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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Prabhakars to celebrate 60 years

John and Esther Prabhakar
will celebrate their 60th
anniversary on June 16.
Page 7

WEATHER



SUNDAY
HIGH LOW
75 57



MONDAY
HIGH LOW
72 54



TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
74 53



WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
81 56

Today's RNL issue
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OBITUARIES

- ROSE M. ISLEY
 - NEDRA COY KNAPP
 - RAYMOND HENRY
 - BLYTHE
 - CHARLES 'LARRY' LAW-
 - RENCE OSBORNE
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- MENARDS

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8 52078 00112 6

Crystal retires after 22 years at RMS 'It was a challenge to figure out how to reach kids. I loved watching them succeed'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—When
her own children were in
grade school, Theresa
Crystal helped out in their
classrooms. That was
when she decided to go
back to school and get a
degree in teaching.

While working on her
degree, Crystal taught
preschool at St. Paul
Lutheran School for two
years before substitute
teaching at Rochelle Mid-
dle School. It was then
that she realized that was
where she belonged. She
retired in May after 22
years at RMS, teaching
math, writing and social
studies.

"I realized that teaching
is a creative endeavor,"
Crystal said. "You need
a lot of energy, which I
have. I like the creativity
that goes into it and the
intellectual side of it. All
of those things drew me
in. I knew I didn't want
to teach little kids. I wanted
to be able to delve into a
topic and field of study.
I remembered what the
classroom was like and
saw what my children
experienced and wanted
to do it."

Crystal started out



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Theresa Crystal retired in May after 22 years at
RMS, teaching math, writing and social studies.**

teaching writing and social studies for her first
10 years at RMS. She was then asked to teach
seventh grade math, which she did for the final 12
years of her tenure. Math had never been Crystal's
favorite subject, and the thought of teaching it
initially made her nervous. She later on found
the challenge and working with students on the
subject to be enjoyable.

"I realize math is intimidating, and I tried my
best to make it approachable and let them know
that I struggled with math, so If I can teach it, they
can learn it," Crystal said. "I get letters from kids
at the end of the year and that's what they say.
'If I didn't get it, you didn't make me feel bad
about it. You just told me we could do it.' That
was really fun. I love to learn myself. Learning
how to teach takes a lot of time and effort. People
can give you a curriculum, but you have to bring
it to the kids and make it approachable."

See RETIREMENT page 2



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village
Board unanimously approved the awarding of a
\$290,734.80 bid to Martin & Company Excavating for
an upcoming storm sewer project.**

\$290,734 bid for storm sewer project approved Tuesday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — At its
monthly meeting Tuesday,
the Creston Village Board
unanimously approved the
awarding of a \$290,734.80
bid to Martin & Company
Excavating for an upcoming
storm sewer project.

The project will consist
of 36-inch storm sewer pipe
being put in to replace bro-
ken drain tile and improve
drainage in Creston. The
storm sewer work will con-
sist of adding pipe on both
sides of the railroad tracks,
but the current phase of it
will not go under the tracks.
The work was suggested due
to issues with stormwater
overflow.

Martin & Company was
the lowest of six bids and
was within eight percent

of the project's estimated
price. Village Engineer
Kevin Bunge said he would
complete the paperwork
Wednesday and that the con-
tractor was "ready to go" to
start work. The project will
likely take around six weeks.
The preliminary storm sew-
er project work involved
securing easements from
property owners in the area
of it. Bunge said about 800
feet of storm sewer pipe will
be put in.

Water

Bunge said during the
meeting that the planned
cleaning and inspection of
Creston's water tower will
start on June 7 unless heavy
rain is seen and doesn't al-
low for work trucks to get
back to the area.

See CRESTON pg 5

Library holds kickoff event for Summer Reading program Outreach Clerk Capes: 'The theme this year is all about games...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Flagg-Rochelle Public
Library kicked off its Summer Reading program
on Wednesday. The theme this year is Level Up
at Your Library. The library has hosted a summer
reading program for over 50 years to offer area kids
a place to go and activities while they're on sum-
mer break from school. You do not need a library
card to participate in summer reading programs.

Wednesday saw a Reading Dragons Kick-Off
Party for all ages. Attendees learned about the
library's Summer Reading Dragons program
while doing fun dragon-themed activities. Kids
learned how to play the card game, and took home
a starter deck of cards and a deck box to keep
them organized. Children earn dragon cards by
reading books and can use them to play against
their friends.

"It's free and the kids are loving collecting the
dragon cards," Library Outreach Clerk Ashley
Capes said. "They read for 30-minute intervals
and bring a tracker back and they can collect all
kinds of cards. We have had a pleasantly-surprising
large turnout, which is good. I think the kids had
a little break of school and they're ready to get
into some free activities here at the library. The
theme this year is all about games, gaming, video
games, board games, coding and robotics. We have
a lot of fun game-themed programs coming up
and a lot of non game-themed programs coming
up like art classes, theater classes, and gardening
class. We're kind of running the whole gamut of
what we have to offer here free of charge with no
library card needed."

Capes said children continuing to read in the
summer is important so they don't lose reading



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The Flagg-Rochelle Public Library kicked off its Summer Reading program on
Wednesday. The theme this year is Level Up at Your Library.**

comprehension before the fall semester
starts. Parents reading to small children
can also help with that and the library also
has audiobooks available.

Seeing the library full on Wednesday
was enjoyable for Capes, who thanked the
community for its faithful support of the
library, which tries to offer something for
every age and interest group.

"It's great to see overwhelming support
for the things we do here," Capes said.
"Summer reading has changed as kids and
parents' interests have over the years. Kids
are busier than ever during the school years

and the summers. We're really grateful that
the families still take time out to visit the
library. Summer reading is always a lot of
work for our staff, but it's always a lot of
fun. Some of our older kids that have gone
through our summer reading programs
are now back to help and volunteer and I
love seeing that."

Capes spoke about the importance of
a fun, safe environment for children and
families to visit during the summer that's
free of charge and educational.

See SUMMER PROGRAM page 3



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FDIC

LOCAL NEWS



In February, Theresa Crystal was recognized as part of the "Those Who Excel" teacher recognition program through the Illinois State Board of Education. Crystal started out teaching writing and social studies for her first 10 years at RMS. She was then asked to teach seventh grade math, which she did for the final 12 years of her tenure.

RETIREMENT: Crystal reflects on 22-year career at Rochelle Middle School

From page 1

In February, Crystal was recognized as part of the "Those Who Excel" teacher recognition program through the Illinois State Board of Education. The "Those Who Excel" program acknowledges educators who have excelled in their craft as an educator and also made a positive impact on the school community as a whole through their ongoing efforts on behalf of students.

Crystal enjoyed the "high-energy atmosphere"

of teaching middle schoolers. She said it takes a sense of humor and a willingness to connect to be a successful middle school teacher. She did her best to relate to students and tried to always know what music and trends they were interested in.

Living in the community along with teaching in it for the past 22 years, Crystal has seen her students come through RMS and grow up around Rochelle. She enjoys seeing people around town and hearing how they turned out and what they're up to. She's

grateful she got to play a small part in it.

Crystal said her most memorable experiences involved helping kids who were struggling, either in or out of the classroom. She comes from an inner-city family with limited means and left home to join the United States Army at age 18. She shared her experiences with students.

"I had a struggle story myself, so I was able to share that and help kids realize that they can get past it and do better," Crystal said. "You tell them they have the ability and

to believe in themselves. Getting these letters from kids, you realize that you have had an impact. You're not just teaching math. I try to teach kids to find and have discipline and grit. My motto in the classroom is you need grit to get through life. I talked a lot about building character qualities that will help them. Kids don't always have parents that guide them. That comes from my military experience. I guess I use myself as a story. It doesn't matter where you come from. You can have a good life. You

can find something you love to do. I tried to talk to kids at that age and get them thinking about their future. Because it comes pretty fast."

Crystal said the decision to retire wasn't an easy one for her, because she's leaving something she loves. In retirement she plans to spend time with family and travel, including with a new travel club through Rochelle Township High School she started that will travel to Europe next summer.

The last day of school for Crystal wasn't easy.

She said goodbye to students and staff and the classroom she's called home from the past 12 years. She believes it will be strange to not return to RMS in the fall.

"It's hard to separate from something you enjoy, but it was time to move on," Crystal said. "I enjoyed my job because of the relationships with the kids. You get to know kids and how you can speak into their lives. Teaching math was a joy. It was a challenge to figure out how to reach kids. I loved watching them succeed."



(COURTESY PHOTOS)



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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sinnissippi Centers' opened the agency's newest office on May 12. The new Byron office is located at 212 W. Blackhawk Drive.

Sinnissippi Centers opens Byron office

BYRON — Sinnissippi Centers' opened the agency's newest office on May 12. The new Byron office is located at 212 W. Blackhawk Drive.

"This is Sinnissippi Centers' third office in Ogle County," says Sinnissippi Centers' president/CEO Stacie Kemp. "The demand for services in Ogle County and the lack of ability to expand at the existing Oregon and Rochelle offices helped lead to the decision to open a third office and to locate it in Byron," says Kemp. "We already had a number of Sinnissippi clients in Byron and having a location in the Byron area will contribute to their quality of life and quality of care," adds Kemp.

Sinnissippi Centers' Byron office is a full-service location offering outpatient treatment for mental illness and substance use. Lynnsey Worrell, LPC, is the Byron Office Supervisor and oversees all clinical operations there. "We have five employees right now working in the office," says Worrell. "We provide services to adults, children, and adolescents. Our services include outpatient substance use treatment, individual mental health therapy, family therapy, psychiatric services, anger management, domestic violence intervention prevention, and many more,"

adds Worrell. Support for this expansion of services was provided by the Ogle County 708 Board.

Ogle County is not the only area seeing an increase in services in the past few years. The increased demand for services has been evident across the agency's entire service area. While that started during the COVID-19 pandemic, the heightened demand has remained to the present time.

Location information about the Byron office, and all Sinnissippi Centers' office locations, is on our website at www.sinnissippi.org by clicking the "Locations" tab at the top of the page.

Sinnissippi Centers is a behavioral healthcare agency serving Carroll, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties and provides a wide array of behavioral healthcare treatment and support services.

For more information about programs and services, call Sinnissippi toll-free at 800-242-7642. Sinnissippi has office locations in Byron, Dixon, Freeport, Mt. Carroll, Oregon, Rochelle, and Sterling.

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SCAN ME

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Wednesday saw a Reading Dragons Kick-Off Party for all ages. Attendees learned about the library's Summer Reading Dragons program while doing fun dragon-themed activities. Kids learned how to play the card game, and took home a starter deck of cards and a deck box to keep them organized.

SUMMER PROGRAM: Theme for this year is 'Level Up at Your Library'

From page 1

The library recently unveiled its new sensory tools it purchased with a grant from the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, which were a hit with kids on Wednesday.

We also have some other sensory and reading toys coming out later in the summer," Capes said. "We're again offering our Book Bucks program where kids can win prizes by reading. The Reading Dragons kick off was exciting for me. I've been working for the past six months on getting this program ready and I was just excited to share it with the kids and the families. We even have parents wanting to do Reading Dragons for

themselves. Anything that will get kids and people to read more is a great idea."

Programs

Summer Reading programs for all ages include Coloring Club every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m., Gamer Thursdays the first Thursday of every month from 4-6 p.m., Outdoor Movie Nights on June 13 and July 11, and Library Lego Club the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The library will have Outdoor Games with the Park District on June 16 at 10 a.m.

There will be a Youth Talent Show on June 26 from 5-7 p.m. open to all youth up to age 18.

Youth and family programs include Story time

on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:15 a.m. for young readers up to age seven accompanied by a caregiver. The 4-C Play and Learn Group will meet the first and third Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. for kids birth-five.

For tweens, the library will host a Pokemon Fan Club on the second and fourth Monday of June and July from 11 a.m. to noon. The Rochelle Green Thumbs 4-H Club will meet to learn about vegetables and gardening on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. March-August for ages 8-18 years. Elementary and middle school kids can learn to Put on a Play in 90 minutes on June

16 1-2:30 p.m. (advance registration required).

A Star Weaving Ornaments event will take place July 14 at 10:30 a.m. for ages eight and up (advance registration required). There will be a Musical Theatre Dance event on June 18 from 10-11 a.m. The free class requires advance registration and is aimed towards participants in first through fifth grades.

Activities for teens include Art & Chill on the second and fourth Tuesdays of June, July and August from 4-5 p.m. A Teen Trivia Night will be held on July 16 at 5 p.m. There will be prizes for first and second place and teams can be signed up by emailing ashley@

flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org. The Summer Thrill Teen Book Club will meet on June 26 and July 31 to discuss titles for each month. The designated books for the club are now available at the library.

Teens can perform a Play in 90 Minutes on July 14 from 1-2:30 p.m. The library will also host its first Theatre Camp from July 7-12 from 1-4 p.m. each day for kids in grades 6-12.

The camp is free and participants get a week of singing, dancing and acting culminating in a final performance. Contact the library to sign up.

The library will also have summer reading programs for adults. Home Grown Healthy is a 10-week free program on

Tuesdays 10-11 a.m. starting June 3. Participants can learn to grow a garden and try new foods made with garden produce. The library will host an Adult Art Workshop on June 25 at 6 p.m. on flower hammering. Advance registration required. Another workshop will be held on July 29 at 6 p.m. on Designing with Denim (advance registration required). Adult Morning Book Club will meet the last Wednesday of each month at 10:15 a.m.

The library will host an End of Summer Reading Foam Party at noon on Aug. 1. To sign up for any program or if you have questions, you can call the library at 815-562-3431 or email ashley@flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org

Kish College pinning ceremony welcomes 12 new Radiologic Technologists

MALTA — Kishwaukee College Radiologic Technology students were honored during a pinning ceremony on Thursday, May 15, at the College. Kish recognized 12 students for completing the Radiologic Technology program and presented each graduate with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony.

The Radiologic Technology graduates of Spring 2025 are Faith Allen, Brandon Foley, Nicole Foerster, Jessica Gomez, Tyler Huntsha, Nathan Jackson, Bryanne Meszaros, Samuel Murdock, Claire Potter, Lizbeth Ruiz, Payton Runyan and Alex Torres.

Class Representative Brandon Foley delivered the student address, thanking the Kish faculty and staff for helping the class meet its goals.

"Everyone was very patient with us as we learned and were more

than willing to give us any tips, tricks or knowledge they have amassed over their careers. We can be very hard on ourselves as students, and your encouragement means the world to us," Foley said.

The ceremony included remarks from Barbara Leach, vice president of Instruction; Amy Anthenat, assistant professor of Radiologic Technology; Lori Damask, radiologic technology clinical preceptor; and Megan Kasigy, Radiologic Technology program director. Kasigy reminded the graduates to maintain a lifelong learning mindset as they embark on their careers.

"You will continue to learn from every patient. Each chest X-ray is unique. Each trauma will challenge you and teach you something new. Your new coworkers will be filled with knowledge, experience, tips and insight. Remember that ev-

ery person in the hospital — from doctors to X-ray techs to the janitors — is on the same team with one mission — to deliver the best care possible for each and every patient," Kasigy said.

During the ceremony, each graduate was pinned by a friend or family member who supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

Kish's Radiologic Technology program prepares students to become licensed radiologic technologists. Learn more at kish.edu/radtech.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kishwaukee College Radiologic Technology graduates pose for a photo at Kish's Spring 2025 Radiologic Technology Pinning Ceremony. Graduates were presented with a pin by their family and friends during the ceremony.

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beans, a salad and desert

Porkchop or Hotdog
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REMAINING DATES

June 14th

July 12th

Aug 9th

Sept 13th

Oct 11th

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Rose M. Isley

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Rose M. Isley has passed away in her home on October 22, 2024 after her fight with 2 forms of blood cancer. She was born on August 27, 1953 in Moline, IL, to Anton (Tony/Teke) and Joann Kozelichki. Rose is now with her late husband Paul D. Isley Jr. of 50 years of marriage and is with both of her parents.

Rose worked at Caron International for 18 years. Then recently retired from Brynes Sales Assoc. (BSA) for 35 years of service as a customer service rep.

Rose is originally from Roscoe, Illinois and moved to Lexington, South Carolina in 2010. Rose enjoyed going on motorcycle rides with her husband Paul. She loved going on vacations with friends and family, a lot of trips were done with Paul's brothers and wives Jim (Diane) Isley of Tennessee and Bob (Kathy

Spieser) Isley of Ohio. She adored spending time and spoiling her grandboys. She was always a life of the party and loved hanging out with family and friends. To know Rose she always spoke her mind and never mixed words especially with her girls.

Survivors include: her two daughters, but a mom to so many others: daughters Michelle Jensen (Jeff Schell) of Georgia and Melanie (Greg) Schepmann of South Carolina. A grandmother of 3 and to thousands if you include all the wrestlers, football players, and baseball players, her 3 grandchildren Jordan (Alexis) Jensen of Illinois, Xander Schnake of Illinois and Loudon Schnake of Georgia. Her dedication in volunteering to help support the boys meets and games was out of this world. Also Roses siblings Terri (Touie) White



of Illinois, Patty (Ken) Boehle of Illinois, Joe (Judy) Kozelichki of Iowa, Marie (Andy) of Illinois, Trudy Dvorak (Mike Anning) of Illinois, MANY of nieces and nephews everywhere. She had many god children Matthew Boehle, Christine Wolf, and Zack Kozelichki.

Although Rose will be missed by ALL we are so GRATEFUL to know her and to love her. As she loved Y'all! We so are thankful that her body is free from pain! And God bless!!

Rose's Celebration of Life: Sunday June 15, 2025 from 12-3 p.m. The Celebration of Life will be held at V.F.W. of Roscoe, 11385 2nd St. Roscoe, IL 61073

Charles 'Larry' Lawrence Osborne

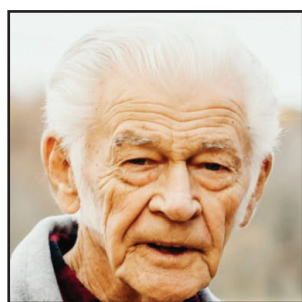
FRANKLIN GROVE

— Charles "Larry" Lawrence Osborne, 82, passed away peacefully Thursday, June 5, 2025 at his home surrounded by his family in Franklin Grove, Illinois. Larry was born on April 4, 1943 to Glenn and Mary Ellen (Grubb) Osborne in Rochelle, IL. He served with the United States Army from 1965 to 1967. On June 23, 1994, he married Billie Sage at the Lighthouse Church in Oregon, IL.

Larry was a wonderful son, husband, father, papa and great papa Charlie. In his mother's last years, he cared for her with such compassion, patience and understanding. Larry loved the outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed working in the yard. Woodworking and tinkering with motors was

another favorite pastime.

Larry is survived by his wife, Billie of Franklin Grove, IL; four children: Tanya Sage of Rochelle, IL, Susann (Jorge) De La Torre of Monroe Center, IL, Samantha Sage of Dixon, IL and Brian (Marc) Sage of Steward, IL; brother, Wayne (Judy) Osborne of Rochelle, IL; six grandchildren: Lyndsey (James) O'Brien, Devan (Taylor) Hayward, Kyrnn Hayward, Kalon (Jake) McKnight, Trevor Owen and Gracin Sage; 12 great grandchildren: Kelise, Dyandre and Jett O'Brien, Kenlee and Kaiyah Hayward, Eaden Hayward, Moxie, Huxley, Rexlynn and Dax McKnight and Gavin and Bryson Owen; and many special people: Rick (Sue) Sage, Dawn Sage, Terri (Bobby) Reynosa, Chrissy Pickle, Mary (Lester) Davis, Can-



dy Cook, Denise (Charlie) Becker and Richard Osborne.

In addition to his parents, Larry is preceded in death by his brother, Richard Osborne and his great granddaughter, Leighton O'Brien.

There will be private family services on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Visit www.ung-erhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Nedra Coy Knapp

ROCHELLE — Nedra was 88 when she passed away on Friday, May 30, 2025, at Manor Court of Rochelle, Illinois.

Nedra was born on May 5, 1937 in Rochelle, the daughter of Rex and Fern (Beardin) Casey, who preceded her in death along with her husbands, Melvin Lawson and Robert Knapp, and her friend, Kenny Hill.

Nedra is survived by her brothers: Guy Casey and Barry (Phyllis) Casey; five daughters and a stepdaughter: Pamela Burson, Kathy (Daniel) Zeivel, Teresa (John) Darlak, Becky (Michael) Rogers, Margaret (William) Wethington and Kathy (Philip) Kuhmichel; 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Nedra graduated from Ashton High School in 1955. She married Melvin Lawson on May 31, 1955. They raised their five daughters on a farm in Ashton. Nedra married Robert Knapp on March 18, 1978, and lived in Rochelle. Nedra enjoyed flower

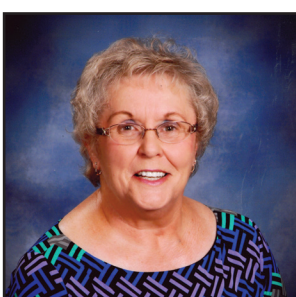
gardening, reading, and cooking for her large family. She crocheted, quilted, and enjoyed making flower arrangements. These talents blessed her family and friends. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were gifted blankets and quilts from Nedra's loving hands. Nedra touched many lives while serving at church, tutoring school-age children and driving friends to appointments.

Nedra had a variety of jobs throughout her life. She worked at Del Monte, Caron Yarn, Wal Mart, Sullivan's, Colonial Flower Shop, and waitressing at Mattered's Supper Club.

Nedra's life was all about family, faith, and friendships.

The family would like to thank Liberty Village and Unity Hospice for their care of our mother. We were all touched by your kindness.

There will be a visitation on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St.



Rochelle, IL, 61068, from 5:00-7:00 P.M. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday June 14, 2025, at Faith Lutheran Church, 14206 E. Flag Road, Rochelle, IL 61068 with Pastor Joy Alsop officiating. There will be an additional visitation from 10:00-11:00 A.M. at the church prior to the funeral service. A luncheon will be served immediately following the service at the church. Cremation care will follow the service. Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Nedra requested that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Visit www.ung-erhorner.com to sign the online guest book.



Pastor Lance Mennen officiating. Burial will follow the service at Steward Cemetery in Steward, IL with military honors provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard and the Marine Honor Guard. Visit www.ung-erhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On May 30 at 6:53 a.m. Rocio S. Mejia was cited for illegal tint. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 7:48 a.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for illegal tint. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 7:59 a.m. Cynthia Lopez, 23, of Rochelle was cited for illegal tint. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 10:33 a.m. Clara C. Silva Cruz, 43, of North Aurora was cited for illegal tint. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 11:10 a.m. Kaylee M. Larson, 26, of Rochelle was cited for illegal tint. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 12:11 p.m. Shane L. Murray, 24, of Rochelle was cited for illegal tint. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 12:36 p.m. Michael A. Adams, 28, of Rochelle was cited for illegal tint. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 12:47 p.m. Leonel Flores-Romero, 41, of Chicago was cited for illegal tint. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 4:23 p.m.

Felipe Pascual-Vasquez, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 5:16 p.m. Amy L. Keener, 42, of Amboy was cited for illegal tint. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 20 Rochelle court date.

On May 30 at 11:50 a.m. Kimberly D. Crisp, 59, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On May 30 at 9:37 p.m. Santiago Montes-Alvarez, 36, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On June 1 at 3:50 p.m. Madison L. Steder, 18, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On June 2 at 6:06 p.m. Demeya Gillespie, 30, of Rochelle was arrested on an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On June 2 at 6:44 p.m. Demetrius Barnes, 53, of St. Louis was arrested on a St. Clair County warrant. He paid \$300 and was released.

On May 31 at 9:17 a.m. Guadalupe Morales Cacique, 31, of Ashton was cited for obstructed front windshield. She signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On May 31 at 7:41 a.m. Susana Campa Gonzalez, 32, of Franklin Grove was cited for obstructed front windshield and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On May 31 at 6:57 a.m. Ralph White III, 66, of Rochelle was cited for obstructed front windshield. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 Demeya Gillespie, 30, of Rochelle was arrested for theft. She was released on a notice to appear with a June 27 Ogle County court date.

On May 31 at 3:27 p.m. Erick Sepulveda, 29, of Rochelle was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 11:36 a.m. Lucia Drager, 39, of Elburn was cited for speeding 95 in a 70 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 11:16 a.m. Courtney Cole, 46, of Forest Park was cited for speeding 88 in a 70 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 10:34 a.m. Darius Sanders, 40, of Chicago was cited for speeding 92 in a 70 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 8:59 a.m. Maxwell Polan, 38, of Winnetka was cited for expired registration and speeding 92 in a 70 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 1 at 9:23 p.m. Harold Jenkins, 78, of Bellwood was cited for improper turn at intersection. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 9:37 p.m. Jesus Martinez, 20, of Rochelle was cited for violation of license class first and second division. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 11 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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(815) 562-4171

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LOCAL NEWS

CRESTON: Village board discusses potential future projects at Tuesday meeting

From page 1

Back in December, the board unanimously approved a proposal from KLM Engineering for \$16,836 to complete the work by July 1 in an effort to help alleviate rust issues that village residents have been seeing. Bunge also said Tuesday he is working on plans for a water main project to attempt to alleviate rust issues in the village that would include upsizing four-inch mains, shutoff valve work and hydrant work including removing dead-end lines. The work would likely be the first phase of a multi-phase project. Bunge has theorized in the past that rust issues are likely due to four-inch mains with not enough capacity.

Byro

To close the meeting, Village President Tom Byro brought up two projects he would like the village to start work on in the future. The first was potentially updating the sign outside of Village Hall to an electric sign, likely similar to but smaller than what the Creston School now has. The sign would include planned village events and messages such as hydrant flushing days. Byro also discussed a currently-vacant and in disrepair home near the village's maintenance shed and expressed a desire to see Creston attempt to purchase and demolish it to build a larger maintenance building to house its trucks and equipment. Village officials resolved to look into approaching the home's owner.

Subdivision

The board heard updates on the progress of the Creston Commons Subdivision, which has been the site of home building and infrastructure improvements over the past year. Trustee Reid Elliot said he's been impressed with the progress on new homes and how clean the area has been. Byro said water lines have been run to the area of Roberts Street for future homes. Byro also said that work will soon begin on street signage in the area, including the stop and yield signs and the signs that say street names, which will involve correcting issues and adhering to federal guidelines.

Appropriations

The board unanimously approved its fiscal year 2025 supplemental appropriations ordinance during the meeting. Village Treasurer Penny Payton said the appropriations ordinance did not see an increase from last year and Tuesday's approval only applied to increases in the following line items: Village Hall internet, telephone and fax; farm taxes; elected official salaries funding; engineering; and sewer flow. "We did a really good job," Payton said. "We didn't have to spend any more money. We just had to move money around."

The meeting saw new trustee Justin Hibshman sworn in following his victory in the April 1 election. Hibshman takes the seat of Steve Katzman, who did not run for re-election.

Hibshman

The meeting saw new trustee Justin Hibshman sworn in following his victory in the April 1 election. Hibshman takes the seat of Steve Katzman, who did not run for re-election. Hibshman will hold a four-year term.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL VIEWS

Partnering & supporting for success

As your city manager, my role is to serve as the chief administrative officer for Rochelle. My responsibilities include overseeing the day-to-day operations of the city and ensuring that policies set by the mayor and city council are implemented impartially and effectively. My position can best be described as a critical bridge between city staff, residents, and our elected leadership, fostering collaboration and alignment to enhance the quality of life in our community. Supporting our staff

is a central part of my responsibilities. I work to create a positive and supportive environment where employees are empowered to perform at their best. This includes providing clear direction, encouraging professional development, and promoting innovation and teamwork. I ensure that departments are properly resourced and guided, and I help staff remain focused on delivering high-quality public services that reflect the goals of the community and the vision of the city council. Engaging with resi-

dents is equally important. I strive to maintain open lines of communication with the public, listening to their concerns, responding to their needs, and building trust through transparency and accountability. Whether through public meetings, speaking at and attending community events, or direct outreach, I work to ensure that city government remains accessible and responsive to Rochelle residents. By fostering strong relation-

ships with residents, I am confident that I can better understand their priorities and concerns and help tailor city initiatives to meet the evolving needs of the community. In supporting elected officials, I provide them with accurate and timely information to help them make informed decisions. I offer professional, unbiased recommendations while respecting their role in setting policy. I coordinate the implementation of council directives and



Jeff Fiegenschuh

manage strategic planning processes that align with their long-term goals. By maintaining a strong, cooperative relationship with the city council, I help ensure cohesive leadership and effective governance. Ultimately, my role as city manager is to be a steward of the community's vision, mission and values. As your chief appointed official, I am dedicated to continuous improvement, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning that promotes sustainable growth, equity, and community

well-being. By aligning the efforts of staff, responding to residents, and supporting elected officials, I help create a city that is safe, vibrant, and welcoming—a place where people are proud to live, work, and thrive. “We rise by lifting others”—Robert G. Ingersoll. “In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.”—Flora Edwards. *Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, MPA, ICMA-CM, is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.*

Ron Kern: More corn and bean acres planted

JUST saw the USDA expected plantings report and it looks like Illinois producers are moving toward more corn acres planted in 2025. Numbers look for corn acres to be up around five percent and bean acres to be off the same amount. Even with higher input prices per acre for corn I think producers are looking how their crop decisions will be affected by tariffs. Even with low commodity prices for both corn and beans I think producers believe they can still move more corn across the global export market than beans. These tariffs will no doubt paint US farmers as an unreliable source of supply and South America is more than poised to jump at that in the bean market; but not so much in corn. I'd say our farmers are looking to hedge their bet.

With planting season in full gear it may seem like fall harvest is a long way off, and it is, but if you are going to be profitable in today's agriculture you are already looking out to May 2026. So the question today is what will I do with my 2025 crop to attain profitability? Well, we've got just the program to answer that question. The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of June 18; at the Days Inn, Rock Falls. “Managing Crop Revenue and Market Price Risks” is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions to capture profit margins through this year into next. Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension

Farm Management Specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999. He specializes in topics related to government farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing, grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance. Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually he reaches more than 200,000 producers, landowners and

other agribusiness professionals. During the two-hour program producers will examine the following topics: Global Supply/Demand & Crop Price Outlook; Crop Insurance Coverage Review; Impact of Tariffs on US Trade; Developing & Implementing a Marketing Plan; Understanding Summer Weather Forecasts; and Pre-Harvest Marketing Strategies & Tools. This presentation will assist producers in designing and implementing a marketing plan that is specific to their own operation. It will present producers with various options they can effectively utilize to capture market profits, manage market risks in this volatile market, minimize cost increases and make informed decisions on input pricing, storage options and



Ron Kern

position their marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations. Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.com. Program begins at 7 p.m. on June 18; Days Inn, Rock Falls. To close, here's market report you can relate to. Helium was up, feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Fluorescent bulbs dimmed with light trading. Knives were up sharply. Pencils lost a few points. Hiking equipment was trailing. Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline. Light switches were off. Mining equipment hit rock bottom. Diapers re-

mained unchanged. Cruise lines kept at an even keel. Towels dried up and then showered down. Coca Cola fizzled after heavy gains. Caterpillar stock inched up. Balloons were inflated. Batteries exploded after trying to recharge the market. Toilet paper touched bottom. Hogs bogged down in a trough. Cattle trailed off. Chicken flew up to roost at new heights. Eggs cracked up, but then slipped off. Milk was fluid, cheese was firm, and butter churned up and down. Hay rolled up, and then soured in a storm. Corn popped early, but flaked off through the week. Cotton was soft all week. Peanuts, came out of their shell last week, and were boiling this week. Beans went down easy, but then rattled up through the end. *Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.*

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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



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COMMUNITY



Prabhakars to celebrate 60th anniversary
Thanks be to God, John and Esther Prabhakar are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16. Their arranged marriage was held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Palayamkottai, India. They came to the promised land, USA in 1967 and settled in Rochelle in 1974. 58 of the 60 years of their married life was spent in the US, tasting the goodness of God and sharing it with others. Rejoice and pray for them. Cards may be sent to 1801 Squires Landing, Rochelle, IL. 61068. Thanks Rochelle. (Courtesy photos)



- 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
- May 22 - Steve Hill, Rochelle, \$25
- May 23 - Denise Bourgault, \$25
- May 24 - Jean Margheim, Rochelle, \$25
- May 25 - Pedro Anaya, Rochelle, \$50
- May 26 - Deanne Ponto, Rochelle, \$1,000
- May 27 - Matthew Browder, DeKalb, \$25
- May 28 - Karen Fransen, Rochelle, \$25
- May 29 - Lori Erbes, Sublette, \$25
- May 30 - Erick Olson, Rochelle, \$25
- May 31 - Mary Gensler, Rochelle, \$25
- June 1 - Ryne Vrana, Rochelle, \$50
- June 2 - Steve Dilling, Rochelle, \$25
- June 3 - Justin May, Byron, \$25
- June 4 - Janie Hughes, Oregon, \$25
- June 5 - Gary Ohlinger, Rochelle, \$25
- June 6 - Heather Sharp, Roscoe, \$25
- June 7 - Margaret Danek, Kings, \$25
- June 8 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$50

UWSP undergraduates honored for scholastic achievement

STEVENS POINT, Wis.— The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,400 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the spring semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.9 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.5 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

Students who received honors include:

Rochelle: Megan Thompson, Highest Honors.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June 8 Scarlet Jones	June 12 Robby Lang	June 16 John & Carolyn Overstreet (anniversary) Anna Norris	June 25 Chyanne Bozek Cruz Hord Teresa Baker Treavon Huff David & Courtney Jones (anniversary)	June 28 Grace Sherburne Greg Danekas Harold Sanders
June 9 Minnie Losoya Sammy Navejas	June 13 Chrissy Norris Jaelyn Gonzales	June 17 Ellie Sherburne	June 27 Brittany Sullivan Gary & Rachelle Phillips (anniversary)	June 29 Derek Oleson
June 10 Eleanor Kulwicki Tanya Sage	June 14 Nicholas Oleson Gabe Aleman	June 19 Eddie Villalobos		
June 11 Caleb Smith Emmaly Eggenburg	June 15 Brayden Moser	June 22 Betty Armstrong Isaac Bonilla		

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

Coffee Break

MAGIC MAZE

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

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

Astringent
Balanced
Bready
Brilliant

Caramel
Dark red
Full
Grainy

Heavy
Leather
Malty
Pine

Roasted
Smooth
Wispy

BEER FLAVOR DESCRIPTORS

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Super Crossword

Answers:

Across: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is missing from tree. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

Down: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is missing from tree. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

BEER FLAVOR DESCRIPTORS

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Super Crossword

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP

ACROSS

1 "Toosie Slide" rapper
6 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi
11 Mardi Gras city, for short
15 Wine vessel
19 French city
20 Web vending
21 With, in Paris
22 Margarine
23 1996 2Pac album with the hit "California Love"
25 Flo — ("Low" rapper)
26 Saintry ring
27 Mayhem
28 1986 Beastie Boys album with the hit "Fight for Your Right"
31 Equine beast
34 "Paper Planes" rapper
35 Unit of corn
36 1988 N.W.A. album with the hit "Express Yourself"
47 "— my case"
48 Ed of "Radio"
49 Gopher's drive
51 Gotten along adequately
53 50 — ("In da Club" rapper)
54 Reagan-era mil. project
56 Boxing great
57 "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" rapper
58 Solar beams
60 1992 Dr. Dre album with the hit "Nuthin' but a 'G' Thang"
64 Strengthens
67 How some food is fried
69 Des Moines natives
70 2020 Juice Wrld album with the hit "Come & Go"
74 Novelist Elizabeth George —
77 Battle-ready
78 — Typhoon Lagoon (water park)
82 2010 Nicki Minaj album with the hit "Super Bass"
84 Strong — ox
86 Six plus four
87 Half of dos
88 Statute
89 R&B singer Erykah
91 1980s jeans brand
94 Fee for the use of a pier
98 Wastewater
100 Kin of keno
101 2000 Eminem album with the hit "Stan"
105 Court divider
106 Charged bit
107 Actor Liotta
108 1993 Salt-N-Pepa album with the hit "Shoop"
115 Child poet Stepanek
121 Napoleon exile locale
122 "Gold Digger" rapper Kanye
123 1986 Run-D.M.C. album with the hit "Walk This Way"
126 Bridle strap
127 — part (portray someone)
128 Meat jelly
129 Artist's stand
130 Russian news agency
131 Pro votes
132 Moisture
133 "Work It" rapper Elliott
DOWN
1 Colorless
2 Part in a play
3 — lang syne
4 Ship's spine
5 Irish New Age singer
6 Candy from a dispenser
7 From — Z
8 Pioneer
9 Actress Rogers of "Bosch"
10 Actor Baldwin
11 Magical land of C.S. Lewis
12 Egg capsule
13 Bury the — (omit the key part of a story)
14 College life
15 Companions
16 Jai —
17 Peddle
18 DJ — Herc (founder of hip-hop in 1973)
24 Online 'zine
29 CPR pros
30 Masking —
32 "Quiet!"
33 Actor Keach
36 Back of a 45
37 Treasure pile
38 Hollywood's Zellweger
39 Enzyme suffix
40 Skater Midori
41 Mine metals
42 Tea vessel
43 — for tat
44 Suffix with narc- or neur-
45 Extended family, to Hawaiians
46 Actress Gena Lee —
50 Twitches
52 "Troy" actress Diane
54 Hood's knife
55 Nixing mark
59 Big primate
61 Taking cover
62 French for "kings"
63 Actor Wilson
65 Strong criticism
66 Feudal toiler
67 "Your wish — command!"
68 LA-to-MI dir.
71 Zlich, in Peru
72 Do a sketch
73 Nutrition std.
74 Tater
75 — noir (wine)
76 Cain's eldest
79 Les — -Unis
80 Streisand film of 1983
81 — Dogg ("Drop It Like It's Hot" rapper)
83 Robert of "The Sopranos"
84 Singer Levine
85 — Hill Records ("Rapper's Delight" label of 1979)
89 "The Fresh Prince of — Air"
90 Poking tool
92 Suffix with project
93 Ontario's capital, on scoreboards
95 Nairobi natives
96 "Preach it!"
97 Portal
98 Without, in Paris
99 Greek vowel
102 Noon nap
103 Lilylike garden plants
104 Church song
108 Lil Uzi — ("Futsal Shuffle" rapper)
109 Zeno of — (philosopher)
110 Hitting stats
111 R&B singer of 1983
112 Omani, e.g. ("Drop It Like It's Hot" rapper)
113 Tabula — ("Futsal Shuffle" rapper)
116 "What —!" ("How precious!")
117 Spicy cuisine
118 Actress Harper
119 Bits of land in la mer
120 TV's — May Clampett
124 Create a lap
125 — -T ("O.G. Original Gangster" rapper)

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Flag Etiquette

Flying the Flag At Night

THE flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if well lit during the hours of darkness. The Congressional Research Service reports that the dignity accorded to the banner is preserved by lighting that prevents its being enveloped in darkness.

If you feel your flag should wave during nighttime hours, it's important to have a sufficient light source to display its recognizable stars and stripes. Here are some ideas to consider when creating a patriotic display.

If you're flagpole is not around an electrical source, you have a few different options to provide light. Remember your budget when you decide which avenue is the best for your yard.

Extension cord: One way to achieve a beam of light is investing in a light bulb rated for outdoor use. Check your local hardware store for a spike-mounted beam so you can easily transport it out of your way during daytime hours. You also could choose a heavy-duty extension cord designed

to handle the electricity required for extended periods of time.

Outdoor outlet: If you would rather have a permanent light fixture in your yard to display Old Glory, assistance from a licensed electrician is a must. They can tap into your home's current electrical source and install an approved outdoor outlet.

Solar lights: Modern solar power is incredibly efficient as a light source; just be sure it has the power and durability to maintain its shine overnight.

If you intend to wave

your flag 24 hours, it's crucial to have a banner that can withstand the extended use and inclement-outdoor elements. According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed." An all-weather flag provides you with a banner that is made of high-quality materials while being able to flow in the breeze.

During your search, look for flags made from a nylon material for extra-



long use or heavyweight cotton to maintain a tra-

ditional appearance while boosting durability.

Showing Respect For the Flag

The Flag Code was adopted to protect our nation's symbol of freedom and accomplishment of those who have served. If you are unfamiliar with the rules of the banner, it's possible to be unintentionally disrespectful.

LEARN the basics from Chapter 4 U.S.C 8, to understand how to honor the flag, per the Government Publishing Office.

The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.

The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The flag should never be

used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.

The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.

The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, word, figure, design, picture or any drawing of any nature.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



"You're the emblem
of the land I love.
The home of the free
and the brave."
- George M. Cohan



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Flag Etiquette

Restore and Repair Your Flag

LIGHT damage or a dirty appearance doesn't always mean a flag should be retired. In fact, the Flag Code encourages banners to be cleaned or mended when necessary. Before committing to a retirement ceremony, try to prolong a flag's duty with maintenance or repairs. While it is disrespectful for a flag to touch the ground, it can happen during regular raising and lowering.

It's important to eliminate the dirt or grime immediately to avoid a lasting stain.

If you are unsure on how to properly wash your American flag, don't hesitate to visit a local-dry cleaner. Most experts can analyze the current condition and decide a best course of action. It's important to follow their cleaning instructions, as improper techniques may cause irreversible damage to your banner. Here are a couple of ways to prolong the life of your symbol of American tradition and heritage.

At-Home Washing

For those who can clean a flag without the help of a professional service, special care should be administered. If possible, reach out to the manufacturer for specific cleaning instructions. For most materials, it's easy to get great results by hand-washing your banner in cold water, with a mild detergent. Make sure to lay the flag flat while it dries and avoid hanging or folding it while wet. This will help its recognizable colors stay in place without bleeding into one another.

Once you have completed the cleaning, inspect it to ensure the filth has been removed and there are not issues like holes or frays. Routine cleaning is important to maintain and examine the integrity of a flag as elements like dirt, salt and air pollutants can have a negative impact.

Repair

If you notice small tears in the fabric of your banner, immediate repair it to limit the amount of damage. A small imperfection can be exposed during rippling winds or poor weather conditions. This correction is usually best left to the experts as frequent modifications can alter the appearance and size, leading it to a state where retirement is necessary.

Search for a flag-repair facility in your area or seek assistance from patriotic organizations to find a professional.

How to celebrate Flag Day

The flag of the United States be 13 alternate stripes red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." This resolution by John Adams was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, placing our nation's banner in the spotlight as a respected symbol.

AS new states gained independence and entered the United States, the number of stars and stripes increased. However, in 1818, Congress enacted a law to restore the original 13 stripes and only include additional stars to symbolize incoming states. A century after enacting the Flag Resolution, the first Flag Day was observed on June 14, 1877.

While Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a day of recognition for the banner in 1916, it wasn't until 1949 when regulators officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance. Do you know how you are going to celebrate this year? Consider sharing the occasion with your peers and

loved ones.

June 14 is a day to celebrate the historic symbolism of our nation's banner. You can do your part by donating your time or resources to benefit the occasion.

Reach out to local leaders to inquire about volunteering to help raise flags throughout your community. Many businesses and public parks in your area may need help acquiring and displaying the banner. You also can offer to donate flags to ensure there are enough throughout the area. Consider hosting a community event inviting peers and neighbors to celebrate the day. Make it an event where others reflect on what the flag means to them and praise the active or retired service people

in their lives.

If you are an educator, Flag Day is an awesome opportunity to teach your students about their responsibility to respect the symbol. Take the following ideas from the National Education Association when developing a positive lesson plan.

History of Flag Day: Discuss the origins and importance of the holiday.

Changes to the flag: The banner hasn't always appeared the same, its history is an interesting and entertaining story to show students how the country has evolved.

Overview of the War of 1812: Explain how the significance of this conflict had in shaping the Star-Spangled Banner and its connection to the flag.



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Flag Etiquette



The Pledge of Allegiance

THE Pledge of Allegiance gained its first major publicity through an official program called the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day. It was Sept. 8, 1892 when the prose was printed in the Youth's Companion leaflet and distributed to schools throughout the country. While it has seen a few revisions since its original form was penned by Francis Bellamy, it became a staple in classrooms while remaining unrecognized by Congress. According to the American Legion, it wasn't until 1942, when the Pledge was officially included in the United States Flag Code and 1945 when the official name of the Pledge of Allegiance was adopted. When discussing the Pledge of Allegiance with younger children, explain that it is an opportunity to display their

loyalty as a citizen to our country. It should be considered an act of unity for students to stand together and pay their respect to America's banner. Children should be encouraged to learn more about the meaning of the Pledge, rather than only recite the words. Much like the National Anthem, there is a proper way to show your respect to the flag during the Pledge. Here are the steps, from the U.S. Flag Code. The pledge is to be recited by standing at attention; Face the flag and place the right hand over the heart; People in uniform must face the flag, remain silent and take the military salute; and those not in uniform must remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand, place it on their left shoulder, in such a way that their right hand is over the heart.



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Flag Etiquette

Facts About the American Flag

Whether you're an educator yourself or a parent who loves their country (and its flag), impress the kiddos in your life with these fun facts about the history of Old Glory.

THE colors of the United States flag are no accident. Red stands for bravery, valor and zeal; white symbolizes purity and innocence; blue for loyalty, devotion, vigi-

lance, perseverance and justice of our ancestors. Here are some fun facts about the American flag.

Nicknames for the American flag include: the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory and the Star-

Spangled Banner.

The blue union holds 50 stars to represent the states that make up the United States, the stripes symbolize the 13 original states.

The flag was created

to celebrate the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain.

On June 14, (now Flag Day) 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act which ultimately established the

new flag for America.

The first official flag featured its signature red and white stripes but had a bare blue union. Stars were added later to signify the different states as they entered the union.

The current design of the flag has been the same since 1960, when Hawaii joined the union.

The United States flag should always be on top of a staff if multiple flags are flown.

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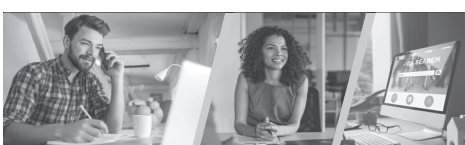
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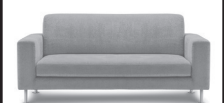
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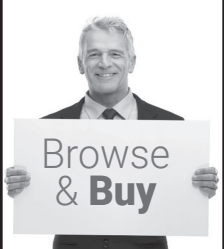
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RTHS Softball

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Hubs fared better in nonconference action, where the team went 9-11 with victories against Lexington-Ridgeview, Pearl City, Mendota, South Beloit, Genoa-Kingston, Rockford Lutheran, For-

That lone senior will be Wartburg College commit Lauren Dyer, who shined at the plate and in the circle for the Lady Hubs this season. Dyer led Rochelle with a .421/.476/.568 slash line while notching a team-high 40 hits, scoring a team-high 28 runs and collecting 22 RBIs. Dyer also started 21 games and threw a team-high 97.2 innings for the Lady Hubs, striking out 97 batters with

Among the many sophomores eligible to return in 2026 will be Emma Heller, who stepped up as the team's No. 2 pitcher before a late-season injury. Heller threw 41 innings and struck out an impressive 68 batters while posting only 14 walks. Freshman Cheyenne Somers emerged as a late-season arm for the Lady Hubs, striking out

Junior Madigan Williams (21 hits, 17 runs, 8 RBIs) and sophomore Briel Metzger (18 hits,



Junior Madigan Williams, a three-year varsity player, will be one of several athletes eligible to come back in 2026 for the Rochelle Lady Hub softball team.

11 runs, 12 RBIs) are two more players eligible to return in 2026 for the Lady Hubs, who will look to improve in the field after posting 93 errors in 30 games, an averaged of 3.1 errors per game. In the circle, Rochelle will aim to cut down on the 22 wild

"Grit will be huge for us going into next season," Jacobs said. "We need to be flexible enough to bounce back from our mistakes. We need to be able to acknowledge and learn from mistakes."

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Rochelle Little League's Minor League Softball Division season continued at the softball diamond on Thursday, May 29, when Golden K scored an 8-0 shutout win over Rochelle Veterinary Hospital. Above, Rochelle Veterinary's Anna Norris (left) makes a throw from the third base position and Abigail Norris (right) throws a pitch from the circle. Below, Golden K's Giannah Koch (left) fires a pitch and Lydia Van Hise (right) makes contact with the ball.



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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Track

Hubs show growth across the board during 2025 season

State qualifiers Nuyen, Bearrows and Bivins highlight athletes eligible to return

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Three of the four Rochelle Hub track and field athletes who qualified for the IHSA State Championship are eligible to return next season. With a trio of state qualifiers potentially headlining next year's roster, head coach Dale Bergeson has high hopes for 2026.

Rochelle's successful 2025 season included winning performances at the Oregon Hall of Fame Classic and the 51st Annual Ogle County Championships at RTHS. The Hubs, who turned in runner-up finishes at four meets including the LaSalle-Peru Cavalier Classic during the outdoor season, took third at the Interstate 8 Conference Championships before finishing fourth at the IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional, the team's best showing at a sectional since the 2016 season. "We beat 102 teams this

year and I don't know if we've ever done that before," Bergeson said. "Our focus was on scoring points and not leaving points on the course... We only have one senior graduating who scored a lot of points for us, so we're going to be young next year and I'm looking forward to that as well. We have a bunch of underclassmen who're doing really well and are coming back next year. We have three state qualifiers coming back and we have a lot of kids who were really close who are coming back. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish."

Field events were a key source of points for the Hubs, who won dual meets against Morris, LaSalle-Peru, Ottawa and Kaneland during the outdoor season. Rochelle's indoor season included second-place finishes at the Byron Indoor Preview and the Gary Egler Invitational at Sycamore. Of the four state qualifiers, three were

in field events, with juniors Andrew Nuyen (pole vault) and Jonny Bearrows (long jump) each eligible to return for one more season.

While the Hubs will lose state qualifier and medalist Jack Tilton (high jump), Rochelle will bring back a pair of young athletes including freshman Zachary Johnson and sophomore Justin DeClerck, who each made strides in the high jump this season. Junior Caden Goodwin (triple jump) excelled in the field and will be a big contributor in sprints and sprint relays in 2026.

"We were strong in the field events and we were leading almost every single meet after the field events," Bergeson said. "That was our strongest section of our program and we really pay attention to what our guys are doing. We require our guys to do some field events so we can find those talented kids and coach them up. We scored in four of five of the six field events in every

single meet and when we can score in each of those events, that's really good for us."

An area of major growth during the 2025 season was in the distance events, where juniors like Declan McGee and Elijah Mayen, along with sophomore Pedro Rosales and freshman Tyler Johnson, scored points in several events including the 800-meter, 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs as well as the 1600-meter and 3200-meter relays. Junior Wyatt Worthington and state qualifier Hunter Bivins, a sophomore, spearheaded the charge in the hurdles this season.

"We saw a lot of growth from our sprint group and our distance group," Bergeson said. "We got some sectional medals out of our sprint group and we broke the fresh-soph 4x2 record. Having Tyler and Declan in our distance group... They were really solid and our 4x8 improved as well. I think our sprint and distance



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Declan McGee is one of several athletes eligible to return in 2026 for the Rochelle Hub track and field team.

groups will take another step forward next year and I think that's what will offset our seniors leaving and allow us to do even better as a team next year."

While Rochelle will lose key sprinters in seniors Jackson Smith and Richard Pierce, the Hubs have several talented athletes eligible to come back in 2026.

Juniors like Caden Goodwin and Reece Harris, along with sophomores Jaden Martina, Aaron DeClerck and Justin DeClerck, all ran varsity sprints and sprint relays during the 2025 season. Freshman Nathan Rosales is another sprinter who emerged and could take on an even bigger varsity role for the Hubs in 2026.

RTHS Girls Track

Versatility leads to successful 2025 season for Lady Hubs

All-Interstate 8 athletes Manning, Cragin highlight potential returners next year

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Head coach Colfay Pointer described the 2025 season as some of the most fun he's had since taking over the Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team. With several athletes eligible to return next year, Pointer and the Lady Hubs will look to keep the good times rolling.

Rochelle's season concluded at the IHSA State Championship, where senior Erin Murphy took third in the Class 2A shot put competition to end a record-setting individual season. The Lady Hubs saw multiple seniors take on big roles during the 2025 season, leading Rochelle to victory in the 51st Annual Ogle County Championships at RTHS and the Rock Falls Rocket Invitational.

"Last year was about getting to know the girls and finding out what works best

for them," Pointer said. "This year, we were able to take that foundation and focus on building our chemistry. We could see that connection carry over into competitions and not only did the athletes grow closer, but the coaches did too."

Success in the field events was a key turning point for the Lady Hubs, whose indoor season included a second-place finish at the Sycamore Invitational and a third-place finish at the Warrior Invitational in Sterling. With seniors like Erin Murphy (throws), Taelynn Rodeghero (high/long/triple jump) and Dempsey Atkinson (high/triple jump) leading the way, Rochelle won the LaSalle-Peru Cavalier Classic and earned dual wins over Morris, Sterling, Dixon and L-P.

"Field events were our strength this year," Pointer said. "Erin scored a lot of points in the field events and both Taelynn and Dempsey

scored points for us. We had more athletes step up in the running events, which made a big difference this year as well... We were a more versatile team this year."

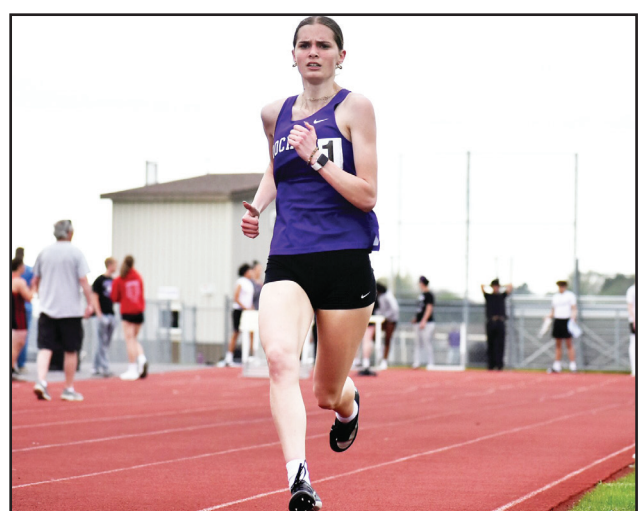
Rochelle took fourth at the Interstate 8 Conference Championship before finishing 10th in the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional. While the Lady Hubs will lose key contributors in the field, Rochelle has young athletes on the way back including sophomores Elyse Manning (triple jump) and Maddie Peska (throws). Junior Samantha Overton (pole vault) and freshman Gwendolyn O'Dell (high jump) are two more athletes who could take on bigger varsity roles for the 2026 season.

Looking at the track, Rochelle saw significant progress in the distance and middle-distance areas. Junior Kyrie Cragin came within a second of qualifying for state in the 800-meter run, while underclassmen like sopho-

more Vivian Worthington (3200) and freshman Carol Carpenter (1600) emerged in varsity roles. Juniors Rose Luxton and Annaliese Koziol are two more distance athletes who, despite battling through injuries, could have big varsity roles in 2026.

"The group that stepped up the most was our middle-distance group," Pointer said. "Our 4x4 wasn't very competitive last year and they finished a second away from state this year, which made a huge difference for our team."

The Lady Hubs will lose some depth in the distance and middle-distance areas, as seniors like Arline Vilanueva, Brisa Zepeda and Bridgett Ramirez will depart from the roster. In the hurdles, Rochelle will lose senior Marianna Saldana, an All-Interstate 8 honoree in the 300, but the team will have sophomore Jasmine Walsh, an All-Interstate 8 Honorable Mention in both



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Kyrie Cragin is one of many All-Interstate 8 athletes eligible to return in 2026 for the Rochelle Hub track and field team.

the 300 and the 100-meter hurdles, eligible to return. Walsh also contributed in the 1600-meter relay.

Rochelle will lose some depth in the sprints and sprint relays, with seniors Zoe Malley and Alex Neece graduating from the roster, but the Lady Hubs have multiple young sprinters

eligible to return in 2026. Those sprinters include juniors Valerie Saldana and Katie Toczylowski as well as sophomores Dylan Etes, Reese Kissack and Elyse Manning. Freshmen Gwendolyn O'Dell, Zoey Schabacker and Kaliyah Cathina are three more sprinters to watch for next season.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Trent Kreider will continue his academics and his cheerleading career at North Central College next year. Kreider intends to study radiation therapy.

RTHS senior Kreider to cheer at North Central College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Trent Kreider had always found cheerleading to be interesting prior to trying out for the Rochelle Township High School team as a junior. Growing up, Kreider attended Rochelle football games and watched his older sister, Taylor, perform with the dance team on the sideline.

Over the last two years, Kreider has represented Rochelle on the sidelines, cheering at football and basketball games while also competing for the varsity cheer team during the winter season. While he was initially unsure about taking on a new sport, Kreider grew into his role on the team. The only boy on the team, Kreider also emerged as a role model for younger athletes.

“Coach [Trish] Rodeghero has been really helpful because when I first started, I had no idea what I was getting into,” Kreider said. “She taught me everything I needed to know and everyone on the team was always so helpful. . . The moment I joined the team, I thought to myself, ‘No other guy does it, so why not be the first one?’ I’ve had boys come up to me and tell me that they want to do cheerleading. When we taught a cheer clinic at Lincoln School, there were boys there who really wanted to do it. . . I felt like I made a change in our community.”

Kreider grew up playing football, baseball and bowling, but cheerleading has since become his passion. Kreider’s cheerleading career will continue at the collegiate level, as he tried out for and qualified to make the performance and competitive cheerleading teams at North Central College. Kreider intends to study radiation therapy to pursue a career in the medical field.

“I’m close with my family, so I knew it would come down to seeing the most people I could,” said Kreider, whose close friend, RTHS alum Alivia Henkel, runs track at North Central. “When I first arrived on my first visit to North Central, I knew it was for me. . . I loved the environment and when I went to check out their cheer program and meet with the team, I knew it was for me and I knew it would be a great fit. It was a good group of friends and it felt like I had known them for a

long time. They wanted to keep reaching out to me and the coaches were also very kind.”

A two-time Academic All-Interstate 8 honoree, Kreider made significant strides during his first season with the cheer program, receiving the team’s Most Improved Varsity Cheerleader award. As a senior, Kreider helped the RTHS varsity team finish first at the Wilmington Invitational, the J-Hawk Invitational at Rockford Jefferson and the Andrew Winter Storm Classic in Tinley Park. Kreider’s senior season included a third-place performance at the Interstate 8 Conference meet.

“The cheer program has helped me build a lot more confidence, not just in cheerleading but in everything,” Kreider said. “The moment you go out and perform in front of a huge crowd, it truly changes your point of view. . . It taught me how to do my best and not crack under the pressure. I hadn’t ever done tumbling and I’m hoping that I can work more with the North Central team on skills like jumps and tumbling. I’m also looking to continue gaining more stunting experience.”

At North Central, Kreider will have the opportunity to perform and compete alongside a cheer squad that finished second in the 2024 NCA College Nationals at Daytona Beach, Florida. Kreider earned his spot on the North Central team after completing a tryout during the spring of this year. Kreider said he felt confident entering the tryout, which included learning and performing cheers and jumps as well as tumbling and stunting. Within days of completing his tryout and qualifying for the team, Kreider made his final decision to attend North Central.

“I started my cheer career late, so I’m excited to have more years to continue to cheer,” Kreider said. “I’ve been working on my coed stunts, which are one base and one girl, and I’ve been working on getting the girls up in the air by myself, which is a bigger opportunity for me than what I had in high school. It gives me a chance to work on more elite and harder skills. . . I’m not always the quickest learner, but when I put my mind to something, I’m focused and I know I can do it. Cheerleading has helped my confidence, so I went into the tryout confident and excited.”

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SPORTS



NORTH CENTRAL BOUND

RTHS senior Trent Kreider will cheer for North Central College next year.

See page 15 for more details

RTHS Baseball

OFFENSE HIGHLIGHTS 11-WIN SEASON

Five Rochelle hitters record batting averages over .300 during 2025 campaign

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub baseball team had five batters finish with averages over .300 during the 2025 season. With offensive numbers on the rise, head coach Jarrod Reynolds said that improved defense and pitching will be key focuses for the Hubs as the offseason begins.

Rochelle finished with an 11-20 overall record, but the Hubs went winless in the Interstate 8 for the second straight season, posting an 0-15 record as the team rode a 31-game conference losing streak into the summer. Despite the struggles in conference play, Rochelle fared well against its nonconference opponents, going 11-5 and beating teams like Rockford Boylan, Rockford Auburn, Streator, Rockford Guilford, Sterling, Marengo, Dixon, Harvard and Belvidere.

“I thought our seniors played well and the top of our order hit the ball really well,” Reynolds said. “It’s always nice when seniors play well during their last year. We’re really young and we have a lot of talented kids. I hope they continue to improve and

get better because I think we can have some good years coming up. We have to get better defensively and work on our arms a bit. We saw some good things this year and I think we have some potential and talent going forward.”

Much of the turnaround on offense was due to major improvements from returning seniors like Carson Lewis, who led Rochelle with 45 hits and a .417 batting average. Seven Hubs finished with at least 10 RBIs after only three did so during the 2024 season, when Rochelle went 7-22. Seniors Brandyn Metzger (.337) and Ethan Goodwin (.327) each raised their averages by over .100, while junior Brode Metzger (.347) hit over the .300 mark for the second consecutive year.

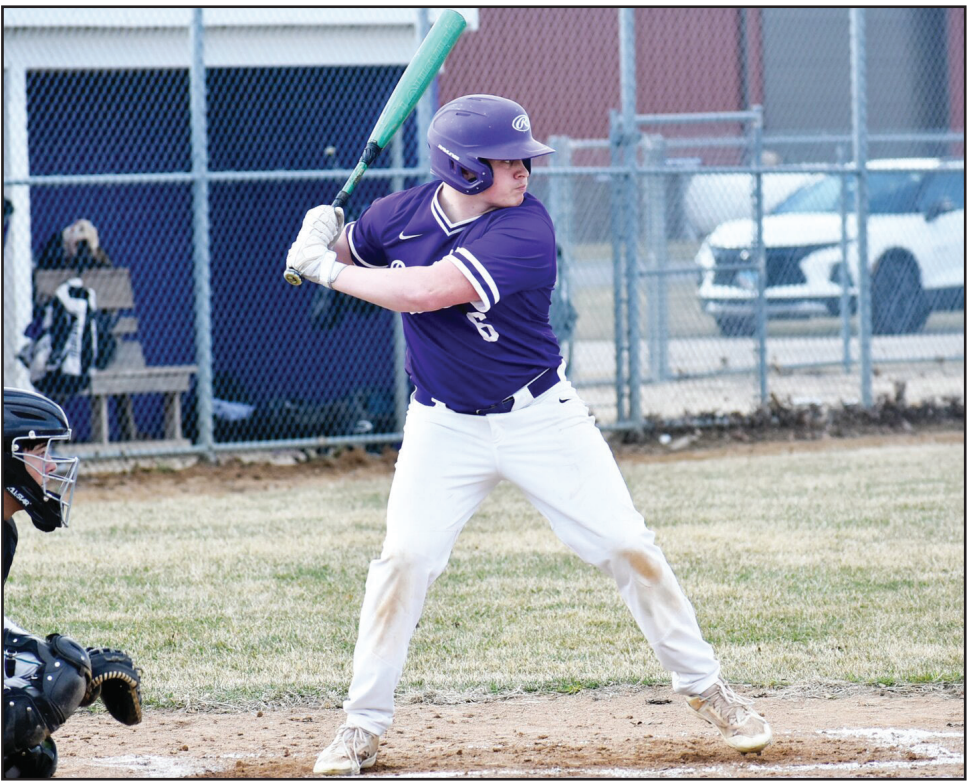
“Our hitting got better,” Reynolds said. “We averaged more runs per game... Our team batting average was better and at times, I thought we had a lot of pitching depth. We have guys who throw harder and hopefully we see that continue to improve. Overall, our hitting was better.”

Sophomore Brody Bruns (.376) also raised his average significantly from the 2024 season. While the

Hubs hit just two home runs, Rochelle totaled 10 triples and 38 doubles, far more than the 2024 season. Brandyn Metzger led the Hubs with 27 RBIs, while Bruns drove in 23 RBIs. Goodwin and Brode Metzger each recorded 18 RBIs for the Hubs, who will graduate five seniors including Lewis, Goodwin, Brandyn Metzger, Ryan Senne and Antonio Trenado.

On the mound, Rochelle had 10 players throw innings this season, with the majority of those innings going to seven players. While depth wasn’t an issue for the Hubs in 2025, consistency was difficult to find, as the team finished with 171 strikeouts and 169 walks over 190 innings pitched. Rochelle hit 36 batters, committed three balks, threw 75 wild pitches and concluded the season with a team ERA of 7.29. Lewis (45) and Bruns (41.1) led the team in innings pitched.

“We had a lot of guys who could pitch and pitched well at times, but we were inconsistent,” Reynolds said. “Some of those young guys were put into varsity baseball and thrown in out of necessity, so they had some good games and they had



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Brandyn Metzger was one of five players who posted a batting average over .300 for the Rochelle Hub baseball team during the 2025 season.

some games where they struggled.”

Defense was another struggle for the Hubs, who committed 90 errors over 31 games (2.9 errors per game) and ended the year with an .893 fielding rate. While Rochelle will graduate a talented senior class, the team will have a promising group of sophomores eligible to return in 2026. That includes Bruns (a second-year varsity player in 2025), Dylan

Manning (.286 average, 18 hits, 12 RBIs), Johnny Andrist (11 hits, 13 RBIs, 21.2 IP) and Andrew Huerta (12 hits, 9 RBIs, 15.2 IP). Brode Metzger (a third-year varsity player in 2025), Van Gerber (7 hits, 3 RBIs), Gavin Neale (5 hits, 3 RBIs) and Seth Ramos are four juniors eligible to come back next season.

“Free bases were a problem for us this year and our infield defense

was a struggle at times,” Reynolds said. “We need to see our defense take a step forward. We averaged about 15 free bases allowed per game and that isn’t going to win us very many baseball games... Having Brody and Brode back next year will be exciting because they have a lot of varsity experience. Dylan, Andrew and Johnny all did some good things and they’ll play a big role next year.”

Rochelle Little League



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

Firemen defeat Kiwanis 7-5 during Major League Baseball Division action at Floyd J. Tilton Park

Rochelle Little League’s Major League Baseball Division season continued at Joe Doner Field on Monday, when the Firemen took down Kiwanis 7-5. Above, Firemen’s Lucas Bunker (left) reaches up for a catch at the shortstop position and Remy Hunley (right) throws a pitch from the mound. Below, Riley Heal (left) fires toward home plate and Noah Hayden (right) puts the ball in play for Kiwanis. The Firemen improved to 8-3 with the win, while Kiwanis moved to 6-5 with the loss.