

# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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## Sales tax presentation given 2024 fiscal year tax levy presented, vote next month

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education heard a presentation by District Business Manager Kevin Dale on the district's 2024 tax levy.

The levy will be up for approval at the board's Dec. 18 meeting. Dale said the levy will see a 2.56 percent increase (\$260,000) over last year's levy, which will not require it to hold a truth in taxation due to that number being lower than five percent. The district's equalized assessed value (EAV) saw an 8.9 percent increase overall.

"We're trying to keep our number down to keep the burden on the taxpayers down as much as we possibly can and still make sure we have the money we need to provide the best education we can for our students," Dale said.

Dale said the district surveyed other school districts in northwest Illinois and found that RTHS's levy was the lowest in the area. Board President



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education heard a presentation by District Business Manager Kevin Dale on the district's 2024 tax levy.**

Tom Huddleston said the district is in good financial standing.

"This is a very reasonable levy," Huddleston said. "I think we've really saved a lot of money."

### Sales tax

The board heard a presentation by Superintendent Jason Harper on the idea of a county schools facility sales tax. A law passed in 2007 to allow for a county-wide sales

tax in Illinois to benefit schools for expenses including facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers. The sales tax must pass in a county by referendum during an election. That has not taken place in Ogle County, and the measure failed on the ballot locally back in 2013. There are 57 counties in Illinois that have the county schools facilities sales tax.

Harper said Ogle Coun-

ty school districts are looking at passing resolutions in support of placing a county schools facilities sales tax referendum on the ballot for a future election. To get onto the ballot, school boards representing more than 50 percent of students must pass support resolutions. The referendum would have to pass on the ballot county-wide.

See RTHS page 5



## Helms Park concept design presented

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard another presentation on the concept design for changes to Helms Park and heard feedback from residents on the project.

Public meetings have been held on the project in recent months, and Monday's monthly board meeting served as one as well.

The park district has been looking at changes to the park over the past year as it looks to convert it to more of a park district-like use. The grounds were acquired by the park district in 2002 after it was no longer utilized by Rochelle Township High School.

See PARK page 3

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## KNOW IT TODAY



## New tribute bell installed

The Chana School Museum recently installed a new tribute bell.  
Page 5

## WEATHER

**WEDNESDAY**  
HIGH 46 LOW 35

**THURSDAY**  
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**FRIDAY**  
HIGH 39 LOW 34

**SATURDAY**  
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## INSERTS

• FARM & FLEET

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Suess, Brass nominated for RTHS Critical Thinking Award

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School Principal Dr. Chris Lewis has recently nominated two RTHS staff members for the school's Critical Thinking Award: Mrs. Lindsay Suess and Ms. Yvonne Brass.

Suess serves as a math teacher and assistant volleyball coach at RTHS. Beyond her teaching and coaching roles, she has displayed exceptional leadership in developing the RTHS freshman seminar program. She collaborated with several other RTHS staff members to create a video titled "How to be a Hub" for the class.

Brass holds a diverse array of responsibilities at RTHS that demand quick thinking every day. She fulfills the role of test reader coordinator and special education administrative



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Rochelle Township High School Principal Dr. Chris Lewis has recently nominated two RTHS staff members for the school's Critical Thinking Award: Mrs. Lindsay Suess and Ms. Yvonne Brass.**

assistant, managing all accommodations for students with special needs. Additionally, she contributes to tasks including managing

RTHS athletic tickets, assisting in the main office, and doing anything else that is needed to make the school run smoothly. Both received a \$75 gift certificate to the RTHS Booster Club web store and will donate \$50 to the donation of their choice. Money to fund the award program comes from donations from the RTHS Class of 1961 and the RTHS Alumni Association.



## RTHS Key Club, Kiwanis Golden K have installed over 11 benches with bottle cap donations

Rochelle Township High School recently thanked its Key Club members who have sorted bottle caps. Over 3,500 pounds have been used to make benches all around the Rochelle community and surrounding communities. Kiwanis Golden K has partnered with Key Club to install: 11 six-foot benches, two eight-foot sport benches for Focus House and one six-foot picnic table for Creston School. More benches to come as there are 750 sorted pounds of bottle caps in storage and another 200 pounds left to sort. Dennis Swinton of Kiwanis Golden K said the bottle cap donation program will close for the winter from Dec. 1 to April 1.

## Salinas named to the dean's list at Palmer College of Chiropractic

**DAVENPORT, Iowa** — Britney Salinas of Lind- enwood has been named to the 2023 summer trimester dean's list at Palmer Col-

lege of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and

largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

## CEREMONY: Ribbon cutting held for 4th & Willow

From page 1

"We are very proud to say that this is our Spark Shop success story. And we tell other potential people in that space that this is what can happen if you work hard and know what your vision is. We're very proud to have 4th & Willow, your new venture, as part of the chamber. We

welcome you and thank you for helping to make other people see what The Spark Shop can do."

Mayor John Bearrows spoke at the event on behalf of the city and said it was great to see a ribbon cutting for a business that started in The Spark Shop. The city provides the space of the historic filling station downtown

for the retail incubator along with paying for its utilities.

"What you've done is set an example for other businesses," Bearrows said. "I'm sure there are other entrepreneurs in The Spark Shop who will see this as encouragement. I want to thank our city council for supporting The Spark Shop and our

businesses. During the pandemic, we realized that our focus had to shift to safety and helping businesses survive through that tough time. The council and the city manager supported those programs and made things happen for the businesses. We're very proud to have you as part of our business community."

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**The 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!**

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

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In Dixon at: Shining Star  
In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
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NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail this form along with \$23 (\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:  
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068



# LOCAL NEWS

## PARK: Feedback presented on concept design for Helms Park

From page 1

The park district circulated a survey locally on what the community would like to see at the site, which received around 700 responses.

The concept plan for the site includes the football, baseball and softball fields remaining with continued enhancements, a fitness area on the southern corner of the property near The REC Center, a multi-sport court with a rubber surface for soccer, volleyball and basketball, a universal play space, a skate park on the northeast corner of the property, tennis courts and pickleball courts, a pavilion and restrooms, new parking, batting cages, a walking path and green space. The plans are not finalized, which is why the park district is holding meetings and seeking feedback.

“We’re just at the infancy stages of this whole thing,” Board Vice President John Dobbs said. “We’re gathering information right now. We haven’t really put together a budget. We’re just collecting as much information as we can. The budget and a plan would be the next step.”

The park district recently submitted an Open Space Lands Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant application for the project for matching funds of \$600,000. The grant application status will not be known until sometime in 2024, which will impact the project’s size, scope and timeline.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard another presentation on the concept design for changes to Helms Park and heard feedback from residents on the project. Public meetings have been held on the project in recent months, and Monday’s monthly board meeting served as one as well.

Park District Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said the district isn’t counting on the grant funds for the project and would be able to do it without them.

The board heard feedback Monday from organizations involved with both tennis and pickleball on what they’d like to see out of the Helms Park project. Helms Park is currently the site of tennis courts that are also used for pickleball.

Lauren Hintzsche presented on behalf of the Rochelle Pickleball Club, which has 40-50 members and has grown in recent years. She said the club would like to see six pickleball courts at the park from the project, and that tennis courts are not ideal to play pickleball on.

“When people ask how many pickleball courts you should have in your town, they recommend one court for every 1,000 people,” Hintzsche said.

“We’re a town of 10,000 people. I know 10 courts is a reach. If we could have six courts, I think we could feel very comfortable and accommodate what we expect to happen in the future and what we’re already seeing.”

John Prabhakar spoke on behalf of the group of residents that play tennis together. He thanked the park district for its work on the project. He said he’d like to see four tennis courts at Helms Park.

Five other residents spoke in favor of improved tennis and pickleball experiences at Helms Park.

“I would like to see Rochelle become a place that people come to for tennis and pickleball,” RTHS Boys Tennis Coach Kristy Eckardt said. “We have the opportunity here to do something really great with the facility. To have four tennis courts as we do now and be able to add multiple dedicated

pickleball courts, it could be a central location for people all over Northern Illinois to come to.”

### Levy

The board unanimously approved its 2024 tax levy. Ohlinger said the tax rate will be 11 cents less than last year due to an increase in the district’s equalized assessed value (EAV). The park district’s levy covers operational expenses for the fiscal year of May 1-April 30.



### Jeff Perry Auto Group names costume contest winner

Jaylee was the winner of the first annual trunk or treat costume contest that was held on Halloween at Jeff Perry Chevrolet, Chrysler, Jeep. Over 30 contestants participated and Jaylee won with over 190 votes. Her costume was “Mac n Cheese”. She received a trophy and \$100 for the win. Second place was Penelope & Genevieve Guillemette, who split \$50 winnings. All of the participants can be viewed on Jeff Perry’s Facebook page.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Matthew Daniel Heng

**ASHTON**—Matthew Daniel Heng, 27, of Ashton, went to be with the Lord Friday, November 17, 2023, at the University of Chicago Medical Center, after battling cancer for ten years. He was born October 24, 1996, in Rockford, the son of Daniel and Teresa (BASFORD) Heng. He married the love of his life, Krista Beach, on June 11, 2017, in Rochelle.

Matthew was a 5th generation farmer, who loved the land. In his free time, he loved fishing, off-roading in his Jeep and UTV, snowmobiling, and sport shooting. He grew up playing baseball, coached for a couple years, and still followed the game by watching the Cubs. His love for his family and friends was seen everyday. He was a proud member of Journey Church Ministries of Loves Park, and his love for the Lord was contagious. His unwavering

faith was evident, never faltering during his battle.

Matthew is survived by his wife, Krista, of Ashton; parents, Dan and Teresa Heng of Ashton; mother-in-law, Karen Harmon of Ashton; sister, Katie (Jared) Meyer of Rochelle; three nephews, Nathan, William, and Peter Meyer; grandparents, Jack (DeeDee) Heng, Jack (Betty) Basford, Larry (Jane) Lambert, Marie Tarango, Willie (Sarah) Beach, and Paul (Deb) Harmon; brothers-in-law, Kyle Beach of Ashton and Nathaniel Harmon of Orlando, FL; sister-in-law, Maddie Atkinson of Rock Falls; his two dogs, Ruger and Kimber; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Matthew is preceded in death by his father-in-law, Ken Beach; and grandfather, Raul Tarango.

Visitation will be held from 1:00-7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Calvary Light-



house Church, 14409 E. Hemstock Rd. in Rochelle.

Additional visitation will start at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at the Calvary Lighthouse Church followed by the funeral service at 10:00 A.M. with Rev. Bart Bentley and Rev. Bruce Pfadenhauer officiating. Interment will follow in Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established.

Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) (<http://www.ungerhorner.com/>) to sign the online guest book.

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**OREGON**—On Nov. 14 at approximately 4:03 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Khari Johnson, 28, of Rockford under arrest for driving while license suspended. Johnson was additionally issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle with a suspended registration. Johnson was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Nov. 14 at approximately 9:30 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Kelly Wharff, 54, of Rock Falls under arrest for driving while license suspended. Wharff was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On Nov. 15 at approximately 1:45 p.m. deputies

along with the Lynn-Scott-Rock and Stillman Valley EMS responded to the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Maple Avenue in Davis Junction for a crash involving a pick-up truck and an electric scooter. After conducting a brief investigation, it was learned a 14-year-old male juvenile of Davis Junction was traveling northbound on Maple Avenue and failed to yield to a grey Toyota Tundra traveling westbound on Chicago Avenue, driven by Walter Wolter of Stillman Valley. The juvenile was transported to Javon Bea Hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

On Nov. 15 at approximately 6:37 a.m. deputies and Stillman Valley EMS responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 7,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After an investigation, it was learned that the driver

of the vehicle, Sarah R. Labeau, 32, of Stillman Valley, lost control of her vehicle after driving off of the edge of the roadway. The vehicle then traveled across the roadway, struck the ditch and overturned. Labeau was transported to Swedish American Hospital for minor injuries. The vehicle was removed from the location by D&W Towing.

On Nov. 17 at 1:13 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Stillman Road. As a result, deputies arrested Jeremiah J. Allen, 46, of Riverview, Florida for driving under the influence of alcohol. Allen was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Allen was transported to the Ogle County Jail, before being released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ROCHELLE** — On Nov. 14 at 6:26 a.m. Kimberly A. Swanson, 52, of Yorkville was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 14 at 8:38 a.m. Mitchell D. Baker, 30, of Rochelle was cited for a Scott's Law violation. He signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 14 at 11:15 p.m. Brandon S. Bergman, 35, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding DeKalb County warrant and transferred.

On Nov. 14 at 8:33 a.m. Felix D. Sanchez, 60, of Rochelle was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 11:29 a.m. Tina Marie Clements, 31, of Oregon was cited for no insurance. She signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 11:48 a.m. Roman M. Milan, 18, of was cited for no insurance. She signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 1:30 p.m. William J. Osborne, 47, of Cherry Valley was cited for no insurance. He signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 1:42 p.m. Kler N. Htoo, 23, of Rockford was cited for speeding and no insurance. He signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 2:39 p.m. Luke A. Zelia, 20, of Bartlett was cited for speeding. He signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 3:44 p.m. Alva E. Valle, 23, of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. She signed a notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 4:17 p.m. Ahnisty D. Montgomery, 20, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. She signed a

notice to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 15 at 9:59 p.m. Juan D. Rodriguez, 46, of Rochelle was arrested on outstanding Ogle County warrants for driving while license suspended and failure to appear for a traffic citation and transferred.

On Nov. 16 at 2:54 a.m. Kimberly A. McIntyre, 30, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for failure to appear for a driving under the influence charge and transferred.

On Nov. 16 at 8:04 a.m. Damien H. Simms, 24, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Lee County warrant. He paid \$100 and was released with a Dec. 7 Lee County court date.

On Nov. 17 at 3:39 p.m. James K. Copeland, 63, of Rochelle was cited for seeding 36 miles per hour in a 20 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 17 at 3:59 p.m. Jonathan C. Robinson, 40, of Montgomery was cited for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 18 at 9:24 a.m. Brittney R. White, 29, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 55 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 18 at 10:18 a.m. Matthew J. Volmer, 37, of Cortland was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 18 at 7:36 a.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. She was released on a notice to comply and respond with a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 4:03 a.m. Breanna C. Hansen, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for resisting a peace officer and possession of a controlled substance. She was released

on a notice to appear with a Dec. 8 Ogle County court date.

On Nov. 19 at 7:56 a.m. Sai Varun Gandhi, 24, of DeKalb was cited for speeding 64 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 2:18 p.m. Cathie S. Zeiter, 63, of Marseilles was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m. Karley E. Stover, 33, of Steward was cited for a Scott's Law violation. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 3:36 p.m. Parker R. Carr, 23, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 49 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 3:54 p.m. Johany Cervantes Magana, 19, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 19 at 4:46 p.m. Juan M. Gonzalez Moran, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 64 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Dec. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 20 at 8:41 a.m. Juan R. Garcia, 23, of Rochelle was arrested for an Ogle County warrant for petition to revoke probation and transferred.

On Nov. 20 at 9:56 p.m. Montavion D. Ross, 40, of Shaw, Mississippi was arrested for an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear for a driving while suspended charge and transferred. Ross was also charged with driving while license suspended and cited for expired registration. He was released on a notice to comply and respond with a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

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News-Leader Main Switchboard	(815) 562-4171
<b>General Manager</b> Mike Feltes	(815) 561-2124
<b>Newsroom Staff</b> Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor Russ Hodges, Sports	(815) 561-2151 (815) 561-2152
<b>To Place a Display Ad</b> Andrew Heiserman Chris Ackland	(815) 561-2123 (815) 561-2153
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Chana School Museum installs new tribute bell

CHANA—The Chana School Museum Foundation recently installed a tribute bell outside of the 1883 Chana School to honor the hundreds of community volunteers who worked on this important restoration project. The cast iron bell is similar to the original bell now hanging in the Chana School Museum bell tower.

These large school bells were once in the bell towers of most of the 225 one-room school houses located throughout Ogle County before school consolidation closed them down starting in the 1940s and 50s. The large tribute bell gives visitors and students coming for school living-history field trips the opportunity to see the bell up-close. ED Etnyre & Company of Oregon painted the bell, and they also donated the custom laser-cut steel sign. Paul Steingaber of Mt. Morris did the limestone base masonry work.

The Chana School Museum was restored and is maintained by the all-volunteer Chana School Foundation who saved the historic school from demolition 25 years ago. The building was moved



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Chana School Museum Foundation recently installed a tribute bell outside of the 1883 Chana School to honor the hundreds of community volunteers who worked on this important restoration project.**

from its original location in Chana seven miles to Oregon Park East in 1998. Then after five years of countless hours of hundreds of community volunteers, the building was totally restored to how it looked in the 1890's and opened to the public in 2003. The Chana School Museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 as

the only two-room wooden schoolhouse in Illinois. The Chana School Museum is located at 201 North River Road at Oregon Park East and is open for school field trips and unique events. The Chana School Museum's Oregon Ganymedes Vintage Base Ball Club plays early-rules historic baseball games on the lawn of the museum from May to September.



### Byron Nuclear Station employees donate to Hub City Senior Center

On Nov. 8, the employees of the Byron Nuclear Station made a donation to the Hub City Senior Center in Rochelle. "We are so appreciative of their donation to us," a Hub City Senior Center Facebook post said. "Byron Nuclear Station employees, we know you work hard and we feel so blessed that you chose to share those earnings with us. Thank you from the staff and folks that come here. Today you made a difference."

## RTHS: District 212 board discusses county sales tax proposal

From page 1

The sales tax can be a maximum of one percent in quarter-percent increments. If the district and other county school districts wanted the sales tax issue on the next election in March, the deadline is Jan. 2. The Rochelle school boards each have one more meeting before that deadline. The additional sales tax would apply to items that are already taxed, with the exception of vehicles and unprepared food. Based on the most recent numbers, a county facility sales tax could net RTHS \$443,491 per year. Along with facilities, security, mental health services and school resource officers, the money can be used to abate property taxes and make rates lower for property owners within the district. Due to RTHS having a school that is 20 years old,

Harper said the "facility need isn't present" for funds from a county facility sales tax. "We're one of the fortunate ones in our county to have a near-brand new building," Harper said. "Something along the lines of offsetting the remaining taxes would seem to make sense." Harper and Huddleston made it clear that the issue will be up to voters if it does make it onto the ballot. School boards can only place it on the ballot. The board will look at taking action on a resolution of support at its meeting next month. Harper said no school boards in Ogle County will take action until next month. "I think it's inevitable that it's probably going to be on the ballot," Huddleston said. "And it will be up to voters. I think there's a majority of school boards

that are going to want it that represent over 50 percent. If it goes to the voters and it does pass, then we have the opportunity to put our voters back in the same position they are today by just abating that amount off the real estate taxes."

### ESSA

RTHS Principal Chris Lewis made a presentation on the school's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) designation, which is commendable. ESSA summative designations include exemplary, commendable, targeted, and comprehensive & intensive support. ESSA designations are made up of a number of factors, including graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, and proficiency in different education areas. RTHS's score was 70.37, and to be exemplary it would have had to be at least 91.24. Lewis said the graduation



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Monday, the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education heard a presentation by Superintendent Jason Harper on the idea of a county schools facility sales tax.**

and chronic absenteeism rates will be areas to improve on over the next year.

### Maintenance

The board unanimously approved a fiscal year 2024 school maintenance grant application to help offset the cost of upcoming paving work. The grant will match up to \$50,000, Dale said. The board will look at bids for the paving work at its December meeting.

### Dual credit

The board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding with the RTHS Education Association for tuition reimbursement for its teachers that receive certification to teach dual-credit courses to students that want to earn college credit early. RTHS is able to offer college credit courses for a cost of \$50 or less, and

Harper said the school is working to be able to offer more of those courses to students. "I think the only thing that's really impeding our ability to offer more opportunity is the number of teachers we have that are qualified," Harper said. Teachers that receive the tuition reimbursement would agree to a service obligation contract for the future.

# Antiques & Collectibles

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# LOCAL VIEWS

GUEST COLUMN

## Consider this: Aches and pains

**S**MALL aches and pains begin to show up. Nothing to be worried about, usually. In the morning, or maybe once per week, depending on your method of choice, you fill up your prescription containers with many more pills than you thought you'd ever be taking. You always thought that your parents or parents-in-law were taking too much medication. But you just noticed that the number of meds you are taking now outnumber their. Mainly because, but not limited to, the fact that more meds come on the market and it's easier to prescribe than to correct. It's also easier to prescribe than to do more research on over-the-counter meds. You also notice that when you fall, even if it's a very short fall, things hurt more than usual. Maybe for a short time only, but in the past, that type of event didn't hurt at all. As you are gardening, raking, shoveling, and performing other previously simple tasks, you notice you get tired more quickly. You might even get a bit dizzier as time goes on. Your legs

and/or shoulders might get sore. At night, when driving, you notice lights have these streaks shooting out all around them. The lines in the road, though usually only the ones that need painting, become hard to see. You might even decide to limit or stop driving at night. But you are doing okay. You're still tough and most of the time you feel like you could work much longer. If you have water with you in the summer and something to cover your face in the winter, all is well. You're ready for that next project or job. You feel young AND you are NOT getting old. That's the way I felt this summer. I am 72 and was ready for anything. Well, almost anything. But the unexpected snuck up from behind and bit me. It started Aug. 8 when my family and I took my grandson out for dinner. As I walked to the table in the restaurant, I fell hard on my right hip and shoulder. The only feeling I could remember is that my right foot seemed to get stuck, almost felt glued, to the carpet so my right leg wouldn't come forward. This hurt my pride more than anything. So, I sluffed it off as quickly as I possibly could. A couple of weeks later, I was mowing the lawn and decided to stop and move something back into place. As I stepped up to get on my riding mower (hey, I have a big yard), I fell over the platform off the front of it. I started laughing, telling myself how clumsy I was. I fell again on the same hip and shoulder and because of the metal, I was hurting a bit and my ego damaged. I thought about what caused this. I remembered that my right foot didn't raise enough to step onto the mower, so I fell over the mower. I blamed the first fall on new shoes with too much grip. This second time on my just being me. Still not willing to give in to a much different kind of answer because it had to be a simple one. You know, those that explain away anything too personal. So, again a couple of weeks later I fell at home. In the bathroom walking

next to the counter. This room has tile floors and rugs. I fell on my right side again on the tile, of course. Now I started to think that there is something more going on. I made a doctor's appointment and told them that I must have dizziness caused by something like vertigo. I even thought that I might have, somehow, forgotten how to walk. At the appointment the doctor said it could be something like vertigo, but he couldn't answer without some testing. They took x-rays at the doctor's office and sent me on to the hospital for a CT scan and an MRI. The CT was for my head and the MRI for my lower back. Walking to the MRI room I fell again on the concrete floor on my right hip and shoulder. I had failed to tell the nurse why I was having the MRI, and I just went down. They immediately had me in a chair checking me over, making sure I was okay. The CT was normal. Not much there and no

hint of anything that would cause the dizziness. The MRI, however, showed I needed to talk to a spine surgeon. Many bulging disks in the lumbar area and at least one pushing on my spinal cord very hard. All the rest but one, I believe, were bulging into nerves. How in the heck did this happen? I have no idea, but I thought back to another fall in a bathroom on a vacation trip. Sitting with the spinal surgeon I was educated on all the problems I was contending with. The major one was the spinal cord intrusion. It was restricting my spinal fluid which was probably causing my lack of equilibrium since the spinal fluid is used, along with some many other bodily functions, for stability. The others, in pushing on my nerves, could be causing my receptors (receiving movement signals) to malfunction. I have fallen another four times. My right hip is still sore, my right shoulder is good. My feet and chins are getting numb but throughout this whole ordeal, I have had no pain other than immediately

after falling. Why? I have no idea! I began using a cane after that first MRI and did okay for a while. My last fall was on my left side, and this bruised my ribs. Now I am using a walker until surgery. But you know as well as I do I am NOT getting older. I tell you this story because this, and many other things, can happen in a split second. Sometimes without pain to tell you it's worse than you thought. I have now updated my will, and my health directives. I have left notes for my children where to find things if something should happen. Yes, this may sound gloomy and very negative, but you just never know. And no, I don't plan to be anywhere but home after my surgery. And be around for many years ahead. Yet I don't want my children to go through what my sister and I had to when our mom passed last year. This is just my way of suggesting that by getting things done now, you may feel much better if something happens down the road. At least you will be ready to focus on just that one thing.

## Letter: ALDI employees, community meet needs

**D**EAR editor, The staff at our Rochelle ALDI have been meeting the special needs of their customers for years by purchasing gift cards to "help" customers when times are difficult. Last year, a request was made for the members of the community to help in this endeavor. The response was amazing! The needs were great and many were

met by the response of this community. Simply, you reached out, purchasing cards of varying denominations, returning them to the staff to enable them to meet the growing needs. Many were blessed by this outreach, especially those who participated in providing cards for our friends and neighbors. The generosity of the Rochelle community is well known. The staff know their customers and can

make each dollar count. Allowing the staff to meet the special needs of the members of our community is a gift we give them and ourselves. Your generosity will make this season of love shine brightly for many. Thank you

— Lorrie Bearrows  
Chana

## Letter: Thanks for Veterans Day event

**D**EAR editor, To Joe Rangel, the Veterans breakfast at Byron Sunrise was much appreciated. The excellent review of your recent adventure to

Pearl Harbor was again a reminder of the high cost of freedom. A welcome time of sharing fellowship rewarding. Appreciate your and honor your continuing servant

leadership.

— Norma Swanson  
Chana

### How to contact government officials

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

**IL Sen. Win Stoller**  
Stratton Office Bldg  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-1942

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

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

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\* Denotes Chairman/President

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

**Rochelle Elementary School Board**  
\*Trisha Vaughn tvaughn@d231.rochelle.net  
Dave Casey dcasey@d231.rochelle.net  
Steve Builta sbuilt@d231.rochelle.net  
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net  
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net  
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net  
Jennifer Thompson jthompson@d231.rochelle.net

**Rochelle Township High School Board**  
\*Tom Huddleston tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org  
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org  
Jeff Tilton jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org  
Bobby Chadwick bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org  
Brent Ohlinger brent.ohlinger@rthsd212.org  
Laurie Pillen laurie.pillen@rthsd212.org  
Joel Thompson joel.thompson@rthsd212.org

**Flagg-Rochelle Park Board**  
Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
\*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Kristi Gonzales kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org

**Ogle County Board Dist. 3**  
Austin Gillis agillis@oglecounty.org  
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org  
Joseph Simms jsimms@oglecounty.org

**Ogle County Board Dist. 4**  
Jackie Ramsey jramsey@oglecounty.org  
Skip Kenney skenney@oglecounty.org  
David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

**Creston Village Board**  
\*Tom Byro tommyb\_47@yahoo.com  
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net  
Steve Katzman skatzman@essex1.com  
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net  
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net  
Mark Hibshman  
Reid Elliot  
Jennifer Payton

**Hillcrest Village Board**  
\*Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us  
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us  
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us  
Tim Ball tball@hillcrestil.us  
Jose Huerta jhuerta@hillcrestil.us  
Eileen Braski ebraski@hillcrestil.us  
Joe Thompson jthompson@hillcrestil.us

**Flagg Township**  
Sue Messer flaggtwp@rochelle.net  
Joanna Patrick flaggtwpclerk@rochelle.net  
Susan Rothenberger assessor@rochelle.net  
Scott Seebach scottseebach@gmail.com

**Board of Trustees**  
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**Flagg-Rochelle Library**  
\*Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net  
Teresa Haggstad haggstads@comcast.net  
Michael Scanlan scanlan@comcast.net  
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net  
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com  
Susan Sevedge nit1pr122@yahoo.com  
Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

## \$1 million winning Powerball ticket sold in Rochelle

**ROCHELLE**—Someone in Illinois is celebrating after winning a cool \$1 million in Nov. 13's Powerball drawing. The winning Powerball ticket was purchased at Love's Travel Stop, located at 400 Steward Road in Rochelle, for Monday night's drawing. The lucky winner matched all five numbers, 24-33-35-37-42, to score the million dollar prize.

"Oh wow - how exciting!" exclaimed Wade Embree, manager at Love's Travel Stop in Rochelle. "While I don't know who the winner is, it would be so nice if it's one of our regular customers who lives in town. Any day now, I'm hoping one of them will walk through the door and tell us 'I'm a millionaire!'"

Embree has been the manager at this Love's location since it opened about five years ago.

"Rochelle isn't a huge town, we have a population of just over 9,000," Embree said. "Since we opened, residents here



**Love's Travel Center, 400 Steward Rd. in Rochelle, sold a winning \$1 million Powerball ticket**

(COURTESY PHOTO)

have done a fantastic job supporting our store. We are grateful to be located in such a kind and caring community."

For selling the winning ticket, Love's Travel Stop will receive a bonus of one percent of the prize amount, or \$10,000.

When asked what Love's plans to do with the bonus, Embree said "I'm sure we will put that bonus to good use, making

some updates and improvements to our store."

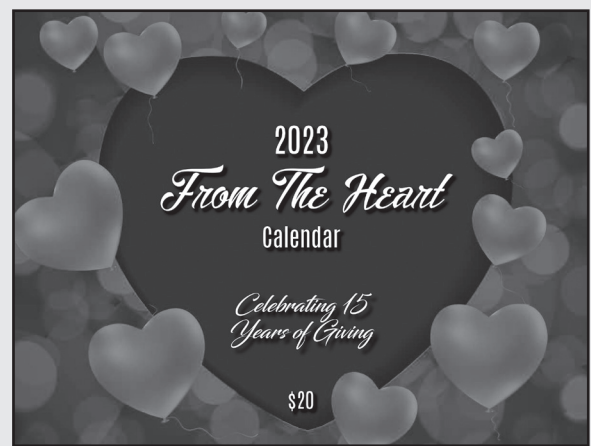
So far this year, eight Illinois Lottery players have won \$1 million or more playing Powerball, half of which were in September.

In total, over 13,000 winning tickets were purchased by Illinois Lottery players for the Monday, Nov. 13 Powerball drawing.

The Illinois Lottery

encourages all lucky winners to write their name on the back of their ticket and keep it in a safe place until they're ready to claim their prize. Winners have one year from the date of the winning draw to claim their prize.

Powerball tickets are \$2 each, and players have the option to add the Powerplay for an additional \$1 for the chance to multiply non-jackpot prizes.



- Oct. 27 - David Beguin, City of Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 28 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Oct. 29 - Doria Hardy, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 30 - Hub City Senior Center, \$25
- Oct. 31 - Ashton Schuster, Ortonville, MI, \$250
- Nov. 1 - Lori Kersten, Dixon, \$25
- Nov. 2 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Nov. 3 - Lucas Dobson, Davis Junction, \$25
- Nov. 4 - Dana Ptucha, Deer Park, New York, \$25
- Nov. 5 - From the Heart, \$50
- Nov. 6 - Carol Drummet, Freeport, \$25
- Nov. 7 - Jim May, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 8 - Elsie Johnson, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 9 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Nov. 10 - Rochelle Chamber, \$250
- Nov. 11 - Hayvin Neale, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 12 - Nathan K. Timm, Rochelle, \$50
- Nov. 13 - Deanna Wooten, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 14 - Cindy Goldman, Ashton, \$25
- Nov. 15 - Jackson Graber, Rockford, \$25
- Nov. 16 - Paul Mott, Wautoma, WI, \$25
- Nov. 17 - Shane Waters, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 18 - Rita Thompson, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 19 - Ed Deets, Dixon, \$50
- Nov. 20 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Nov. 21 - Daniel Pineda, Ashton, \$25
- Nov. 22 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074

Bosco Sticks, Salad  
**December 3 – NO SUNDAY BRUNCH**

If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at [volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org](mailto:volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org)

KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

**November 23** – (Thursday) – CLOSED  
**November 28** – (Tuesday) – Beef Stir Fry over Rice  
**November 30** – (Thursday) – Lasagna,

**\*\*All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 [www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)**

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Nov. 22**  
Tim Dougherty  
Dorothy Grover

**Nov. 24**  
Brenda Jones

**Nov. 27**  
Makayla Ludwig

**Nov. 23**  
Seth House  
Kevin & Katie Sherburne (anniversary)  
Carolyn Bieck

**Nov. 26**  
Marty & Sarah Brennan

**Nov. 29**  
Sam South

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



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Squid squirt
  - 4 Beloved
  - 8 "Ditto"
  - 12 "The Simpsons" barkeep
  - 13 Killer whale
  - 14 Director Kazan
  - 15 Get older
  - 16 Feel elated
  - 18 Two-dot punctuation mark
  - 20 Triage ctrs.
  - 21 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
  - 24 Smiles broadly
  - 28 Flight costs
  - 32 "Phooey!"
  - 33 Hosp. area
  - 34 Rich cake
  - 36 Quarterback Manning
  - 37 Arrears
  - 39 NPR show hosted by Terry Gross
  - 41 Thoreau piece
  - 43 Gym site, for short
  - 44 Promptly
  - 46 Film trophy
  - 50 Rock fan's imaginary instrument
  - 55 Employ

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 56 Satan's purchase
- 57 Separate
- 58 Crib
- 59 Ginormous
- 60 Cookware
- 61 Newt
- DOWN**
- 1 Apple computer
- 2 NASA scrub
- 3 Fall (over)
- 4 Memorized
- 5 Historic period
- 6 Off-torn knee part, for short
- 7 Yard tool
- 8 Had a hunch
- 9 Carte lead-in
- 10 Roman 1002
- 11 Corn spike
- 17 Sphere
- 19 Klutz
- 22 Campus VIP
- 23 Towel material
- 25 Vicinity
- 26 Niger's neighbor
- 27 Swizzle
- 28 Staffer
- 29 Frozen desserts
- 30 Abrades
- 31 Goblet feature
- 35 Prom dates
- 38 Snarl
- 40 Owns
- 42 One of us
- 45 Trace
- 47 Rubik's baffler
- 48 "Dream on!"
- 49 Monopoly payment
- 50 Bonfire residue
- 51 Debtor's note
- 52 Bad hairpiece
- 53 Overly
- 54 Illustrations

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **D** equals **S**

TE OKI DILLXNHTHTKIDGO  
NKYQXH W NIDJNTU KIH KE W  
JWLRSWLX DHKLX, SJWH RK OKI  
RK? DUXWQ W HWYQ.

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

CryptoQuip

answer

If you surreptitiously pocket a pushpin out of a hardware store, what do you do? Sneak a tack.



# ASHTON NEWS



## Ashton-Franklin Center High School students attend IHSA Student Leadership Conference

Ashton-Franklin Center High School students attended the IHSA Student Leadership Conference in Peoria Nov. 13 to learn about leadership, time management and social media. They were able to network with over 500 other student athletes from around the state and learn how to become better leaders.

## Lady Raider basketball team begins 2023-24 season

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity girls basketball team tipped off the 2023-24 season on Nov. 13 with a 55-37 loss against Pecatonica. Taylor Jahn led the Lady Raiders with 14 points, while Alexis Schwarz added eight points and Audree Dorn drilled two 3-pointers for six points.

AFC bounced back with a 44-28 win over Oregon on Nov. 15. Taylor Jahn converted four 3-pointers

and finished with 20 points, while Brianna Gonnerman and Audree Dorn each scored six points, with Dorn swishing two 3-pointers. Reese Polk chipped in four points during the win.

The Lady Raiders played a close game against Lena-Winslow on Nov. 16, falling just short in a 38-34 loss. Taylor Jahn's 12 points and Alexis Schwarz's eight points propelled the AFC offense, while Brianna Gonnerman added seven

points and Cameryn Winterland contributed four points.

AFC played two games on Nov. 18, falling 40-32 against St. Edward before scoring a 45-37 win against Rockford Christian. Brianna Gonnerman and Taylor Jahn led the way in the win over Rockford Christian, with Gonnerman scoring 11 points and Jahn adding 10 points. Reese Polk had nine points and Alexis Schwarz added eight points.

## Rock River Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers offers scholarships

DIXON — Highschool seniors looking for ways to help finance their college engineering education can apply for a scholarship available from the Rock River Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. Applications are available now until the application deadline of Jan. 19, 2024. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors

of all public and private high schools in the Rock River Chapter area which includes Bureau, Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties in northwestern Illinois. Applications for scholarships are judged from national standard test scores, essays, transcripts, and extracurricular activities. Scholarships are available only for students attending an accredited

engineering program. In our 2023-2024 scholarship cycle, the Rock River Chapter will award at least one scholarship of \$1,000. Last year the chapter awarded nine new scholarships. Local scholarships are made possible by the Rock River Chapter through its annual scholarship fund raisers. For more information contact Chairman, Erik Larson, at 815-284-3381.

## Lee Sheriff announces Thanksgiving campaign

LEE COUNTY — This Thanksgiving, the Lee County Sheriff's Office is joining the Illinois State Police and local law enforcement to ensure holiday travelers are buckled up and driving sober with a "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"

motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities. Proper seat-belt use is the most effective way to protect vehicle occupants. According to IDOT, the statewide seat-belt usage rate has room for improvement at 92.9 percent.

If you'll be celebrating with alcohol or other impairing substances, please remember: Plan for a sober ride home before you go

out. Call a taxi or ask a family member to get you home safely. If you see a drunk driver, pull over safely and call 911. Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. It is the best defense against an impaired driver. The Thanksgiving enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The weather forecasters don't know yet if you'll be walking through snow on Dec. 9. But if you want to walk through Christmas cheer while snacking, drinking, shopping, and enjoying yourself, the Amboy Hometown Christmas Walk at 4-7 p.m., Dec. 9 is where your shoes should be.

## Amboy Hometown Christmas Walk scheduled for Dec. 9

AMBOY — The weather forecasters don't know yet if you'll be walking through snow on Dec. 9.

But if you want to walk through Christmas cheer while snacking, drinking, shopping, and enjoying yourself, the Amboy Hometown Christmas Walk at 4-7 p.m., Dec. 9 is where your shoes should be.

Santa Claus will make an appearance downtown and trolleys will take visitors from downtown businesses to the businesses on the outskirts of town.

A Craft and Vendor

Fair will be held inside the Amboy Central School gymnasium during the Amboy Christmas Walk from 12-6 p.m.

The annual Fun Run will be held at 3 p.m. before the Christmas Walk kicks off. Registration fee is \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

In a small town, during the holidays, business slows down. This kind of event brings people out and rejuvenates the town. It brings a sense of community back to town during a busy time of year. The walk is designed to bring everyone out to

the town's streets. Not only are there children's activities, but there is an attraction for all.

There are craft and vending shows for the older residents, activities for kids, for teenagers, and for middle aged parents. There is something for everyone, you don't just have to have a child to come to the walk.

The town will be decorated and lit up bright just like it has before for the holiday event.

For more information about the walk, visit Amboy Hometown Christmas Walk page on Facebook.

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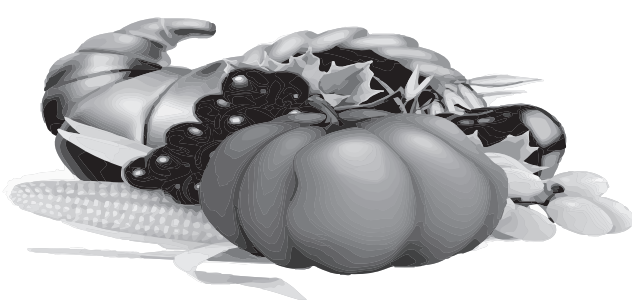
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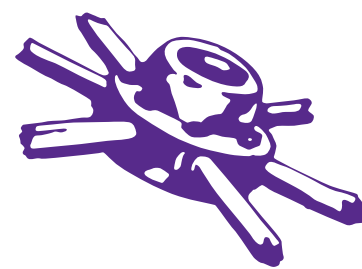
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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Kaiden Morris was named the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference Blue Division Lineman of the Year for the 2023 football season.

## Morris named I-8/KRC Blue Lineman of the Year

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE**—From the moment head coach Kyle Kissack called on him to play varsity football as a freshman, Rochelle lineman Kaiden Morris has risen to the occasion and been a difference maker on offense and defense. It was rare enough that the Hubs had a freshman starting on the varsity level, but the two-way standout went a step further by earning All-Conference honors.

Morris finished his freshman season as the starting right guard while also adding 13 tackles, four sacks and one fumble recovery on the defensive line. Morris returned for his sophomore season and earned All-Conference honors a second time, starting at right guard once again while recording 36 tackles, three sacks and two fumble recoveries in a nine-win season.

Now a junior, Morris not only achieved the rare feat of earning All-Conference honors for a third consecutive season, but he was crowned the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue Division's Lineman of the Year for the first time. Morris compiled 22 tackles, two sacks, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery on defense. He also remained Rochelle's stalwart right guard, helping the Rochelle offense achieve a 1,000-yard rusher for the third consecutive season.

"Coach Kissack talked to me when I was a freshman and he asked me if I wanted

to do this," Morris said. "I told him I was all in and it was nerve racking toward the beginning, but I trusted my teammates and I had a lot of help from them... Our line was great this season and I was surprised when I found out I was the Lineman of the Year because I think everyone on our line could have earned it. We had a great season and it was an honor to receive the award."

Morris has been an integral piece of the Rochelle football program, which has rallied off three consecutive winning seasons as well as three straight IHSA postseason berths. The Hubs went 7-3 overall and 6-0 in the I-8/KRC Blue Division this season, winning a conference title for the first time since 2004. With one more season of eligibility remaining, Morris said his goals for next season are to build more strength and to help lead the team back to the postseason.

"I think I've become a better leader for the team," Morris said. "Coach Kissack told me that other players look up to me and hearing that from him really meant a lot to me. We had a great season and winning the conference was awesome. It hurt that we were paired up against a good team in the playoffs and our season ended way too soon. I want to go as far as we can next season and I want us to keep playing until we can't anymore. I want us to be great."

Morris was one of the 12 Rochelle players who received All-Conference honors from the I-8/KRC this season. The Hubs also saw three players take home Honorable Mentions.

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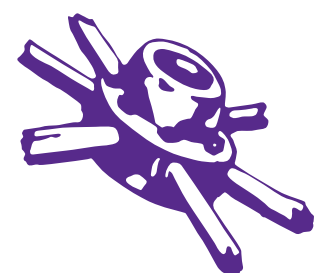


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# SPORTS

**RTHS Football**

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



## Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards during team banquet Wednesday night

The Rochelle Hub football team held its season-ending awards banquet on Wednesday, with several student-athletes earning RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards. Fifteen Hubs received Academic All-Conference honors including Brode Metzger (HM), Frankie Pelan, Jack Tilton, Colton Czekala, Brandyn Metzger, Ethan Goodwin (HM), Carson Lewis, Jordan Spears (HM), Grant Gensler (HM), Ryan Senne, Elijah Harley (HM), Jordan Bly (HM), Jackson Smith, Omar Hueramo (not pictured) and Nick Novak (not pictured). Fifteen Hubs also earned All-Conference honors including Roman Villalobos (HM), Brock Metzger, Jack Carmichael, Xavier Villalobos (HM), Alex Pemberton (HM), Carson Lewis, Dylan Manning, Colton Czekala, Elijah Harley, Grant Gensler, Tommy Tourdot, Jack Pavlak, Ryan Senne, Kaiden Morris and Landon Mickley. Brock Metzger took home the Hackett Award, while Tommy Tourdot won the Ellis Award and Jordan Bly was named the Scout Team Player of the Year (bottom left). Lastly, four Hubs including Carson Lewis, Colton Czekala, Ryan Senne and Dylan Manning (not pictured) earned IHSFCA Academic All-State honors.

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.  
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD 275 611 Western Ave Ashton, IL 61006 9445 815-453-7461 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
School District/Joint Agreement Name Address Telephone Office Hours

Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

#### Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2023

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	4,484,602	909,715	679,999	243,553	163,388	388,127	80,049	446,134	61,312
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000									
State Sources	3000	0	0	0	166,751	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	796,462	24,765	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		536,506	613,862	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		5,817,570	1,548,342	679,999	410,304	163,388	388,127	80,049	446,134	61,312
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		4,994,157	1,590,116	690,226	345,168	133,752	281,416		506,925	4,239
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		75,071	0	19,954	0	0	750,000	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2022		3,733,515	1,521,071	82,913	614,203	292,591	141,344	938,633	220,962	448,454
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		4,631,999	1,479,297	92,640	679,339	322,227	998,055	1,018,682	160,171	505,527
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		4,793,275	1,479,297	92,640	679,339	322,227	998,055	1,018,682	160,171	505,527

### SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999	Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over
BALLARD, KRISTYNE DREW, AMY SNYDER, KELLY THOMPSON, JODI WALLACE, BRYSON WARNER, JEFFREY WILLIAMS, ROSS	AMBERG, ALLISON DUDZIAK, JOHN JANICKE, ABBIE STONE, JOSHUA	AMBERG, JAMES CHAPMAN, AMANDA DIMIG, AMBER DUBOIS, ANN ENGELBARTS, REBECCA MAIRS, MICHELLE MARTIN, TIMOTHY MCKAY, KASSANDRA SEDWICK, MATTHEW TREADWELL, BRIAN WATERS, KIMBERLY	ANDERSON, REBECCA BAY, DEBORAH BROOKS, JULIE CISSNA, GREGORY CISSNA, JENNIFER COFFMAN, LAUARA DEMSEY, JERI DENNISON, KELLY FASSLER, DANIEL GITTLESON, TRACI HART, DEBRA HOLMGREN, TARAH MATSON, TRISTA MCCANNON, MARIE PENICK, KIMBERLY POLLOM, CHRISTIE POWELL, KATHLEEN RAMSDELL, MARCELLA REINHART, JULIE RUEFF, JANE SONDERGOTH, KAREN THOMAS, PENNY WATERS, SEAN	BURKITT, JENAH HURT, MALINDA LINDY, MICHAEL VIAL KELLY

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 and Over
CLARK, MEGAN DANKAS, ELIZABETH GARRITY, MELANIE GOLDMAN, AMANDA HERRERA, CYNTHIA HILLIKER, PAIGE JAMES, KATHRYN KRAFT-TOOLE, KIM LEWIS, JULIE OBRIEN, AMANDA SETTLES, HEATHER WINTERLAND, HEATHER WOLF, JESSICA WOLF, CHRISTINE WOLF, KATHERINE	CARDOT, RHONDA DVORAK, TRUDY ELSHOFF, HOLLIE HANSFIELD, SUSAN MCCASLIN, ANGELA MUNDELL, CYNTHIA PITZER, SHELLEY SMITH, DAVID	HERWIG, JODIE WOLCOTT, ANGELINA	GLEISSNER, JOSEPH HARVEY, DUANE

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

If no payments were made, put "None" in "Person..." column and "0" in "Aggregate" column.

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
ACCIDENT FUND INSURANCE CO OF AMERICA	15,114	MARCO	21,561
ACE HARDWARE	5,404	MCGRW HILL LLC	23,630
AED ESSENTIALS	2,954	MIDWEST BUS LEASING	92,389
AFC HIGH SCHOOL	10,695	MIDWEST PBIS NETWORK	2,900
AFCEA	27,126	NAPA AUTO PARTS	3,443
AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES	9,025	NCS PEARSON INC	3,151
APPTEGY	7,000	NICOR	3,799
ASHTON AUTO REPAIR	7,181	NORTHERN PARTNERS COOPERATIVE	43,261
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS	386,468	OGLE COUNTY EDUCATION COOP	464,207
BOUTON, DAN	4,837	OREGON CUSD #220	8,231
BSN SPORTS	2,626	PAPER 101	70,555
BW TEAM GEAR & ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT INC	5,712	PRENTKE ROMICH COMPANY	4,195
CAPPEL'S COMPLETE CAR CARE	15,543	PRO COMS SYSTEMS	2,955
CASEY'S GENERAL STORES	17,789	QUALTRICS LLC	12,213
CENTRAL BANK OF ILLINOIS	505,360	REPUBLIC SERVICES #766	6,761
CESA 6	8,400	REVTRAK FEE	3,395
CHARACTER STRONG	5,498	RICHARD JOHNSON ASSOC	46,454
COFFMAN, LAURA	4,766	RICHTER PLUMBING & MORE	3,760
COMED	167,229	ROE #47	17,770
COMMONWEALTH EDISON	42,693	ROOTS AND WINDS THERAPY LLC	3,825
CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY	26,125	ROSS JR CONSTRUCTION	14,535
DECKER EQUIPMENT	26,125	SCHOOL SPECIALTY LLC	12,029
DELTA DENTAL OF ILLINOIS	27,492	SHARE CORP	4,729
DIMMING, AMBER	9,800	SHERATON GRAND CHICAGO	4,108
DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	134,454	SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP	58,354
EDMENTUM	14,920	SIMPLE NUTRITION	3,501
EMS LINQ INC	5,269	SKYWARD	14,770
ENGELBARTS, REBECCA	6,300	SPECIALTY FLOORS INC	2,807
FAMILY ZONE INC	7,778	STERLING CUSD #5	24,199
FIRST AGENCY, INC	4,703	TEACHER'S RETIREMENT	303,180
FNIC	4,712	TEACHERS HEALTH INS SEC	43,816
FOLLETT EDUCATIONAL SERVICE	3,271	THE AMERICAN FUNDS	30,181
FRONTIER	11,871	THE HOME DEPOT PRO	37,593
FTC	9,300	THOMPSON ELECTRONICS COMPANY	50,468
GEHRKE CONSTRUCTION INC	186,749	T-MOBILE	3,120
GLEISSNER, JOE	2,514	TOP PERFORMANCE CORP	4,540
HEARTLAND BANK & TRUST	343,038	TRAVELERS CL PERMIT	5,151
HEINEMANN	4,431	TRUGREEN	5,782
HELM SERVICE	864,363	UHC PREMIUM BILLING	57,209
HUDL	9,400	UMB BANK	327,235
HUMANA	6,156	VIAL, KELLY	13,476
IDEAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING	24,560	VILLAGE OF ASHTON	4,538
IL ASSOC OF SCHOOL BOARDS	16,520	VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN GROVE	5,599
IL COUNTIES RISK MGMT TR	50,160	VIRCO, INC	19,446
IL DEPT OF REVENUE	169,091	VISA	102,878
ILL DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY	8,515	WARD, MURRAY, PACE & JOHNSON	7,804
ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND	35,354	WATERS, KIM	6,680
IMPREST AFC ELEMENTARY	5,723	WINTERLAND, HEATHER	8,169
IMPRST FUND	23,627	WIPFLI LLP	26,700
IMRF	59,810	WYATT PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE	19,694
IXL LEARNING	8,370		
JANICKE, ABBIE	8,200		
JOHNSON CONTROLS	4,782		
JOHNSOTN TRACTOR	4,861		
KD LANDSCAPE	23,652		
KEN NELSON AUTO PLAZA	3,655		
KSB HOSPITAL	32,319		
LINDY, MICHAEL	7,117		
M & O ENVIRONMENTAL	43,200		
MARCO LLC	3,739		
MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC	9,693		

### FLAGG-ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT 12-MONTH TREASURER'S REPORT July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

I, Susan Sevedge, Secretary-Treasurer of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, Ogle County, Illinois do hereby certify that the following statements of revenues and expenditures of funds for the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District for the Twelve-months ending to June 30, 2023, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Susan Sevedge  
Secretary-Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2023

Marilyn J Janssen  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS  
My Commission Expires 01/09/2024

### FLAGG-ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT; 2022-2023 INCOME FOR 12-MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Beginning Balance All Funds 7/1/22 \$732,068.91

GENERAL FUND:  
Property Taxes 453,359.48  
Corp. Replacement Tax 100,140.64  
Interest 4,837.52  
Fines & Fees 4,672.79  
Gifts & Donations 860.25  
Miscellaneous 810.52  
Lost Materials 21.99  
Book Sale 782.15  
TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$565,485.34

GRANT FUND:  
Per Capita Grant 19,611.60  
Misc Grant 3,189.00  
TOTAL GRANT FUND \$22,800.60

INSURANCE FUND:  
Property Tax 60,629.22  
Interest 41.34  
TOTAL INSURANCE FUND \$60,670.56

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND:  
Property Tax 44,731.53  
Interest 30.50  
TOTAL IMRF FUND \$44,762.03

SOCIAL SECURITY FUND:  
Property Tax 27,836.11  
Interest 18.98  
TOTAL FICA FUND \$27,855.09

AUDIT FUND:  
Property Tax 6,951.77  
Interest 4.74  
TOTAL AUDIT FUND \$6,956.51

STATEMENT TOTALS: \$728,530.13

GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL COSTS 252,154.84  
LIBRARY MATERIALS 32,135.43  
BUILDING OPERATIONS 82,077.49  
LIBRARY OPERATIONS 26,501.69  
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT 9,652.95  
EQUIPMENT COSTS TOTAL 28,742.54  
TOTAL GENERAL FUND: \$432,264.94

General Fund vendors paid more than \$2500  
Baker & Taylor 12,508.85; Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL \$20,424.87; Chase Card Services \$8,314.91; Children's Plus \$4,929.00; Comcast Business \$3,620.83; De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. \$5452.08; Entré Computer Solutions \$24,398.48; Fischers Inc. \$8,848.15; Frontier \$2,746.35; Helm Service \$3,102.00; Hoopla \$10,183.17; Nicor Gas \$9,159.43; PrairieCat \$11,736.00; Rochelle Municipal Utilities \$22,055.86; Stalene Technologies \$2,709.75; Steve's Landscaping \$4,255.00; Today's Business Solutions, Inc. \$3,508.00; Tracey Remodeling \$2,752.00; Turner Cleaning Service \$21,840.00;  
Vendor's paid less than \$2500.00 \$19,551.18  
Compensation under \$25,000  
Ashley Capes, Christine Adams, Deb Julifs, Judith Fulgencio, Marilyn Janssen, Tina Vincent  
Compensation \$25,000 - \$49,999.99  
Anne Ankney, Juan Martinez  
Compensation \$50,000 to \$76,999.00  
Sarah Flanagan

GRANT FUND:  
LIBRARY MATERIALS 5,637.52  
LIBRARY OPERATIONS 20,772.94  
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT 3,410.10  
EQUIPMENT COSTS 3,128.75  
TOTAL GRANT: \$32,949.31

Grant Fund Vendors Paid More Than \$2500  
CDW Government LLC \$3,447.26; Chase Card Services \$6,264.79; Dell Computer Corp. EBSCO Subscription Services \$3,000.00; TREKK \$20,000.00  
Grant Fund Vendors paid less than \$2500 \$4192.20

INSURANCE FUND:  
PERSONNEL COSTS 2,161.57  
BUILDING OPERATIONS 40,809.17  
LIBRARY OPERATIONS 2,813.00  
TOTAL INSURANCE FUND \$45,783.74

Insurance Fund Vendors Paid More Than \$2500  
Helm Service \$3,711.00; Johnson Controls \$11,231.54; KONE, Inc. \$6,797.04; Cincinnati Insurance Companies \$16,579.00; Tracey Remodeling \$2752.00  
Vendors paid less than \$2500 \$2,991.59

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND:  
Personnel Costs 24,816.59

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Paid More Than \$2500 \$37,465.67  
Vendor's paid less than \$2500 None

SOCIAL SECURITY FUND:  
Personnel Costs 21,348.14

Social Security Fund Paid More Than \$2500 \$19,343.73  
Vendor's paid less than \$2500 None

AUDIT FUND:  
Library operations 11,000.00

Audit Fund Vendors Paid More Than \$2500 Sikich, LLP \$11000.00  
Vendor's paid less than \$2500 None

STATEMENT TOTALS \$568,162.72  
Ending Balance All Funds 6/30/23 \$160,367.41

No. 1132  
(Nov. 22, 2023)



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