Ohlinger (left) with Northern Rehab's Janet Truckenbrod Sarver (mid-

dle) and Marshall Basler (left). Ohlinger receives Northern Rehab's Annual

ROCHELLE – Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is pleased to announce and present their annual 2025 Rochelle Township High School Health & Wellness Scholarship to Alison Ohlinger.

Ohlinger, a senior at Rochelle Township High School, was chosen for her outstanding achievements in athletics, academics, extracurricular activities, and her choice to pursue a career in the healthcare field. Alison played volleyball throughout her school career and served as team captain her senior year. She was selected unanimous first team all-conference in 2022 and 2023 and was named most valuable player in 2023. She holds RTHS records for the most service aces and most assists in a single volleyball season. She is a 2024 National Honor Society member and was awarded the Renaissance Gold Plus Card all

four years in high school. Her extracurricular and volunteer work includes the Interact Club - serving as vice president in 2024-25, Prom committee, and a swim lesson instructor at the Rochelle Park District. This fall, Alison plans to attend the University of Toledo to study orthopedics and physical therapy.

Northern Rehab is pleased to acknowledge the sportsmanship, athletic and academic excellence, and community involvement displayed by this year's recipient, and we support our community in their sports and academic accomplishments, and those promoting active and healthy lifestyles. Northern Rehab extends our congratulations to Alison Ohlinger!

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is a convenient, local, and privately-owned physical therapy practice that has been voted "Best Physical

Rochelle Health & Wellness Scholarship Therapists in Ogle County" for the past 6 years and has held the "Best Physical Therapists in DeKalb County" 13 years in a row. Their highly-trained physical therapists help patients get back into life by restoring and promoting physical function, fitness and optimal quality of life in order to recover from injury, impairment, or disease. A physician's prescription is not required for physical therapy; this means you can start feeling better right away and be one step closer to living pain free. Choose Northern Rehab today and stop letting pain control your life. With offices in Rochelle, DeKalb, and Genoa, Northern Rehab is open and accepting new patients. For more information, please visit northernrehabpt.com or call 815.562.3299. Additionally, you may find Northern Rehab on most social media

The Weapons of the Other Guys program is May 31 at Flagg Township Museum

ROCHELLE – Celebrate Memorial Day at the Flagg Township Museum with a Memorial Day History Program - The Weapons of the Other Guys - on Saturday, May 31 at 1 p.m. The program includes exploring the extensive personal collection of armaments of presenter, Robert Barger and the history behind the weapons of the other guys. A large exhibit of the armaments collected by Barger will be on display. What are the differences in the World War II armaments used by

the other guys? Are there

similarities? What made a difference in the long run? Find out more in this new perspective about the weapons used by the other guys and how the armaments of the soldiers in World War II made a difference. Light refreshments will be available.

Visitors are always welcome to use the research station, Research Rochelle, to access the comprehensive lists compiled by Lydia Roberts of veterans buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery and Trinity Memory Gardens. Visitors are able to access these lists and more through the museum's digital records at the research station. Veterans and families of veterans can use the biographical forms and suggested questions available from the Veterans History Project that are always available to encourage the sharing of memories.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.



Ogle County Democrats donate over \$900 to local food pantries Representatives from two local food bank pantries attended the monthly meeting of the Ogle County Democratic Committee on May 7. Katherine Wragg and Barbara Diehl shared with the members information about the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry and Loaves & Fish Food Pantry. A brief overview of the community that is served was provided. They shared news of their growing needs as the numbers of clients using their services has increased as federal funding has been drastically cut. Access to basic commodities is a grave concern. A collection was taken, and each pantry received a check for \$465 from the Ogle County Democratic

Committee and its members. Pictured are Katherine Ragg, Polo Lifeline Pantry: Linda Pottinger, Ogle County Democratic Party chair: and Barbara Diehl, Loaves & Fish Food Pantry. (Courtesy photo)

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Free children's podiatry clinic is June 24 **DIXON**—Illinois Elks Friday. There are no

Children's Care Corporation in cooperation with Northwest District Elks Lodges will sponsor a free children's podiatry assessment clinic on Tuesday, June 24 at Morrison Podiatry located at 841 N. Galena Ave. Suite 300 Dixon with Dr. David Yeager as the clinician in charge.

The Clinic starts at 8 a.m. and is by appointment only. To make an appointment call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through charges for any services at this clinic.

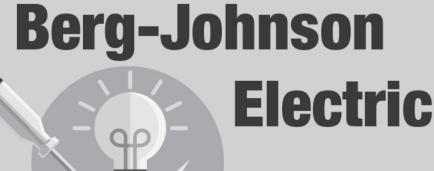
No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

The Elks Organization has been working with physically challenged children since 1928 and this is one of the 15 clinic locations throughout Illinois. The clinic is an ideal time to have a child reviewed for bone and joint development. If your child has feet pointing inward or outward or complains of foot pain they can be seen at this clinic. There is no charge for any diagnostic services at this clinic. The Elks will provide financial assistance to the best of their ability for children needing further treatment or specialty equipment when the family lacks sufficient resources to do so. In the past, the Elks have purchased therapy services, corrective shoes, braces, wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices to help children overcome a variety of

physical challenges.

platforms

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Obituaries

Gregory James Nink

CLEARWATER, Fla. - Gregory James Nink, 71, died peacefully at his home in Clearwater Fl. after a brief battle with cancer. He went to be with the Lord May 3... on Kentucky Derby day his favorite... Born in Rochelle, Illinois he was proceeded in death by his Father--John V. Nink Sr., Mother

-- Charlotte and older brother John V. Nink Jr. (Jack). He is survived by 2 brothers, Michael—wife Linda (Longboat Key, Fl.) B.J. (Clearwater, Fl.) five nephews and nieces Tracey, John, Carrie, Mark and Matt. Growing up in the Real Estate business "Headman" as he was affectionately called worked with his brother Jack at Thonotosassa Realty in Thonotosassa Fl. for many years. He was stubborn, funny and energetic and lots of fun to be around. He enjoyed sports. He loved the Bears, Bulls, and White Sox. Funeral will be at St. Mary's Star of Sea church, Longboat Key, Fl. at a later date.

Scott Whitney Curtis

ROCHELLE Curtis Scott Whitney, 73, passed away Saturday, May 17, 2025 at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb, Illinois. Curt was born on March 14, 1952 to Samuel and Irene (Scott) Whitney in Belvidere, IL. On November 7, 1992, he married Kathleen Ann Burke in Oregon, IL.

Curt loved life with every breath, especially behind the wheel of one of his favorite cars traveling down the American highways to New Orleans. He loved traveling with his wife Kathe to far off destinations like England, India, Thailand and Singapore. Wonderful memories were created and kept at Walt Disney World with grandkids in tow. His passion was design and architecture. This passion spilled over into their beautiful home in Rochelle and on their well manicured lawn.

Curt was a collector of family antiques and 1950's

and 1960's Americana. He cherished his long talks with Siddharth, his grandson, about their shared creative interests including the process of making guitars. Curt was a craftsman in his own right, doing woodworking and making stained glass art. Most of all, he collected loving family and devoted friends. Ashwini, his granddaughter, wrote it best in the following tribute: Curt Whitney, lovingly known as Grandpa Whitney to his grandchildren, was a strong, yet soft and warm man. He is remembered in the small moments of joy he shared with his family: From carving a Pinewood Derby Barbie Bubble Bath car with his granddaughter, to talking for hours about his favorite cars. He was the embodiment of a model grandfather, quite literally crossing the globe to support his family. His voice echoes in the cold wind of a Rochelle morning; in the hum of a race car engine.

Curt is survived by his



wife, Kathleen of Rochelle; two daughters: Shannon (Rohit) Sirur of Nashville, TN and Kelly Whitney of CO; brother, Stuart (Sarah) Whitney of Rockford, IL; sister, Cathy (Jay) Trost of Rockford, IL and two grandchildren: Siddharth and Ashwini Sirur.

The visitation will be from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 A.M., Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at the funeral home with Pastor David Rogula officiating. Burial will follow at **Trinity Memory Gardens** in Rochelle. Visit www. ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

OREGON—On May

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

16 at 4:11 p.m. deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident involving a single motorcycle. The motorcycle was traveling northbound in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 251 when the driver lost control and entered the east side ditch and struck a culvert. The motorcycle continued north and then struck a utility pole. The driver was taken to Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford for serious injuries. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department, MD 1 Services, and Blackhawk Fire Protection Ambulance. The crash remains under investigation. On May 17 at ap-

proximately 12:13 a.m. deputies responded to a driving complaint in the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251 in rural Davis Junction. After an investigation, Brandon W. Smith, 47, of Holcomb, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Smith was also cited for driving over the posted speed limit, improper lane usage, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 17 at 3:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of the 5,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, Alexis Dresen, 24, of Rockford, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Dresen also had an active Stephenson County warrant. Dresen was taken to the Ogle County Jail to be processed. Dresen was also cited for improper display of registration.

On May 17 at 6:40 p.m. deputies responded to a check welfare at Lindenwood and Mulford Road. After a brief investigation, Karen J. Johnson, 67, of Rock-

ford, was placed under arrest on an active Winnebago County warrant. Johnson was transferred into the custody of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. On May 18 at 6:22

p.m. deputies responded

to a two-vehicle accident

with injuries at Linn Street and 2nd Street in Kings. An initial investigation determined a Toyota Camry was traveling westbound on Linn Street before beginning to turn onto 2nd Street. A Honda Accord, driven by Quinten J. Fletcher, 19, of Rockton, was also traveling westbound on Linn Street when it struck the rear of the Toyota. The Toyota came to rest on the south side of the roadway, and the Honda came to rest on the north side of the roadway. Fletcher was later transported to Rochelle Community Hospital with minor injuries. Fletcher was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and was given a future court date. Ogle County Deputies were assisted by Rochelle EMS, Oregon Fire Department, and Stillman Valley Fire Department. On May 18 at ap-

proximately 12:11 a.m. deputies responded to a hit and run in the 500 block of West Fulton Street in Polo. Deputies located the offending vehicle in the 600 block of West Fulton Street. After investigation, deputies placed Christopher J. Heath, 36, of Polo under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Heath was also issued citations for failure to reduce speed, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and leaving the scene/property damage. Heath was transported to the Ogle County Jail. Heath was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 19 at approximately 4:20 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and



Kishwaukee Road. After investigation, deputies placed Philip Futrell, 30, of Stillman Valley under arrest for aggravated driving while license revoked (class-four felony), driving while license suspended without a BAIID (class-four felony), driving while license suspended, and driving while under the influence of alcohol. Futrell was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Futrell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On May 19 at approximately 8:35 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop a mile into Winnebago County on Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Zaid A.O. Valtierra, 21, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Valtierra was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and illegal transportation of alcohol/driver. Valtierra was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On May 19 at 8:03 p.m. deputies, assisted by Byron Police Department conducted a traffic stop in the 100 block of East Blackhawk Drive, Byron. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Brandon Boatwright, 34, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Boatwright was released with a notice to appear. Boatwright was also issued citations for suspended registration and operate motor vehicle without insurance.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Shirley Vera (Engelkes) Frahm

ASHTON — It is with great sadness that our beloved mother, motherin-law, grandma, great grandma, Shirley Vera (Engelkes) Frahm has peacefully passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025 in her home with her loving family by her side. Shirley was born on

February 25, 1939 in Chana, IL to Albert "Bill" and Vera (Foss) Engelkes. She lived in Rochelle, IL and Ashton, IL for the majority of her life. In November of 1957, she married Randall "Randy" Frahm and adopted two wonderful children, Mark R. Frahm and Tammy S. Frahm.

She spent many summers with her family enjoying the wilderness at her cabin in Ontario, Canada. She was even able to take all of her grandchildren there. She married Stanley J. Valiulis in April of 1994 and spent many winters in Las Vegas, Nevada with him. Together they loved going to casinos and shopping. She also loved taking all of her grandchildren shopping.

Shirley was a long term member of Rochelle Moose Club, Rochelle VFW, and Rochelle Country Club where she enjoyed playing Euchre with all of her friends, and enjoyed taking her grandchildren to the pool on hot summer days. When she moved back to Ashton, IL in 2015, she loved spending time with her great grandchildren, Jacob and Madelyn. She enjoyed riding her scooter to "the store" to have cocktails with her friends.

Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Ronald Engelkes, both of her loving husbands, Randall "Randy" Frahm and Stanley J. Valiulis, and her step children: Joan, Carl, and Daniel

Valiulis. Shirley is survived by her siblings: Marvin (Margo) Engelkes, Irma (Mike) Seaworth, and Sharon (Tom) Kirchner; her children: Mark (Peggy) Frahm, and Tammy (Anthony) Schopp; her step children: Tom, Mary, Peter, Karla, Julie, and Stan Valiulis; her



eight grandchildren: Jordan Frahm, Nicholas Frahm, Randa Schopp, Amanda (Joseph) Kearns, Ricky, John, and Clayton Bakosh, and Kyle (Christen) Schopp and her two great grandchildren: Jacob Schopp and Madelyn Kearns.

The visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M., Friday, May 23, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, May 24, 2025 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 803 Paddock Avenue, Ashton, IL with Pastor Joan Scheffler officiating. Burial will follow at Paynes Point Cemetery, Oregon, IL. A memorial will be established at a later date. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On May 17 at 11:19 a.m. Heather E. Harms, 46, of Rochelle was arrested for violation of order of protection and transferred.

On May 17 at 1:59 p.m. Oliver Tovar, 39, of Rockford was arrested for retail theft. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 13 Ogle County court date.

On May 19 at 12:58 a.m. Lamont J. Amann, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence times two, and cited

for suspended registration, expired registration and speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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.

News-Leader

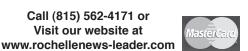
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General Manager

Newsroom Staff Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor (815) 561-2151 Russ Hodges, Sports rhodges@

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Homegrown healthy: A horticultural journey from garden to table

OREGON — As the warmth of summer approaches, the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Sauk Valley Community College, and Morrison Community Hospital, along with University of Illinois Extension, are proud to announce a unique educational initiative designed to cultivate healthier lifestyles through the Homegrown Healthy program series. Led by Horticulture Educator Bruce Black, this innovative program integrates weekly topic lessons with hands-on gardening and nutrition components, offering participants a comprehensive exploration of the journey from seed to plate. Homegrown Healthy

is a 10-week series where participants will gather for one hour per week to

embark on a transformative journey into the world of horticulture and nutrition. Each session is held either at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, Sauk Valley Community College, or Morrison Community Hospital Community Garden. Bruce Black will unveil a new topic, guide practical gardening activities, indulge in tastings of garden-fresh recipes, and impart essential knowledge on storing produce effectively. The weekly sessions

will cover various topics, ranging from seed selection and soil preparation to plant care, harvesting, culinary exploration, and preservation techniques. By immersing participants in every aspect of the gardening process, Homegrown Healthy promises a holistic

understanding of sustainable living and a deeper connection to the food we consume.

Individuals and families eager to embark on this transformative journey are invited to register for the whole series of classes. Committing to the entire 10week program is essential for optimal learning and growth.

Classes will meet rain or shine. Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Classes will be held in person at the following locations:

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, 619 4th Ave., Rochelle, Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. beginning June 3.

Morrison Community Hospital Community Garden, French Creek Park,

Homegrown Healthy is a 10-week series where participants embark on a transformative journey into the world of horticulture and nutrition.

618 Portland Ave., Morrison, Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. beginning May 29.

Sauk Valley Community College Greenhouse, 173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon, Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m. beginning May 28.

Join us as we sow the seeds of health and wellness, one garden at a time. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate, please email Jan

Sagiler at jsaglier@illinois. edu or call 815-544-3710. Register online at https:// go.illinois.edu/HomegrownHealthy2025.

Funding provided by CDC ACTion Grant.

Fehr Graham hires Mark Hackett as a senior recruiter Remhof promoted to resident engineer, Diehl elevated to senior accounting analyst

AURORA — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Mark Hackett as a senior recruiter.

Hackett strengthens the firm's workforce by focusing on experienced career hires. He collaborates with all departments and office locations to identify qualified professionals who align with Fehr Graham's culture, goals and mission. He also works with Fehr Graham's parent company, The Trilon Group, to implement talent acquisition initiatives.

Hackett earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Virginia Wesleyan University.

About Fehr Graham: Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fehr Graham is an Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm, Midwest Top Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm. For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.

Remhof

Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the promotion of Terry Remhof to resident engineer.

Based in the firm's Rochelle office, Remhof leads construction inspection and documentation while maintaining records for Computerized Maintenance Management Systems and clients. She prepares project plans and mentors junior engineering technicians to support their career growth.

Remhof joined Fehr Graham in 2023. She earned an associate degree in Computer-Aided Mechanical Drafting from Kishwaukee College and has completed multiple Illinois Department of Transportation training courses.

Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fehr Graham is an Engineering News-Record Top 500 De-



Terry Remhof

sign Firm, Midwest Top Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm. For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.

Diehl

Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the promotion of Kristen Diehl to senior accounting analyst.

Diehl oversees ac-

CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2025 |



Mark Hackett

counts payable, manages company credit cards, assists with invoicing and supports project reviews. As the firm grows, she

proactively addressing additional accounting tasks. Diehl joined Fehr Graham in 2021. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wiscon-

sin-Platteville. Fehr Graham is a pre-

maintains her primary

responsibilities while

mier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Fehr Graham is an Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm, Midwest Top Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm. For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.

Kristen Diehl



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.

ENAG to host Art Glass **Workshop June 28**

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.

OREGON — Eagle's

The workshop is taught by artist Valerie Butcher. It is open to all and is not limited to just ENAG

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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





Congratulations Konnor! We are so proud

of you. Love, Mom, Dad, Kelly, and Pip



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.

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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.



6 6	GRADUATE'S FIRST/LAST NAME 15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):
122	Person submitting photo:
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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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LOCAL VIEWS

Reed Harris - Consider this: The Qatar plane

EY, I want a \$400 million \$400 mm. jet, too! Isn't it interesting that the President can accept this gift even though the U.S. Constitution forbids it? constitution.congress. gov/browse/article-1/ section-9/clause-8/. And isn't it interesting that it will be a personal gift to one person, the President? However, before you say that it is a gift for the government, remember, it will be Air Force One while President Trump is President then gets turned over to his Presidential Library afterwards. Essentially for his use only.

President Trump has said that he wouldn't use the aircraft after his term is up. Do any of us believe that? If you do, that is 3.5 years from now. What will change in that time? Has he done anything in the past that would make us believe that he may not do as he says? Maybe not listening to the Supreme Court when they order him to get an innocent man out of prison? (See my last

How about safety? Do any of us think that Qatar wouldn't try to bug this plane in any way what-soever? Could we find any possible safety problems in the first place? Qatar is a very clever nation when it comes to electronics and has enough cash laying around for whatever it may need done. Why would we even accept this gifts in the first place knowing that there could be a safety issue? A safety issue for the government and a safety issue for you and me. Maybe President

Trump doesn't know about the emoluments clause. After all, he said in an interview on NBC's 'Meet the Press', "I don't know," Mr. Trump replied. "I'm not, I'm not a lawyer. I don't know." When asked whether all citizens and noncitizens in the United States were entitled to due process. www. nytimes.com/2025/05/04/ us/politics/trump-meetthe-press-interview-dueprocess.html. If he doesn't

know that he probably has not read the U.S. Constitution. And that is a very serious safety concern for all of us. If the President doesn't

know the Constitution, then he could make any number of decisions that affect us (he has already). Since it appears that our Congress is occupied by most people that agree with him on almost anything (though some are against the Qatar

gift), that doesn't leave us in a very good position. We are hanging on to our liberties as if we were hanging off a building with a wounded hand. We shouldn't

accept a Congress that is in lock step with a President. Any President. They are an equal branch of government that should be overseeing the Executive and Judicial branches. If they are not doing their job, (as I have said in the past) we must vote them out. Our next big chance is at the mid-term. If we don't do it then, it's anyone's guess on the future. Remember, we don't need term limitations put into law, it's our vote that can limit their terms. Then we come to Ex-

ecutive Orders written, signed and published by a President. Such written directives by the president are textually based on the provision in Article II of the U.S. Constitution that vests the president with power to "take

care that the laws be faithfully executed." This power, however, must be exercised within the confines of what the Reed U.S. Constitution Harris and laws adopted under its authority

permit. Not only that, but they cannot overturn a current law. In cases where the Constitution vests Congress with the powers to legislate, it can overturn such orders. Such orders may also be overturned by the courts if they violate federal laws or the Constitution, and, in a trend that has increased in recent years, one president may rescind or amend an order by a previous president. Most of the previous

paragraph's wording can be found in an article written by John R. Vile published on April 10, 2025 and updated May 6, 2025. It can be found at firstamendment.mtsu. edu/article/executive-orders-and-the-first-amendment/. Many of President Trump's Executive Orders have tried to overturn current law and have been legally challenged. A much simpler way would be for Congress to overturn such orders. But, as we mentioned, this does not appear to be the focus of most of our Congress.

In the same article by Mr. Vile, "An executive order that Trump issued on the first day of his second presidential term was positively entitled "Restoring Freedom of Speech and ending Federal Censorship" and pertained to social media companies." Yet we

already have the freedom of speech. So, what does this order do? It doesn't do anything. Reading further in it, it says that the President ordered his Attorney General to investigate actions by the federal government to try and censor it. He can ask his Attorney General to investigate but it is left up to them to determine the need. No Executive Order is needed.

So, in addition to trying to overturn standing law, Executive Orders can be frivolous. More for grandstanding that for anything else. We must be vigilant through our actions. Whether it be protesting and/or marching or voting for replacements of our current Congress, it is up to us to decide. Of course, we can also decide not to vote which is a vote for the status quo. All we need to determine is if we are on the right path and if we want to take a gamble on continuing this course. But remember, gambles can bite you when you're not looking.

Silene Walters: Traveling to Japan

THAD never thought that I would have Lthe opportunity to visit a World Exposition but when the opportunity came for me to attend the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, I jumped at the chance. And how glad I am that I went. World Expositions get

their origin from Prince Albert's Great Exhibition of 1851. The aim has always been to showcase progress in a changing world. After World War II, expos changed their focus to technology promoting human development rather than an end to itself. "The Osaka Expo" has been conceived as a People's Living Lab, a venue for demonstrating cutting-edge technologies and presenting the results of co-creation projects that have been in development in Japan. As a Future Society Showcase, the Expo incorporates inclusivity and sustainability while offering a futuristic and immersive experience for

visitors in line with the three subthemes: Saving Lives, Connecting Lives and Empowering Lives.

Entering the Expo site was like entering a Disney park. It was huge, it had a Future Life Zone and a parade of nations and a Forest of Tranquility. One of the main features of the expo is The Grand Ring, the world's largest wooden structure. It encircles most of the expo and allows you to get around the site. 159 countries are represented, some of the smaller countries have small booths in a common area. The bigger countries have magnificent pavilions.

Our first reservation was for the Future Life Pavillion showcasing many ideas of what the future will look like. Innovations in agriculture, transportation and health were nothing short of science fiction. And to think that some of these innovations are already being used in Japan. We even saw a flying car and I tried out a standing

nap pod.

We then stopped at whatever pavilion didn't have much of a line. We went to the Baltics, Chile, Senegal, Malaysia, Monaco, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, United States and the Women's Pavilions. I see why they are selling season passes, it would take many visits to see it all.

Each country was responsible for the design of their own pavilion but all with a mind to sustainability. Each country chose to showcase something special about their country,

whether their people or their landmarks. It was very interesting to learn about all these diverse countries.

The architecture of the pavilions was amazing. Because all the pavilions will have to be dismantled some nations were very mindful of being able to dismantle it completely,

like Switzerland. Qatar was a huge tent, in homage to their Bedouin tents. The Netherlands had a moon rising out of its building. Australia showed its colorful side and Spain had a gorgeous staircase.

My favorite pavilions were Malaysia with a tree made out of woven mats. Luxembourg was worth the wait in line be-

> cause they showed the diversity of their people and the beauty of their land in a really cool movie that you got to sit on a net while being surrounded by the images. Really

cool.

Silene

Walters

But I have to say that my favorite was the US's pavilion. It showed all that we can accomplish when we work together with everyone around the world. It showed the beautiful landscapes of America, and some of its exploration, culminating in us being underneath a rocket as it launched. It was a really cool experience and made me proud to be an American. (visit my page to see a video of the US pavilion) Our final stop was the

Women's Pavilion. It was probably the most thought provoking stop of the day. As a woman who lives in the US, I take for granted the rights I have. But women in many places do not have the same rights, privileges or even safety. It showed the importance of protecting women.

But the best experiences happened while waiting in line or while sitting for lunch. We shared a picnic table with an elderly Japanese couple. With the aid of a translation app we got to know each other a bit. I joked with them that they were eating a Chicago style hot dog and they shared how they follow the Cubs because of their Japanese players. It was so much fun getting to know

this sweet couple. While waiting in line we also got to talk to people from the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Italy and Russia. It was interesting to learn about their lives, what they thought of the expo and what they were doing in Japan. I found that we had more in common with all these people than different. If we choose to find things in common, we can make new friends and make the world a better place.

I think in line I found the purpose of the expo, making the world a little smaller, and a lot more friendly.

If you are going to be in Japan this year, I suggest you spend some days at the expo. It was really a lot of fun.

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

How to contact government officials

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

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supervisor@flaggtownship.org clerk@flaggtownship.org assessor@flaggtownship.org commissioner@flaggtownship.org

> noggle62@gmail.com egruben@comcast.net susanhager303@comcast.net jimk@rocketsupply.com

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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@rochellenewsleader.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

Roberts Armory WWII Museum open May 26

ROCHELLE — Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open to the public on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 from 1-4 p.m. The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting. The next opening will be Aug. 16. To get to the museum, follow the signs on the Army truck at Illinois Route 251 & Intermodal Drive (approximately three miles). Many WWII artifacts are on display including tanks, trucks, cannons and Rochelle News-Leader newspapers from 1945 presenting photographs of Rochelle residents who served during WWII. More information is available on the Rochelle website at: http:// www.enjoyrochelle.com/ online-directory/what-todo/history-attractions/robert-s-armory.html. There is no admission charge.



Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open to the public on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 from 1-4 p.m. The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting. The next opening will be Aug. 16.

Estock of Steward named to dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University

BOURBONNAIS —

Rivers Estock of Steward was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed spring 2025 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the

dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have

attained a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 grading



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



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

May 19 - Abigail Fox, Rochelle, \$25

May 20 - Gary Ohlinger, Lindenwood, \$25

May 21 - Ed McBride, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

13

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- 4 "Olympia" painter
 - Edouard

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7 Infield covers

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- 10 Creche trio 11 Send forth
- 16 Roman 602
- 20 Pensioned (Abbr.)
 - station
- "Black-ish" 25 1942
- Hitchcock thriller

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

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8 / / Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the

numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

Moderate

Challenging HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: T equals X

ONAESV EZHNGFC L B FGUQD BSNGVO ZNAFXSZBC L B L D CXQNZX ZPELB JBJLBP, ZOB RBBC

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BTUFXEJBC

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 24 **STOWERS King** Crossword —

exclaimed "Sioux sow me!" Dakota tribe member, the seed enough to be planted by a Hoping it would be lucky

RNH

J B ! "























(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner. Award winners included Ralfies BBQ and Catering, Ace Hardware, Rochelle Book Hub, Roiel Scoop Ice Cream, the City of Rochelle Street Department, Casey Heuer, O'Rorke Construction, Destiny Studios, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Los 3 Molcajetes and Audyn Boutique.

CHAMBER DINNER: Awards presented to local businesses during annual event Thursday

From page 1

"This family is very giving and humble," Arteaga said. "They're always willing to help with something, even if it's last minute. They always contribute and they're always willing to participate in anything. This is the true meaning of the American dream to come here as a dishwasher and become a restaurant owner.

Chamber Board Member Kris Wexell presented Roiel Scoop Ice Cream with the Small Business of the Year Award.

"They've taken a quaint little downtown space and made it a place for families

in our community and visitors," Wexell said. "They support Rochelle Township High School athletic programs and rescue animals where possible and have made themselves a part of our community."

Chamber Board Treasurer Brandon Svela presented the Welcome to Rochelle Award to Rochelle Book Hub, the city's newest bookstore located inside Cypress

"Her love for reading was a catalyst to starting her own business," Svela said. "She has retail sales and has started book clubs, reaching out to those that share her passion for literature. She covers all genres of books and reaches out to the youth of the community to engage with them."

Chamber Board Member Ashley Bick presented the Community Partner of the Year award to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, which recently marked $20\,years$ and $\$1.3\,million$ in philanthropic work in the community.

"The community has embraced RACF's philanthropic mission and employers and families make contributions and honor loved ones,"Bicksaid. "They're a group that's fueled by giving back to the local community that results in a wide impact

and support staying local."

Andrist presented O'Rorke Construction with the Legacy Award, as its owners recently retired at marked the end of the business's long and storied run in the community.

"We're fortunate to celebrate a business that has maintained a high standing over the years," Andrist said. "What started in 1987 as a family business stayed true to its principles of hard work, dedication, attention to detail, and craftsmanship."

City of Rochelle GIS Coordinator Casey Heuer was presented with the Chamber Delegate of the Year Award by Christa McGrath.

"We like to say that chamber delegates serve as the face of the chamber, but sometimes, we serve as the heart of it too," McGrath said. "Casey is no exception to that. I am continually impressed with her dedication and willingness to always help with whatever is needed."

Herrerapresentedher Director's Award to the City of Rochelle Street Department.

"They work tirelessly behind the scenes of our community without proper thanks or praise," Herrera said. "They work in extreme temperatures and are assigned crazy tasks as part

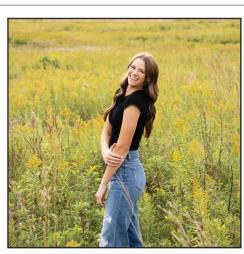
of their daily routine. We're proud to recognize them for the work they put in for our residents."

Bearrows made closing remarks at the end of the event and thanked Rochelle's business community for its work over the past year.

"The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce serves as a cornerstone for local businesses," Bearrows said. "It fosters economic growth and strengthens our community spirit. It has unwavering support for entrepreneurs large and small. When our businesses prosper, the entire community reaps the rewards."









(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Stillman Trust & Wealth Management is pleased to announce the winners of the Eickman Scholarship, an annual scholarship awarded to four area high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

Stillman Bank awards Eickman Scholarship to 4 area students

OGLE COUNTY -Stillman Trust & Wealth Management is pleased to announce the winners of the Eickman Scholarship, an annual scholarship awarded to four area high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine. The 2025 recipients are: Sadie Stoll, Byron High School; Kaelin Shaffer, Oregon High School; Abby Metzger, Rochelle Township High

School; and Elizabeth Henderson, Stillman Valley High School. Each student received a \$2,200 scholarship.

Now in its 30th year, the scholarship fund was established by former Stillman Bank President, William E. Eickman as a way to give back to the Ogle County community. Eickman was always grateful to the people of Ogle County for their support,

recognizing that they were the reason for the bank's success since 1882.

The scholarship is available to high school seniors attending school in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, and Stillman Valley. The fund is designed to award a scholarship to one recipient from each of these four communities. Each year, committees review all of the applications that are submitted, and from this

process, finalists from each school are selected for personal interviews with the

review committees. "Stillman Bank is honored to present these scholarships on behalf of the William E. Eickman Scholarship Trust," said Joseph McCoy, Stillman Bank vice president and senior trust officer. "Mr. Eickman believed in supporting the students in

our communities in their

pursuit of higher education. We look forward to following the future accomplishments of this year's scholarship recipients."

Any high school senior at Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, or Stillman Valley High Schools who is interested in applying for the Eickman Scholarship is encouraged to inquire with their guidance coun-

selor. Application forms

are available from each school's respective counseling office and must be submitted by the assigned deadline. A copy of the student's high school transcript and proof of acceptance at an accredited college or university must be attached to the application.

For more information about Stillman Bank, please visit www.stillmanbank.com.

PARK: Ohlinger discusses capital improvement plans in 2025-2026 budget

From page 1

The board is still short one commissioner due to the recent resignation of Commissioner Kristi Gonzales.

Budget

The board discussed its fiscal year 2025-2026

budget and Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said capital improvement plans in the budget include Atwood Park bandshell renovations, new playground installation, shaded seating at Lake Sule, replacement of the VFW Park shelter, construction of a fieldhouse at Helms

North, new park entrance signage, new fitness equipment for The REC Center, and capital improvements at Fairways Golf Course.

The budget will be up for approval by the board next month.

Asphalt

The board unanimously

approved a bid from Wyatt Pavement Maintenance for asphalt projects at the following locations: Atwood Park parking lot and bandshell, Powers Park parking lot and west side entrance, Tilton Park (Teen Town) parking lot, Little League parking lot, Lake Sule parking lot, and

The REC Center north and south parking lot along with the east fire lane. Wyatt Pavement Maintenance was one of two bids the park district received.

Special use

permit The board unanimously

approved a special use permit for 4-C (Community Coordinated Child Care) to hold an Outdoor Family Fun Event at Cooper Park on June 17 from 4-6 p.m. Local organizations will have booths at the event that will also include face painting, bubbles, chalk, crafts and more.

RTHS BOARD: Public meeting for amended budget to be held June 16

From page 1

EOY

Zick detailed end-of-

year dates at RTHS. Seniors' last day if they waived finals was May 16. Senior finals were May 19

and 20. Final exams for grades 9-11 are May 22-23 and 27. Graduation practice will take place Friday at 1

p.m. Graduation will take place Saturday at 10 a.m. at the football field weather permitting. Summer school

begins on June 2.

Budget The board will hold a

public hearing for its amendedbudgetat5:20 p.m. ahead of its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 16.

White Rock Cemetery Memorial Day Services scheduled

KINGS—White Rock Cemetery Memorial Day Association invites everyone to its annual service

Monday, May 26, 9:30 a.m., at the Elim Reformed Church, 140 S. Church Road, Kings.

Our speaker will be Bruce Reumann, MSgt., U.S. Air Force (Ret.), 1st Lt., Civil Air Patrol, and

will share his work as Commander of the Dekalb County Squadron. Some Cadets will also share their

The Scott Family will provide music. After the service, we walk across to

the cemetery and Dennis Alderks will read Veteran's Roll Call. Refreshments follow in the church basement.

Spears, Watkins honored as outgoing Kish College Trustees the College and highlighted

MALTA — Kishwaukee College recognized two outgoing Board members at the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees' special reorganizational meeting in April. Board Secretary Kathleen Spears and Trustee Kathleen Watkins were commended and received a plaque recognizing their dedicated service to the College. Spears, of Shabbona,

and Watkins, of DeKalb, received admiration from their fellow Board members for helping guide the College through the ever-changing landscape of higher education.

"We are grateful for Ms. Spears and Ms. Watkins's many years of leadership. Their service has helped shape our institution and inspired students and staff. Through dedicated leadership and vision, they leave a lasting impact in our community," said Bob Johnson, chair of the Board of Trustees.

Both Watkins and Spears joined the Board with previous experience in local education. Spears joined the Board in 2007 after serving on the Indian Creek Community Unit School District 425 Board of Education. Watkins was elected in 2013 after serving as executive director of the Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC) for many years. With a collective 30 years of service, Spears and Watkins reflected fondly on many initiatives during their time on the Board.

"Without a doubt, the more memorable experiences have revolved around the graduation ceremonies. I'm so grateful for those stu-

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dents who choose to attend the graduation ceremonies as it has given methe chance to watch them and their families," Spears said.

"I think, as a Board, we have made great strides in the financial standing of Kishwaukee College. We have put ourselves in a very steady position moving forward," Watkins said. "Also, we have made several national presentations to the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) on programming and methodologies that I have been very proud of. We received great reviews, and they keep asking us to come back."

The Trustees also highlighted important initiatives such as the construction of a new Student Center, the hiring of current Kishwaukee College President Dr. LaurieBorowicz, and the efforts to reduce student costs by eliminating textbook and student fees. Watkins and Spears praised Kish faculty and staff for their efforts during challenging times.

"I am proud of our staff and our teachers. They have stepped up when they needed to. I am very proud of everyone at Kish who makes it a great place to learn and work," Watkins

"The creative responses of the faculty and staff during the pandemic were rewarding to see," Spears said. "We emerged from that time with creative ways to address instructional delivery systems and better meet the needs of our students."

While moving on from the Board positions, Watkins and Spears said they would remain in touch with strong listening skills and active participation as key attributes for new Board

"Throughout their tenure, Ms. Spears and Ms. Watkins have provided thorough leadership and vision, helping guide Kishwaukee College through significant challenges and celebrate many successes. We are so lucky to have had their insights and advocacy in carrying on the College's mission and vision. We will miss their service," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.

Catherine Hopkins of Malta and David Lilja of Paw Paw were recently elected to fill the vacancies and were seated during the reorganizational meeting.

Learn more about Kishwaukee College and the Board of Trustees at kish. edu.

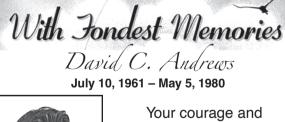


(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kathy Spears and Kathy Watkins, outgoing Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees members, were recognized for their years of service during the Board's reorganizational meeting. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College; Spears, board secretary; Watkins, trustee; and Bob Johnson, Board chair.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

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





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

Love, Mom & Dad

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

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.

In Honor of Memorial Day

optional photo if submitted.

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
- 8. The days may come and go, but the times we shared
- will always remain. 9. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
- 10. May God's angels guide you and protect you
- throughout time.
- 11. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
- 12. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
- 13. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
- 14. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.

15. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart. You can email a high

quality photo and verse number/message to: kwhite@rochellenews-leader.com. **Please call 815-562-4171 to arrange**

payment or pay with this QR Code.



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

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



9 Biggest **Benefits** Of Shopping **Rochelle First**

Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising. These communityminded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches - just to name a few. Shouldn't we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!

High rate of return. For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Rochelle, IL.

Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts people you know and trust.

Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.

Banking with people who know you is a luxury found **Ponly in hometowns.** You don't have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.

No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor. You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live

here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?

Time is money. It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!

Customer service after the sale is invaluable. Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight of receiving qualified care from weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?

> Keeping it local encourages **community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS ...



HUBS TAKE DOWN DIXON

The Rochelle Hub baseball team swept its doubleheader against Dixon on Saturday.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Boys Tennis

Green leads Hubs at Interstate 8 tournament

Junior medals in third at No. 1 singles as Rochelle finishes fourth with 13 points

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Entering No. 1 singles competition as the No. 6 seed didn't discourage Mark Green from pulling off an early upset and securing All-Conference recognition as the Rochelle Hub tennis team hosted the Interstate 8 Conference Championship

on Saturday afternoon. Facing Ottawa's Ayden Sexton in the first round, Green pushed through a highly contested opening set, securing a crucial tiebreaker to take the early lead. Green carried the momentum over to the second set, where the talented junior minimized mistakes and applied pressure on the serve to secure a 7-6(6), 6-3win over Sexton, the No. 3 seed in the No. 1 singles bracket.

"It brings me a lot of confidence," Green said. "I know that I can do it and I know that I can be successful at No. 1 singles. I just had to stay calm through the ups and downs and not get into my own head. I focused on staying consistent and forcing him to make the mistakes."

The win moved Green into the semifinals, where he battled LaSalle-Peru's Nick Olivero in a rigorous three-set match that saw both players capture crucial points. Like his first match, Green was able to take a tiebreaker to win the opening set, but a strong second set from Olvero took the match into

a third and final set. With a spot in the championship on the line, Green fell just short of reaching the finals, conceding a 7-6(7), 2-6, 5-7 loss to move into the third-place match.

2 doubles, going 1-2 over three matches. The Hub duo opened the tournament with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Kaneland's Luke Pawlak and Liam Wolff in the first round. McKinney

Looking to close out his conference tournament with a victory, Green dominated the opening set against Kaneland's AJ Faruga, the No. 5 seed. Despite a brief rally from Faruga in the second set, Green emerged victorious, winning 6-1, 6-4 to clinch the third-place medal as well as an All-Conference Honorable Mention. Green is Rochelle's only All-Conference player this year.

"It was great because I was down after the loss, but finishing with a win is a good feeling going into sectionals," Green said. "I feel like our team is hitting our stride at the right moment."

Green led the Hubs (7-9, 1-4 Interstate 8) to fourth place out of six schools with 13 points in the conference tournament. Junior Philip Winters finished fourth at No. 2 singles, conceding a tough three-set loss against Morris netter Andrew Ochoa 6-2, 2-6, 1-6 before falling 4-6, 0-6 against Sycamore's Luke Curtis in the third-place match. Rochelle hosted Belvidere for nonconference action on Monday and will hold the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional on

Friday and Saturday.
Sophomore Noah McKinney and freshman David
Eckardt took fourth at No.

three matches. The Hub duo opened the tournament with a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Kaneland's Luke Pawlak and Liam Wolff in the first round. McKinney and Eckardt went three sets against the top seed in their division, falling 6-2, 2-6, 1-6 against LaSalle-Peru's Riley Cetwinski and Jackson Sellett. In a marathon match for third place in the division, McKinney and Eckardt fell just short in a 3-6, 7-6(4), 4-6 loss against Sycamore's Sam Eich and Logan Person.

Junior Parker Slattengren and sophomore Amor Lara finished fifth at No. 3 doubles, going 1-1 over two matches. The Rochelle duo bounced back from a three-set defeat and showed tremendous grit in their fifth-place match, outlasting Kaneland's Zeke Howard and Michael Glick for a 7-5, 3-6, 11-9 victory. Slattengren and Lara played six total sets on Saturday, opening the tournament with a 1-6, 6-2, 5-7 loss against Ottawa's Charlie Thiry and Caden Walter.

Sophomores Sam Sergeant and Connor Hunley placed sixth at No. 1 doubles, finishing 0-2 over two matches. The Hubs conceded a 1-6, 0-6 loss against Ottawa's Noah Gross and Evan Krafft before going toe-to-toe with Kaneland's Owen Schlipp and Sohum Kadam in the fifth-place match, falling just short in a 7-6(5), 2-6, 6-10 defeat.



(COURTESY PHOT

Junior Mark Green medaled in third place at No. 1 singles during the Interstate 8
Conference meet at Rochelle Township High School on Saturday. Green earned an
All-Conference Honorable Mention as a result of his third-place finish.

DTUS Girls Track









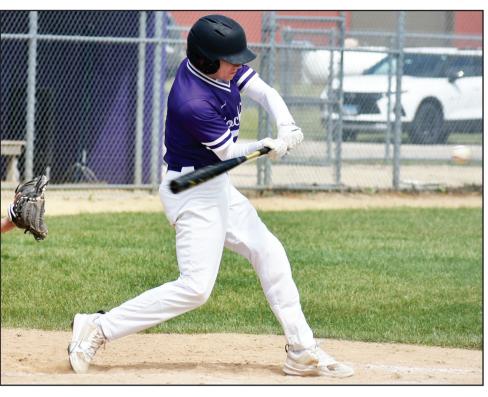


Rochelle Lady Hubs receive RTHS, Interstate 8 Conference awards during team banquet on Thursday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team held its awards banquet at RTHS on Thursday evening. Several RTHS student-athletes took home team awards as well as Interstate 8 Conference awards during the evening. RTHS presented its varsity and JV letters as well as team awards for top performers in different areas of track and field. Interstate 8 All-Conference honorees this season were Annaliese Koziol, Rose Luxton, Carol Carpenter, Kyrie Cragin, Gwendolyn O'Dell, Jasmine Walsh, Elyse Manning, Erin Murphy and Marianna Saldana. Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference winners included Vivian Worthington, Alice Drobick, Aaliyah Losoya, Alex Neece, Ryelee Bogle, Dylan Etes, Brisa Zepeda, Kyrie Cragin, Samantha Overton, Elyse Manning, Rose Luxton, Taelynn Rodeghero, Annaliese Koziol, Erin Murphy, Bridgett Ramirez, Arline Villanueva and Maddie Peska. RTHS award winners were Elyse Manning (Lady Hub Award), Dylan Etes (Sportsmanship Award), Vivian Worthington (Most Improved Award), Carol Carpenter (Newcomer of the Year Award), Taelynn Rodeghero (Newcomer of the Year Award) and Erin Murphy (High Point Award).

SPORTS

RTHS Baseball





The Rochelle Hub baseball team swept its nonconference doubleheader against Dixon on Saturday. Above, junior Van Gerber (left) puts the ball in play and sophomore Johnny Andrist (right) fires a pitch. Andrist threw a complete game as the Hubs won the opener 4-3. Rochelle then won the finale 7-6 to move to 9-18 on the season.

Hubs take nonconference doubleheader over Dixon Rochelle improves to 9-3 in out-of-conference games after pair of wins Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES

ROCHELLE — Although Rochelle finished without a win in the Interstate 8 Conference this season, the Hubs have fared well against their nonconference opponents. That trend continued on Saturday, when the varsity baseball team hosted a nonconference doubleheader with Dixon.

Sophomore Johnny Andrist spun a complete game and struck out seven batters in the opener for the Hubs, who held off the Dukes for a 4-3 win before holding off a late rally to take the finale 7-6 and sweep their home doubleheader. Senior Carson Lewis recorded four hits and two RBIs across both games for the Hubs (9-18, 0-15 Interstate 8), who improved to 9-3 in nonconference play this season. Rochelle resumed nonconference action at Forreston on Monday

"It's a big confidence boost because we've had some tough losses over the last few weeks," Lewis said. "My big focus has been putting the ball in

play... When you make contact, it gives you a better opportunity to get on base and I've been finding the holes in the defense. My goal is to get on base so I can help get the offense rolling. If I have two strikes, I'll just try to put the ball in play, but on the first couple of pitches, I'm looking to hit the ball pretty hard if I can."

Game 1

Sophomore Brody Bruns belted a two-run homer to right-center in the bottom of the first inning to give the Hubs a 2-0 lead in the opening game. Andrist and the Hubs stranded four Dixon baserunners over the first two frames, with the sophomore pitcher picking off Eli Kirckoff in the first before striking out three batters to escape the second. Rochelle smacked three consecutive singles in the bottom of the third, where junior Brode Metzger's RBI knock put the Hubs up 3-0.

"It was huge because we haven't had a good season in conference, but those nonconference games have helped to keep our hopes up," Metzger said. "We have a really good conference and we hung with a few teams, but we know that our nonconference teams aren't like the teams we face in our conference, which gives us the confidence to come out and beat them. They didn't throw their best pitchers at us, but we sat back and drove the ball. We hit well as a team."

A one-out single from Jagger Kemp led to a sacrifice fly from Jack Redell in the top of the fourth inning for the Dukes (12-12, 9-8 Big Northern), who trailed 4-1 after Lewis blasted a two-out RBI double to deep right-center in the bottom of the fourth inning. Dixon fought back in the top of the fifth inning, where Jake Whelan ripped a one-out RBI triple before scoring on an infield error.

The Dukes had a chance to even the score in the top of the sixth inning, moving the tying run to third base after an outfield error and a sacrifice bunt. But Andrist, who struck out two batters over the sixth and seventh innings to help the Hubs preserve their victory, induced a

popup to first base that ended the frame. Brady Feit drew a one-out walk in the top of the seventh, but an out on a steal attempt led to a groundout that sealed the first win of the day for the Hubs.

"We've been on a losing streak, so to get two close wins was big," Andrist said. "We've been struggling with errors in the last two innings of games, so to close those two games out was a big step for us. I can throw my fastball hard enough to throw it by some people and when I can do that, the game gets pretty easy. There are some good teams coming up, so if we have more pitchers who are able to go five or more innings... I think that will be really important for us."

Game 2

Sophomore Andrew Huerta took the ball to start the finale, throwing five and two-thirds innings while striking out seven batters and holding Dixon to three earned runs. The Hubs, who totaled 10 hits in the second game of the doubleheader, held a 2-0 lead after RBI singles from Brody Bruns

in the bottom of the first inning and Carson Lewis in the bottom of the second inning.

"It was great to have two more wins on the record," Huerta said. "We hit the ball pretty well, but our pitching was definitely great, too. I was sitting in the strike zone and I've had a hard time doing that this year. We need to keep hitting the ball hard and we need to work on our defense. We've been putting the ball in play a lot and we haven't been striking out, which is good for us."

Eli Kirchoff's RBI double in the top of the third inning brought the Dukes within one run entering the bottom half of the third, where Rochelle rallied for two runs on three singles to surge ahead 4-1. Senior Brandyn Metzger slapped a lead-off single before Brode Metzger singled two batters later to put two runners on base. After Huerta reached on an infield single to score Brandyn Metzger, sophomore Dylan Manning plated Brode Metzger with a sacrifice fly to left

Rochelle extended its

lead in the bottom of the fifth inning, where sophomore Marcus Hansen, making his varsity debut on Saturday, ripped a tworun single into left field to cap off a three-run frame that put the Hubs ahead 7-1. Brode Metzger added an RBI single in the fifth inning for the Hubs, who saw their lead cut down to three after Dixon tallied three runs on five hits in the top of the sixth inning. Brady Lawrence sparked the three-run frame with a solo homer to right center.

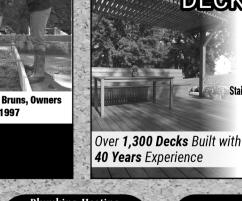
The Dukes had a chance to continue their rally, but senior pitcher Ethan Goodwin, who relieved Huerta in the sixth inning, and the Hub defense turned a 5-3 double play to escape the jam. Dixon threatened again in the top of the seventh inning, where Lawrence smacked an RBI single and scored on a wild pitch three batters later to bring the Dukes within one run with two outs in the frame. With the tying runner on third base after the wild pitch, Goodwin induced a groundout to the pitcher's mound that ended the game and clinched Rochelle's sweep.

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815-393-3514 Michael P. Nelson



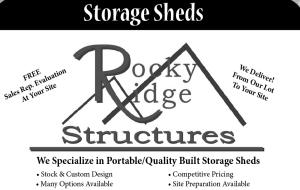
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The Rochelle News-Leader

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

drinking water.

PUBLIC NOTICE DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WATER QUALITY REPORT

For the City of Rochelle January 1 - December 31, 2024

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe

The source of drinking water used by Rochelle is Ground Water.

For more information regarding this report contact: Adam Lanning, Superintendent

815-562-2761 Este informe contiene información muy importante

sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Source of Drinking Water The sources of drinking water (both tap water

and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may rea-

sonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the

general population. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic

wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and

Safe drinking water is a team effort. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



home plumbing. The City of Rochelle is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and re-

moving lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home.

You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes

like a copy of this information, please stop by RMU or call Customer Service at 815-562-4155. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination: and documentation/recommendation of Source Water

Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgibin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl.

Source of Water

To determine Rochelle's susceptibility to groundwater contamination, information obtained during a Well Site Survey, which was performed by the Illinois Rural Water Association on July 15, 1999, was reviewed.

T Based on this information, several potential sources of contamination were identified within proximity of this water supply's wells. The Illinois EPA does not consider the city's source water susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells. In anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground

Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the water supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based upon the completed evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the community's wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions; a hydrogeologic barrier exists that should prevent pathogen movement; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak; and a sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. Because the community's wells are constructed

in a confined aquifer, which should minimize the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in the vulnerability determination. Hence, well hydraulics were not evaluated for this groundwater supply.

Type of Water

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Availability of Monitoring Data for **Unregulated Contaminants for** ROCHELLE.

Our water system has sampled for a

series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Adam Lanning at 815-562-2761 or at 888 Treatment Plant

This notice is being sent to you by ROCHELLE. State Water System ID# IL1410500. Date distributed: 5/14/25

Dr., Rochelle, IL 61068.

For all Schools and Child Care Facilities serviced by the City of Rochelle Water Department, lead and copper testing is available upon request Please call Customer Service at 815-562-4155.

Water Quality Test Results **Definitions:** The following tables contain scientific

terms and measures, some of which may require explanation. Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of

- monthly samples. Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total
- system. Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on

coliform bacteria have been found in our water

- multiple occasions. Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. Maximum residual disinfectant level or
- MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. Maximum residual disinfectant level goal
- or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. na: not applicable.
- mrem: millirems per year (a measure of

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of

oil and gas production and mining activities.

Source Water Information

Source of Water Name

Well 10 (11944)	Southview Drive	Groundwater
Well 11 (01537)	Flagg Rd - NW of HS Stadium by Elevated Tower	Groundwater
Well 12 (02023)	3188 Hayes Road	Groundwater
Well 8 (11814)	Next to Tower Caron Road	Groundwater
Well 4 (11810)	Next to Tower off N. 7 th Street	Groundwater

Location

contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink,

EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount

shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact RMU Customer Service at 815-

for several minutes by running your tap, taking a

2024 Regulated Contaminants Detected Lead and Copper **Definitions:**

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant

which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2024	1.3	1.3	0.83	0	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Errosion of natural deposits.
Lead	2024	0	15	3.8	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Errosion of natural deposits.

of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from Regulated Contaminants

562-4155.

Source of Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of the City Council meetings held at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday each month at City Hall, 420 N 6th St, Rochelle, IL 61068. More information on City Council meetings can be found at https:// il.municodemeetings.com/

The source water assessment for our supply has

been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. Copper Range: .0096 to 1 mg/L

Lead Range: 1 to 14 ug/L

To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data, please call 815-562-4155 or stop by 333 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle, IL Our Community Water Supply has developed a

service line material inventory.

To obtain a copy of the system's service line inventory: https://www.rmu.net/forms-documents/ water-division/

- radiation absorbed by the body) ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or
- one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or
- one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water. Treatment Technique or TT: A required
- process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. No. 0518

(May 21, 2025)

regulated Contaminants													
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination					
Chlorine	2024	1.2	0.8 – 1.38	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.					
Haloacetic Acids (TTHM)	2024	3	3.01-3.01	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.					
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2024	11	11.13 – 11.13	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection					

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Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2024	3.3	0 - 3.3	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2024	0.17	0.12 - 0.17	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2024	0.79	0.68 - 0.79	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Iron	2024	3.9	0.32 - 3.9		1	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	2024	1	0 -51	150	150	ppb	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2024	0.41	0 - 0.41	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	2024	19	10 – 19			ppb	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	2024	0.04	0 - 0.04	5	5	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring; discharge from metal

								metal
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	6	0 - 5.89	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	2024	4	0 – 12.8	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT **COURT OF THE** FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL **CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS** IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)) ESPERANZA O. HER-RERA, Deceased,) NO. 2025PR32

103

AUCTIONS

CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of ESPERANZA O. HERRERA, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 15, 2025, to ABIGAIL S. HERRERA, whose address is 422 2nd Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, with the Clerk must be

Jack Kerns Estate / Construction Equipment -

LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION

SATURDAY • May 31, 2025

Starting @ 9:30 am (RAIN OR SHINE!)

Building Space Available for Inside Auction if Needed!

Online items will start at 11:30

319 SOUTH WOODLAWN ROAD, CRESTON IL 60113

at Mike Kerns Construction Shop!

2006 GMC 2500 DURAMAX DIESEL OUTLAW ED. 4 DOOR 151,000

MILES, 5TH WHEEL CAMPER, 2 SLIDEOUTS, SUPER CLEAN, NEW

HOLLAND LS160 SKID LOADER W/2536HRS., G3 TALON 17 DLX

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LAWN TRACTOR WITH TILLERS, E-Z GO GAS GOLF CART, CON-

STRUCTION TRAILERS, SNOW PLOWS, CONTRUCTIONS TOOL RIDING LAWNMOWERS, SHOP AND WOODWORKING EQUIP

MENT, VERY CLEAN BEDROOM SETS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!

THIS IS A GREAT AUCTION WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!

Auctioneers Note: Prepare to possibly be in 2 rings as there

is a LARGE offering of equipment and tools Bring a Friend!

Terms: 5% BUYERS PREMIUM FOR ONLINE PURCHASES ONLY,

Cash or good check, Master Card / Visa. Proper ID required for reg-

istration. No property removed until settled for. Not responsible for

Guest Consigner: MIKE KERNS

Pictures at: **Prestegaardauctions.com**

Online Auction at: **Espeauctions.com**

Joel Prestegaard - Lee, IL - 815-761-7426

Matt Hart - Scarboro, IL - 815-757-4722

Mike Espe - Elburn IL - 630-669-2667

Real Estate Auction

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

Auction Held On Site - Live Only

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

This Ranch home has approx. 800 sq ft. It has 3 bedrooms, 1 full

bath and Kitchen. The home is situated on a large lot (56x132')

with the back yard fenced in. furnace was updated a few years back, as well as the electrical service meter base and service

updating, however it is a very solid home. If you are looking for a

project that has tons of potential, look no further, this is a home

TERMS: \$5000.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance

Gerald Griffin Estate - Owner

Attorney for the Trust - Paul Chadwick -

Fearer, Nye & Chadwick - Rochelle IL

For more information, Contact:

Auctioneer: John Bearrows – 815-739-9150

with "good bones". This property is located at 316 Ave. "G" in

Rochelle IL The property will be offered in its as-is condition

due on or before July 3rd, 2025. Contact Auctioneer John

entrance. The home is in need of complete remodeling and

items or accidents. All items sold to the best & highest bidder.

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 21, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed

mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been

NYE & FEARER, CHADWICK, Attorneys for ABIGAIL S. HERRE-RA, Executor of the Estate of ESPERANZA O. HERRERA, deceased No. 0519

(May 21, 28 and June 4, 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

105 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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

113 **FINANCIAL**

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

rochellenews-leader.com

AUCTIONS

SUNKO ESTATE BLACKSMITH SHOP COLLECTION ONLINE AUCTION

OPENS: SAT., MAY 24 @ 8 A.M. PREVIEW: SAT. MAY 31-10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. 9249 BEEDE RD., MT. CARROLL, IL 61053 Featuring Richard A. Sunko Extensive Antique Blacksmithing & Woodworking Tools. M&H Armitage Mouse Hole Anvil-Peter Wright Anvils & Others; Forges; Hammers-Tongs-Pinchers; Swage Block: Anvil Hardies & Stakes: Mandrels: Cones: Foot Powered Punch-Vises-Machines: Farm/Blacksmith Post Drills; Boring Machines & Augers; Sterling Power Trip Hammer; Nice Old Stanley Pat. Tools & Planes-Woodworking; Draw Knives & Shaves; Cooper's-Tinsmith-Wheelwright-Carriage; Carpenter's Maple Work Bench; Old Farm Iron; More!

Hack's Auction & Realty Service Greg & Swan Hachmeister, Auctioneer ecatonica, IL 815-239-1436 www.hacksauction.com

203



Healthcare Team

Medical Technologists:

Mail CV to: **Denise Bauer Chief Human Resources Officer Rochelle Community Hospital** 900 N. Second Street



119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A issued a permit. Your childcare facility that is Hometown Newspaper licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family

strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility Services may publish before placing a child in advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE



Air Conditioners Dehumidifiers

815-262-3900

ANTIQUES

301

203 **HELP WANTED**

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

Multimedia Sales Consultant

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

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

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

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

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

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

Multimedia Sales Position

Rochelle News-Leader ATTN: Will McMacken P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068 or email to bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com ANTIQUES WANTED I pay cash for antiques; glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@ hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

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

without any contingencies.

Bearrows for more information.

AUCTIONEER: John Bearrows, Rochelle, IL (815) 739-9150

I.A.F.L. #44000128 **HELP WANTED**

Now Hiring

Requirements: Possession of Bachelor Degree in Medical Technology, Medical Laboratory Science, or foreign equivalent.; ASCP eligible or equivalent.

Rochelle, IL 61068





Franklin Center

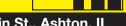
Class of 2025





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Real Estate



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Lori Patterson Designated Managing Broker/Owner



O: (815) 562-7<u>61</u>7 C: (815) 751-0510 ☑ loripatterson22@gmail.com

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beveragefamilyfh.com

Ask for Details **Payment Plan Options** Free Caskets for Funerals or

Free Urns for Cremations for All Veterans

601 Richardson Ave 104 Terry Street Sandwich Ashton

815-786-6715



Congratulations to the AFC Class of 2025!







Barrett Becker



Nathan Becker



Brooke Burger



Connor Burkhart



Leah Cochrane



Mallory Coffman



Audree Dorn



Caitlin Evans



Logan Frady



Gracie Frohn



Ryan Garcia



Helena Heinrich



Madison Hoff



Gracee Holmgren



Atticus Horner



Kaelynn Larson



Brock Lehman



Aaron Lester



Hailey Mallette



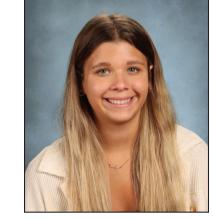
Rowdy Miller



Tori Miller



Donivan Myler



Nadia Near



Logan O'Brien



Ben Rockwood



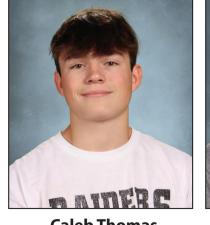
Nolan Rueff



Jersey Sprague



Sofie Suter



Caleb Thomas



Ian Untz



Ayden Willstead



Camryn Winterland









We are Proud of our **Graduating Students!** Congratulations, Raiders! Ashton-Franklin Center Jr/Sr High School 611 Western Ave., Ashton, IL 61006 815-453-7461 | Malinda Hurt, Principal Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School 217 South Elm, Franklin Grove, IL 61031 815-456-2325 | Jenah Burkitt, Principal



AFC NEWS















AFCJSHS hosts annual Honors Night

On May 7, Ashton-Franklin Center Junior/Senior High School celebrated the achievements of their students at the annual Honors Night program. With over 25 presenters and 52 scholarships presented, it was a successful night to recognize the achievements of AFC students. (Courtesy photos)

Congratulations to the class of 2025!!



Let the adventure begin!



Rochelle | New Milford | Creston | Byron Where Relationships Matter www.holcomb.bank

FDIC (

Sawlsville named to SNHU spring 2025 Dean's List

MANCHESTER,

N.H. — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates

on being named to the Full-time undergraduate List. Full-time status is Spring 2025 Dean's List: McKenna Sawlsville of

Ashton. the following students from January to May.. are named to the Dean's ter/spring, and summer.

students who have earned achieved by earning 12 a minimum grade-point credits over each 16-week average of 3.500 to 3.699 term or paired 8-week The spring terms run for the reporting term terms grouped in fall, win-

McPheron named Rockford University Spring 2025 Distinguished Scholar

ROCKFORD — The following full-time (12 or more credits) students at-

tending Rockford University were named Distinguished Scholars for the Spring 2025

semester, earning at least a all requirements for the se-3.75 with no grades below "C" and having completed

mester: Mitchell McPheron of Ashton.

Best of luck grads!

COMMUNITY MATTERS





Ashton-Franklin Center Jr/Sr High School 611 Western Ave., Ashton, IL 61006 815-453-7461 | Malinda Hurt, Principal

Learn * Grow * Thrive

Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School 217 South Elm, Franklin Grove, IL 61031 815-456-2325 | Jenah Burkitt, Principal

Electricians

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

<u>Funeral Home</u>

Beverage Lyons Funeral Home

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

Real Estate

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

Schools

Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD #275

611 Western Ave., Ashton 815-453-7461



Call 815-456-7036 for a free quote or to schedule service today!

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SPORTS

Forge Wrestling Club





Several Rochelle-area athletes were on the mat for the 2025 Illinois Greco-Roman and Freestyle State Championships, which were held at Oak Forest High School and DeKalb High School. Kaiden Morris (left) and Nehemiah Andronic (right) were among the area wrestlers to earn state championships with the Forge Wrestling Club.

Rochelle-area athletes shine at state tournaments Local wrestlers bring home state championships in freestyle, greco-roman events

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS FOITOR

OAKFOREST—Several Rochelle-area wrestlers took the mat for the 2025 Illinois Greco Roman State Championships at Oak Forest High School on

Saturday, April 19. Among the athletes competing were Kaiden Morris, Nehemiah Andronic, Eoghan Good, Elias Andronic and Raya Windham, who all earned state championships representing the Rochelle Wrestling Club.

Kaiden Morris went 5-0 to finish first in the USA Junior 215 Division, scoring four technical falls and one fall. Morris opened the tournament with an 8-0 technical fall over RTC's Teigen Moreno before notching a 9-0 technical fall over

Normal West's Daniel Bourbulas and a 10-0 technical fall over Patton Trained's Chason Daly. Morris scored an 11-1 technical fall over Justin Powers and clinched his state championship with a fall over Frankfort Gladiators wrestler Logan Biggs.

Nehemiah Andronic went 3-0 in the 10U 84 Division, earning three technical falls to clinch his state title. Andronic scored an 8-0 technical fall over ISI's Rys Tijerina before securing a 12-0 technical fall over Lake Zurich's Declan Potempa and a 9-0 technical fall over Alexander Cid.

Eoghan Good clinched the 10U 56 Division crown with a 10-2 technical fall over Anya Rossi. Elias Andronic went 2-0 in the 8U 62 Division for his state championship, scoring a

8-0 technical fall over nWo Wrestling's Bodhi Volpi and an 8-0 technical fall over PSF's Jaxon St. Angelo. Raya Windham defeated War Dog Training's Courtney Serafin for the Girls 95-112 Division title.

Teddy Millard took third in the 14U 80 Division with a 1-2 record, notching a 16-7 technical fall over PSF's Caden St. Angelo. Wells Millard took third in the 10U 63 Division with a 2-1 record, notching 8-0 technical falls over Notre Dame's AJ Marti and Fox Lake's Ryan Campos.

Freddie Hernandez finished fourth in the USA Junior 120 Division with a 2-2 record, scoring a 4-2 decision over Jonathan Marquez and a FF from Evan Mishels. Josh Lassiter finished fourth in the 16U 150 Division with a 3-3 record, earning 9-0 technical falls over nWo's Isaiah Martinez and Joliet Central's Caleb Dennis before recording a fall over Suplex's Imran Boziev.

Non-placing wrestlers representing the RWC were Grant Cole (12U 82 Division), Benjamin Morris (14U 175 Division), AJ Milan (16U 120 Division), Hadley Losoya (16U 138 Division), Jacksyn Windham (16U 215 Division), Brandin Kirk (16U 165 Division), Tyler Etes (16U 175 Division) and Keagan Albers (USA Junior 132 Division).

Freestyle State

Multiple Rochelle-area wrestlers were on the mat for the 2025 Illinois Freestyle State Championships at DeKalb High School on May 4. Among the athletes competing were Nehemiah Andronic, Elias Andronic and Raya Windham, who all earned state championships representing the Rochelle Wrestling Club. With his state title, Elias Andronic clinched a triple crown as a state champion in IKWF as well as USA Wrestling freestyle and greco events.

Nehemiah Andronic went 4-0 in the Boys 10U 84 Division to earn his state championship. Andronic scored 10-0 technical falls over Will County's Max Casillas and Lemont's Tyler Wirth before outlasting Toss Em Up's Alex Cid for a 10-7 decision. Andronic clinched his state title with a fall over Lake Zurich Cubs Wrestling Club's Declan Potempa at the 1:08 mark.

Elias Andronic won the Boys 8U 62 Division championship with a 4-0 record. Andronic scored a 12-1 technical fall over Tiger Town's Kye Dauber and PSF Wrestling's Jaxon St. Angelo before earning an 11-0 technical fall over Fox Lake's Corbin Spiniolas. Andronic sealed his triple crown and his freestyle state championship with a fall over Fit & Fight Gym's Skilur Arkaev at 1:12.

Non-placing wrestlers representing the RWC were Grant Cole (Boys 12U 82 Division), Teddy Millard (Boys 14U 80 Division), Hadley Losoya (Boys 16U 138 Division), Brandin Kirk (Boys 16U 165 Division), Tyler Etes (Boys 16U 175 Division) and Jacksyn Windham (Boys 16U 215 Division).

RTHS Softball

Lady Hubs sweep doubleheader against Ashton-Franklin Center Rochelle improves to 9-9 in nonconference games after two victories on Saturday BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

ASHTON — Success in the pitcher's circle fueled the Rochelle Lady Hubs during their nonconference varsity doubleheader against Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday morning.

Senior Lauren Dyer fired a two-hit shutout during the opener, striking out 10 batters as the Lady Hubs cruised for a 10-0 win over the Lady Raiders. Rochelle sent a trio of pitchers into the circle in the finale, which the Lady Hubs claimed 17-9 to sweep the doubleheader at AFC. Freshmen Cheyenne Somers and Mya Martinez combined to record six strikeouts over

the first four and two-thirds innings, while Dyer added four strikeouts over the final two and one-third innings.

the opener, finishing 2 for 3 with two singles and two RBIs. Sophomore Camryn Metzger spearheaded the charge in the finale, finishing 2 for 6 with two triples and five RBIs for the Lady Hubs (9-19, 0-10 Interstate 8). Rochelle will resume nonconference action with a road game against Plano at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.

Game 1

Junior Madigan Williams smacked a lead-off single

and scored on an RBI single from Camryn Metzger to give Rochelle a 1-0 advantage in the top of the first Sophomore Jaclynn Lira inning. The Lady Hubs took led the Rochelle offense in advantage of two errors in the top of the third inning, where Rochelle tallied three runs to take a 4-0 lead. Sophomore Alexa Soto slapped an RBI infield single to cap off the three-run frame.

> Back-to-back walks preceded a pair of Ashton-Franklin Center miscues in the top of the fifth inning, where the Lady Hubs scored five runs to surge ahead 9-0. Jaclynn Lira's RBI single to center field highlighted the five-run inning for the Lady Hubs, who tacked on their 10th run of the game on an

RBI single from Lauren Dyer Franklin Center to earn two in the top of the seventh inning. The Lady Raiders put two runners on in the bot-Rochelle win.

Game 2 Cheyenne Somers started in the circle for the Lady Hubs, throwing three innings and striking out four batters with two walks and three hits allowed. Rochelle took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, where Lauren Dyer belted a one-out triple and sophomore Briel Metzger sent an RBI single into right field to cap off the frame. A dropped third strike and a pair of walks enabled Ashtonruns back and make the score 3-2 in the bottom of the first.

Rochelle turned a double single and an error led to two runs for the Lady Raiders, who snuck ahead 4-3 after two frames. Rochelle tied the score in the top of the third inning, but the Lady Raiders $responded\,with\,arun\,on\,Leah$ O'Brien's RBI groundout in the bottom of the third inning. With Rochelle trailing 5-4, Camryn Metzger smashed a bases-clearing, three-RBI triple to right field to give the Lady Hubs the lead.

Dyer's line drive RBI single to center highlighted a two-run top of the fifth in-

ning, where Rochelle took a 9-5 lead before a quartet of errors in the bottom of the fifth inning allowed AFC to tom of the seventh inning, playondefense in the bottom score four runs and even the but a strikeout clinched the of the second inning, but a score at 9-9. Junior Addison Bingham came through for the Lady Hubs in the top of the sixth inning, shooting an RBI single into center to put Rochelle ahead by one.

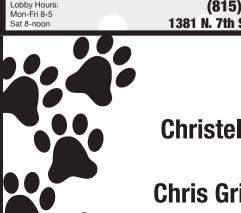
> After holding AFC scoreless in the bottom of the sixth inning, the Lady Hubs blew the game open in the top of the seventh inning, where Rochelle tallied seven runs on four errors and two hits including an RBI triple from Camryn Metzger and an RBI single from Somers, who went 2 for 6 and scored four runs in the win.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT



Rochelle senior Bryan Garcia has signed to continue his academics and his soccer career with Rock Valley College next year. Garcia intends to study psychology.

RTHS senior Garcia to play soccer at Rock Valley College

BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — While his presence may not have always shown up on the stat sheet, Bryan Garcia brought toughness and leadership on defense and in the midfield throughout his four years with the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team. Garcia will look to carry those skills over to the next level after signing to continue his academics and athletics at Rock Valley College next year.

Garcia stepped into a varsity role during his freshman season, earning his first career assist and helping the Hubs win nine matches. Garcia, who plays club soccer for the Rockford Raptors, took on a larger role for the Hubs as a sophomore, scoring his first varsity goal and finishing with two goals and two assists. Rochelle won 11 matches during Garcia's sophomore campaign.

"I chose RVC because overall, they have a very good program," Garcia said. "Their head coach was the one who helped sway my decision. He made RVC sound like a family, not just a team. He showed me around campus and after that day, I knew it was the right place for me. I'm most excited to play with my teammates who I played with during my club season. I believe it'll help me settle down and be more comfortable. I'm looking to bring what I can and work hard."

Garcia scored one goal during his junior season and tacked on a career-high four goals with one assist during his senior season this past fall. Garcia, who intends to study psychology and earn his associate's degree at Rock Valley College, said that stepping into the role of team captain as a senior helped him become a more vocal leader on and off the soccer field.

"Rochelle has helped me prepare to play at the next level by allowing me to be their captain," said Garcia, who intends to play center midfielder or striker for the Rock Valley College team. "This allowed me to learn how to be more vocal and how to be a leader. I was able to improve my confidence at Rochelle because I got to play with my childhood friends and teammates."

Garcia, who was named an Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference Honorable Mention during his senior season, said he aspires to continue his soccer career beyond the junior college level once he completes his associate's degree at Rock Valley College. Garcia is one of three senior soccer players at RTHS who have signed to play at the collegiate level next year. Seniors Fernando Diaz and Alberto Casillas will each be competing at Kishwaukee College next year.

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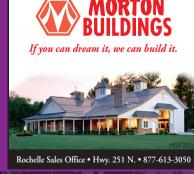
Bryan Garcia



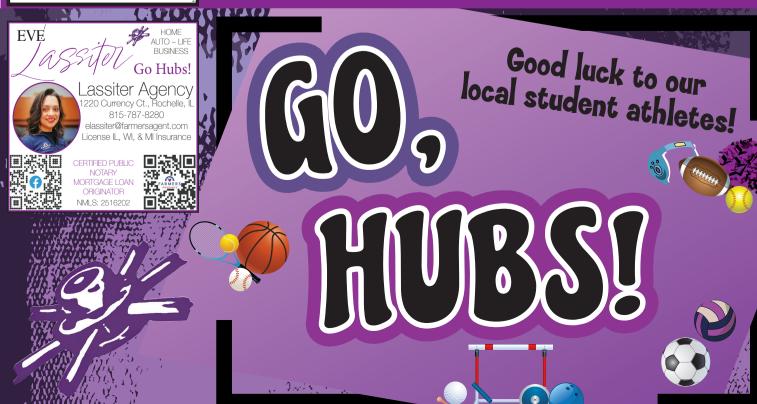


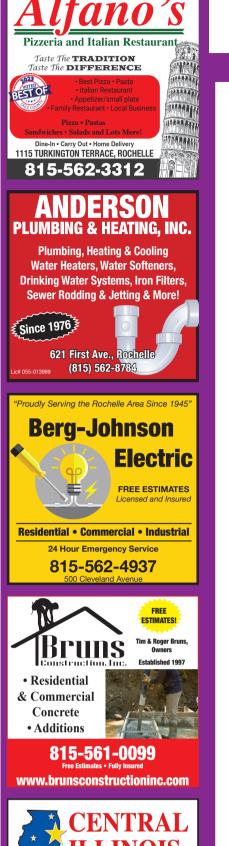












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