



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25, 2023

\$1.25

Council discusses 2023 tax levy Redevelopment agreement for Salt 251 approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council discussed the city's 2023 tax levy. The city has plans to adopt its tax levy at its Nov. 13 with an increase of three percent, which will see it receive \$2,937,089 in property taxes.

Last year, the city's equalized assessed valuation (EAV) was \$283,176,819 and its property tax rate was 1.006360 per \$100 of EAV. The city collected \$2,849,778 in property taxes last year. For 2023, Ogle County has estimated the city's EAV at \$314,233,121, which is an increase of over \$31 million.

Based on the estimated EAV, the tax rate would decrease .071675 per \$100 EAV for the three-percent option. The proposed 2023 levy includes funding police and fire pension funds as recommended by the pension boards' actuarial studies.

The three percent option will see the city's



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation making Nov. 1 National Family Literacy Day in the city and presented it to members of the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

portion of property taxes on the owner of a \$150,000 home costing \$467.34.

Salt 251

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing a redevelopment agreement with the ownership of Salt 251 at 531 S. 7th St. in Rochelle for up to a total of \$105,976.60.

The city recently entered into another rede-

velopment agreement with Salt 251 that saw a roof project done. With Monday's second redevelopment agreement, Salt 251 is eligible for up to 40 percent of developer project estimates.

The latest project will include renovations to the business's clubhouse and outdoor patio (\$191,274 cost) and paving the gravel parking lot (\$73,667.50 cost).

Payments by the city

shall be paid in four installments: 30 days after completion of the renovation of the clubhouse and patio - \$25,503.20; 30 days after completion of the asphalt paving - \$9,822.34; A third payment in the amount of \$35,325.53 by Dec. 30, 2024; and the fourth and final payment of \$35,325.53 shall be paid by Dec. 30, 2025.

See COUNCIL page 5



Former barber shop purchased for demolition

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Oct. 10 meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of 517 W. 4th Ave. for \$30,000 to improve and foster development.

The property is planned to be demolished, which is estimated to cost about \$30,000. The purchase and demolition will be paid out of the city's downtown and southern gateway TIF district funds. The property is the former site of Vinny's Barber Shop, and the building has been condemned.

"The city didn't go in and condemn it," City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said.

See CITY page 2

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Builders Club officers named

The Creston Builders Club recently named its officers with help from the Kiwanis Golden K. **Page 7**


WEATHER




WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
70 59



THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
69 61



FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
70 47



SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
56 42



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OBITUARIES

• GREGORY EARL YOUNG (MUTLEY)
• THOMAS LEROY GRIMES SR.

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INSERTS

• FARM & FLEET

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Ballet Folklórico Nueva Generación de RTHS, the latest iteration of the Rochelle Township High School cultural dance program, is in its third year after starting in June 2021, Program Coordinator and RTHS Counselor Javier Zepeda said.

an equal representation for different cultures. I was asked if Ballet Folklórico could be brought back with a new instructor. I started working with that and that's how it came back again. We're looking

for that equal representation throughout the high school. It's a way to express themselves. They're proud of their heritage and culture. This is part of their culture. It allows students to express it that way. I

think it's a very healthy way of doing it. And at this level, I think it's needed for students."

The program currently has 11 girls in it. The group practices all year long, typically two days a week.

Each region in Mexico is known for a handful of locally-characteristic dances. The RTHS program utilizes region-specific dresses for each dance.

See BALLET page 3



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

COME SEE YOUR FRIENDS



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Community President
NMLS#454385

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NMLS#454387



LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Building purchased for future demolition and development

From page 1

“There was a structural report that was initiated and that structural report identified that the building was in disarray and the cost to repair that building exceeded the value of the building. That was how we got to that point unfortunately.”

An asbestos study will be done on the building as well to determine if asbestos abatement needs to be done. The building shares a wall with a business next door, which will make demolition slightly more complicated, Pease said.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said the city sees the property as an opportunity to put in more open green space, if that’s the route the city council wants to take.

“Ultimately, it’s up to the city council, but I don’t think that the building is going to be repurposed for anything,” Fiegenschuh said. “It needs to come down. The city council wants to make sure that we continue to invest in our downtown and this was a way to potentially provide more parking, but I don’t think it’s going to work for more parking. But certainly we can have some more open green space and allow for people to congregate and maybe put park benches and things like that in and beautify it. The building was condemned, so we just see it as an opportunity to remove an issue from the downtown and replace it with something that’s going to look nice.”

Back in July, the closed on the purchase of the former bank drive up facility property at 509 and 509.5



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its Oct. 10 meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of 517 W. 4th Ave. for \$30,000 to improve and foster development. The property is planned to be demolished, which is estimated to cost about \$30,000.

Lincoln Highway downtown for \$165,000. The structures on the land will be demolished and a parking lot will be constructed. Pease said the downtown property acquisitions are in the same vein of trying to remove blight.

Both the 4th Avenue and Lincoln Avenue properties are in the Downtown Historic District, which will require extra steps before demolition. The city will educate the public on historic district tax credits available in the area to satisfy one requirement for demolition, and will also have to coordinate with the state historic preservation office to make sure that there aren’t any things

that are historical or need to be addressed prior to demolition.

Pease said the demolitions likely won’t happen until the spring. The Lincoln Avenue properties will be part of a downtown parking lot project after the city was recently awarded an Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Streets Capital Grant for \$1.15 million to fund improvements to city parking lots, construction of two new parking lots and the construction of a new public restroom facility. The Lincoln Avenue location will be one of the new lots, along with one

at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Washington Street.

The city plans to have a meeting in the future on the parking lot and restrooms project.

“We’ll be talking about those new proposed public restrooms downtown and what they’ll look like and where they’re going and where we are in the process of a demolition timeline and any reporting that needs to be submitted to the state because of the grants,” Pease said. “Those bid packets will probably go out in late November or maybe early December and then the project will start in 2024. We’re talking about

timelines, locations, grant funding and reporting.”

The gazebo area downtown has been discussed as the location for the public restrooms, but no decision has been made yet, Pease said. The city will be looking at all of its options to see what’s most feasible for walkability within the downtown.

Fiegenschuh said the desire for more parking downtown is commonly heard from business owners in the area.

“If an opportunity arises where we can repurpose a parcel to add more parking, we look at it,” Fiegenschuh said. “We have some really cool businesses downtown

now. We always have, but we’re seeing more boutiques and things like that going in. I think that’s because they’re seeing that the downtown is vibrant and they’re seeing other people invest. I do think having bathrooms downtown will add to it. We’re trying to get more events downtown and having a venue where people can use a restroom is important. We want to make sure we do it the right way. I think they’ll add quite a bit to the area. We’re going to continue to try to grow the downtown area and have it be a focal point for the congregation of people within our community.”

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

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• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:

In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Colonial Flower Shoppe and Hub City Senior Center

In Oregon at: Merlin’s

In Dixon at: Shining Star

In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office

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LOCAL NEWS

BALLET: Cultural dance program enters third year at RTHS

From page 1

The RTHS administration provided support for dresses for the Jalisco dance, and the program recently received a \$2,500 grant to purchase the Veracruz and Sinaloa dresses.

Recent performances by Ballet Folklórico Nueva Generación de RTHS have taken place at Huntley Middle School, Rochelle Middle School, the LaSalle Catholic Parish's Fall Fiesta, the 2022-2023 end-of-year RTHS assembly and at the RTHS Homecoming parade. Performers also welcomed students on the first day of school in September.

The program is currently organizing a dance for the holiday season to raise funds for more dresses.

"The next thing is we'd like to continue talking about and working with the idea of bringing in the elementary school kids to work on dancing skills and having fun dancing with the Ballet group or having the Ballet group go to different schools," Zepeda said. "Superintendent Harper is all for that and we have his support. Principal

Lewis is supportive of that idea as well."

Zepeda said the school was lucky to be able to bring in Garcia as instructor when the program was revived. She knew the dances and the RTHS environment from her time performing in school.

"I really like and enjoy dancing," Garcia said. "They asked if I wanted to help start it again and be their instructor. That's what we did. I love dancing with them. When I was in high school it was just a lot of culture with everybody. We had great relationships and built positive relationships even with the outside world and we got to experience what was outside with different parts of the community outside of just Rochelle. We got to dance in Dixon and Rockford."

Garcia said Ballet Folklórico is learned first with the dance steps, before music is added that needs to be memorized. Dresses are then added and skirting needs to be memorized. Students learn at different paces, like with anything else, she said. The program helps to showcase a different culture to the school

and community as a whole.

"The students and I feel connected to our culture," Garcia said. "And that's one of the reasons why we wanted to do it. Just so that the girls feel connected and a sense of belonging in the community. The community has been involved and really accepting of the girls. We did the Homecoming parade. To me, it was such a great experience to see everybody clapping for them and cheering them on. It's just the importance of belonging and the whole community accepting us. Yes, it's a different culture. It's more of a Mexican tradition, but just involving it here is good."

The Ballet Folklórico program occasionally fundraises for new dresses, which can be expensive. The school provides some dresses, but more are needed, especially if more students join. Most of the girls buy their own shoes and practice skirts, Garcia said. Everything else is provided by the school unless fundraising is done.

If people want to help with fundraising, they can book Ballet Folklórico



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Ballet Folklórico program is led by Instructor Liz Garcia, an RTHS alum and former member of the school's Ballet Folklórico program. In total, RTHS has had a Ballet Folklórico program for over 15 years.

Nueva Generación de RTHS to perform.

"We don't charge," Garcia said. "It's based on donations and whatever they want to donate. Typically we get \$100 and over. We're planning on different fundraisers for the girls to do to see if we can gather more money. Facebook is where we share most of the stuff that we're doing and if we're going to be selling anything to raise money."

Zepeda said that Ballet Folklórico programs are rare in this area outside of in the suburbs.

"I think it's pride and being proud of their culture and music," Zepeda said. "Being proud of representing that Hispanic culture of Rochelle. And they enjoy it. I drive them around in the Hub bus whenever we go here or there. And it's a fun group to be with. They work together. I want to

say that for this particular group, I get phone calls from parents on a weekly basis saying their daughter wants to join the group or is already in the group and they ask what we're working on or practicing. I think we have that support as well with the parents. The school really tries to include the group at different events and get it out to the community. The girls like it and I enjoy seeing it."

Crop marketing program scheduled for Nov. 15

ROCK FALLS — The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of Nov. 15, at the Days Inn, Rock Falls. "Beyond Supply & Demand: Crop Market Price Outlook & Strategies" 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, Estimating '24

Crop Input Costs, Utilizing Futures Price & Crop Insurance, Global Geo-Political Issues & Recession, Implementing a '24-'25 Marketing Plan, and Implications of US Dollar Value, Debt & Interest Rates.

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 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.comcastbiz.net

Program begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15; Days Inn, Rock Falls.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE FOR FLAGG-ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 will be held November 16, 2023 at 7:00p.m. at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library Building, Rochelle, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Susan Sevedge, Secretary of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, whose address is 832 N. 11th Street, Rochelle, Illinois, (815) 561-6422.

II. The corporate and special purpose taxes extended for the 2022/2023 fiscal year were \$619,051.79.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for fiscal year 2023/2024 are \$697,250.00. This is a 12.63 % increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public commission leases for fiscal year 2022/2023 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public commission leases for fiscal year 2022/2023 are \$0.00. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for fiscal year 2022/2023 were \$619,051.79.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for fiscal year 2023/2024 are \$697,250.00 This represents a 12.63% increase over the previous year.

Susan Sevedge
Secretary

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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Gregory Earl Young (Mutley)

ROCKFORD — Gregory Earl Young (Mutley), 57, of Rockford IL, passed away unexpectedly on 10/09/2023.

He was born on 11/13/1965 to Jeannette and Richard Young in Macomb, IL. Greg lived the majority of his life in northern Illinois.

First and foremost, Greg was a lover of animals. He was an avid wood worker and enjoyed time in nature. He enjoyed candle making and tie die design, he was also a motorcycle enthusiast and loved the bands Kiss and The Grateful Dead. Greg

believed the louder the music the better. He also enjoyed reading, gardening, and having healthy debates with friends and family on absolutely any topic.

Greg is survived by Jeannette and Richard Young (parents), Scott (Tonya) Young, Brian Young and Angie Lint (siblings), Nicole (Kyle) Maxwell (niece), Zachary Young (nephew), Kendall and Maci (great nieces), and Easton (great nephew).

Greg always had a love of animals. He ran a reptile and bird rescue from his

home and was a dog lover to his core. He happily took home any dog that needed love and a place to stay. The dogs were spoiled rotten in the best possible way. Greg wanted to set up his own dog sanctuary to help abandoned and abused dogs. Memorials or donations may be made to an animal sanctuary of your choice as he loved them all.

Greg was a wild spirit and put all he had into anything he did. He loved his family, friends and any animal that needed his help. He will be missed by many.

Thomas Leroy Grimes Sr.

ROCHELLE — Thomas Leroy Grimes, Sr., 78, passed away at his

home in Rochelle, Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Services are pending with

the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visit www.ungerhorner.com.

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Matthew A. Simpson, 35, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Rockford Police Department warrant and transferred. Simpson was also arrested for unlawful failure to register as a sex offender and issued a notice to appear and a Nov. 3 Ogle County court date.

On Oct. 22 at 12:32 a.m. Miguel Garcia-Escutia, 32, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and cited for disobeying a stop sign and possession of adult-use cannabis. He was issued a

notice to appear and a Nov. 3 Rochelle court date.

On Oct. 22 at 12:02 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for speeding 55 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a notice to comply and respond and was issued a Nov. 17 Rochelle court date.

On Oct. 23 at 11:15 a.m. Justin Q. Curry, 27, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Iowa warrant and transferred.

On Oct. 23 at 9:08 p.m. Montana Chesko, 21, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle Coun-

ty warrant and transferred.

On Oct. 23 at 6:26 p.m. Jesus Mota Albertson, 38, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence, driving while license suspended, and outstanding warrants in Ogle and Kane counties. Albertson was also cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. He was transferred to the Ogle County Jail and given a Nov. 8 Ogle County court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Oregon man arrested on warrant for possession of child pornography

OREGON — An Oregon man was arrested recently for possession of child pornography, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release said.

On Oct. 21, Ogle County Deputies arrested Kris Stubblefield, 32, of rural Oregon on a warrant for possession of child pornography. The warrant arrest stemmed from a

multi-month investigation by Ogle County detectives and a residential search warrant done on Stubblefield's residence on Oct. 12. Ogle County detectives were assisted on this case by the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Stubblefield was taken to the Ogle County Jail and was scheduled to



have a detention hearing on Oct. 23.

October is National Physical Therapy Month

ROCHELLE — October is National Physical Therapy Month, dedicated to raising awareness of the economic and health benefits of physical therapy. Choosing physical therapy helps Americans live better lives and could save the health care system millions of dollars annually. Physical therapy helps Americans avoid complications from surgeries and the risks of overuse of opioids and other medications.

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recently released a report: "The Economic Value of Physical Therapy in the United States." The APTA engaged an international management consulting group to evaluate the cost-benefit of physical therapy approaches versus non-physical therapy treatments for eight conditions: Osteoarthritis of the knee, Carpal tunnel syndrome, Low back pain, Stress Urinary incontinence, Lateral epicondylitis (tennis elbow), Vascular claudication, Falls prevention and Cancer rehabilitation.

In each condition, the study found that physical therapy offered a significant cost benefit over traditional non-physical therapy methods. Additionally, the report finds that not only is physical therapy an excellent al-

ternative to many other interventions that only provide short-term relief, but its benefits extend to increases in future quality of life and subsequent injury prevention. Five of the eight diagnostic categories (knee osteoarthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, low back pain, stress urinary incontinence, and lateral epicondylitis) referenced manual therapy as part of the recommended interventions provided by physical therapists. All categories included specific exercises as described in APTA clinical guidelines.

Northern Rehab physical therapists are well-equipped in the subspecialty of orthopedic manual physical therapy, which encompasses hands-on treatment, clinical reasoning, therapeutic exercise, patient-centered education, and appropriate physical activity. Our therapists have demonstrated high levels of adherence to clinical practice guidelines. The value of physical therapy is evident in this report. Northern Rehab strives to provide access to the low-risk, high quality health care offered by our physical therapists.

Northern Rehab values its partnership with the APTA and is encouraged by this report that testifies to the value of physical therapy. By making

information about the benefits of physical therapy more widely known, we can provide effective alternatives to invasive surgeries and reliance on drug therapies. Together, we continue to advocate for our profession through education and the dissemination of knowledge.

Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists, voted DeKalb County's Best Physical Therapists for 11 consecutive years, is a physical therapist-owned and operated physical therapy practice dedicated to providing clients with the very best one-on-one customized care, and has built a solid reputation and strong relationships within the communities it serves. If you need pre- or post-operative care, sports conditioning and rehabilitation, or have current or reoccurring pain or other physical therapy needs, now is the time to focus on improving your health. Although it is important to keep your doctor informed about starting a new program, a physician's prescription is not required to begin physical therapy treatment. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 815.756.8524 or visit www.northern-rehabpt.com. You may also find Northern Rehab on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Oct. 21, deputies responded to the 500 block of South Illinois Route 26 in response to a driving complaint. After an investigation, Jorge Luis Ruiz Barrera, 34, of Morrison, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Barrera was also cited for illegal transportation of alcohol as a driver. Barrera was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.



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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.

LOCAL NEWS



Rochelle Township High School Key Club attends Fall Leadership Rally in Geneseo

The Rochelle Township High School Key Club recently attended the Fall Leadership Rally for Division 13 hosted at Geneseo High School where approximately 70 student leaders from the Northwest region gathered. The rally included officer training, service project workshops, and fundraising discussions along with some team building fun. President Samantha Thorne, Vice President Sydney Thorne and Treasurer Manny Cruz represented the Hubs at this event and gained skills and knowledge that will benefit both the school and the community.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The city council held a public hearing for and heard a presentation by Studio GWA about its Downtown Historic District, which was established in 2018.

COUNCIL: Public hearing held for historic district presentation

From page 1

RMU

The council unanimously approved an emergency expenditure for insurance coverage for excluded electric generation assets for Rochelle Municipal Utilities. The coverage provides property insurance for the excluded assets totaling \$29,837,000 and includes property limits of \$2,500,000 and a deductible of \$100,000 per occurrence. Mechanical breakdown coverage is excluded. The city's annual premium will be \$174,247. The coverage will be temporary as the city works to establish a comprehensive policy for all electric operations assets totaling \$81,071,000.

The council also approved a two-year agreement with VanBuren Consulting to assist with RMU lobbying efforts in Springfield for \$110,000. The city has utilized the firm since

2019 to represent the city's electric utility.

Historic district

The council held a public hearing for and heard a presentation by Studio GWA about its Downtown Historic District, which was established in 2018 as a means to recognize history and opportunity by celebrating Rochelle's past and providing a foundation for rehabilitating historic buildings in the downtown. The district includes 55 buildings with a variety of architectural styles from the 19th and 20th centuries. 43 of these properties are contributing buildings and therefore are eligible for a Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HTC), which are available for business owners and developers downtown and the city is trying to raise awareness about them. The city held the public hearing at the meeting as part of

requirements it must meet with the Downtown Historic District as it looks to demolish the former bank drive up facility property at 509 and 509.5 Lincoln Highway downtown. The city purchased the property for \$165,000 and the structures on the land will be demolished and a parking lot will be constructed.

Radios

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the purchase of four portable radios and charging stations from Motorola Solutions for \$26,320 for the Rochelle Police Department.

Proclamation

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation making Nov. 1 National Family Literacy Day in the city and presented it to members of the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



RTHS Marching Band concert is Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Rochelle Township High School Marching Band will hold a concert on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the RTHS football stadium. Gates will open at 6 p.m.

If there bad weather, the concert will be relocated to the RTHS gymnasium. Attendees can come out and show their support as the RTHS Marching Band closes out its 2023 season. Admission cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. The band will present the entire 2023 field show and recognize this year's 2023 senior band members. In addition, the band will also perform their football pregame show. The RTHS Marching Band recently placed second out of six bands in class 3A competition at Western Illinois University this past Saturday. Pictured: Pigeon Burgholzer (guard co-captain), Karma Lidren (drum major), Kyra Bivins (drum major) and Makenzie Liezert (guard captain).

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Nova

Pleased to meet you! My name is Nova and I am a 5 year old fun-loving gal looking for new lifelong companions of my very own. I have previously lived with adults and kids and loved 'em all. I am house trained and even learned to use the doggie door in my past home. I'll admit I can be a bit of a bossy girl when it comes to other dogs, so a home with no other pets may be best. I love to play and romp around in the yard or go on runs! I absolutely love going out on walks, getting booty scratches, and of course.. all of your attention! I am looking forwards to this fall, but what would make it better is a family to enjoy it with, so we can go on lots of adventures. Come check me out at Tails!



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LOCAL VIEWS

GUEST COLUMN

Kern: Fill your freezers while you can

REPORTS, polls, fake news, real news it's an endless barrage of information; the new world we live in. Whatever happened to Walter Cronkite, David Brinkley and Chet Huntley giving us the news without all the ideological babble and political satire? Just the news, and let me decide how I want to interpret it, thank you. Now it's just talking heads trying to get inside my head telling me what to think.

So moving ahead lets again go to the report, this time centered on agriculture. I'll let you process the information as you see fit.

September's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, is the first of the season to incorporate objective yield plot results for corn and soybeans as collected for the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) Crop Production report.

For the 2023/24 marketing year that started Sept. 1, USDA indicates that corn farmers planted 772,000 more acres of corn than what was reported in the June 30 Acreage report, pushing corn area planted to 94.9 million acres, up 7.1%

compared to 2022.

As expected, yield projections decreased by 1.3 bushels per acre from August's report to 173.8 bushels per acre, falling 0.74%. Despite poor crop conditions—the lowest rating of good-to-excellent corn for this point in the season since 2012—overall yield is still currently projected to be the fifth-highest on record. In the objective yield surveys, NASS found that there were a record number of ears per acre in the fields. So, despite tough conditions making smaller ears and less kernels per ear, yields are being buoyed by record-high ear counts. Overall U.S. corn production is forecasted to nudge up from the previous month, rising to 15.134 billion bushels (+0.15%, 23 million bushels), driven by the increase in acreage estimates.

On the demand side, projections for the 2023/24 U.S. corn crop were unchanged month-over-month. The increase in 2023/24 production was offset slightly by a decrease in 2022/23 ending stocks caused by a month-over-month increase in old crop exports. Ending stocks were forecasted up 19 million bushels to 2.2 billion

bushels (+0.86%). With overall limited movement, the projected average farm price for corn remained the same at \$4.90.

Projected yields for soybeans were also reduced for the 2023/24 marketing year, lowered by 0.8 bushels to 50.1 bushels per acre (-1.6%). The lower yields were slightly offset by a small increase in planted acres, but the extra acreage didn't make up the entire gap, which led to a projected reduction of 59 million bushels of soybean production, a 1.4% decrease from the August WASDE report forecast.

Projected 2023/24 domestic use was also reduced, led by a drop of 1.9% in projected exports (35 million bushels) as compared to the August report. These factors, combined with a reduction in the old crop ending stocks led to one of the biggest surprises in this report. USDA projected a decrease in this year's ending stocks, which are estimated to end at 220 million bushels, a 10.2% reduction month-over-month and 12% lower than 2022 estimates. That leaves the soybean market on track to have a 5.2% stock-to-

use ratio, which would be the lowest since 2015. The projected 2023/24 average farm price was projected at \$12.90. This represents a 20-cent increase over the August report, and an 80-cent increase since the first estimate in May. Despite these increases, this projection is still down \$1.30 (3.2%) in comparison to the 2022/23 season.

Despite these slightly bullish adjustments, futures markets responded negatively with the November contract closing at \$13.46 per bushel on the day of the release, or down 22 cents. This may be in response to the fact that Brazil, the biggest competitor to U.S. soy production, is expected to have another monster corn and soybean crop coming down the pipe. On the livestock side, a fresh set of USDA supply/demand estimates lowered production forecasts for beef, pork, and poultry in 2023. Overall, changes made in this report slightly reduced both supply and demand forecasts for red meat and poultry. Total beef supplies for 2023 were reduced by 1.1 million pounds from 2022 or 3.5%. Lower cattle supplies from continued herd liquidation

are largely responsible for this change. Beef demand for 2023 is reduced by 551 million pounds or about 2%. USDA increased third quarter steer price projections by \$5 per cwt to \$179.02, or 2% from August, and by another \$6 per cwt, or 3%, from August, in quarter four. 2024 beef demand was reduced by 1.6 million pounds, or 6%, from 27.6 million pounds in 2023 to 25.9 million pounds in 2024. This likely reflects an expected change in consumer preference in 2024 in response to higher beef prices.

Pork production was lowered slightly from 2022 mostly due to lighter than expected carcass weights and slowed slaughter pace. Demand for pork is projected to increase slightly by 55,000 pounds. Pork exports were lowered by 125,000 pounds, or about 2% from August, but remain 7% higher than 2022. Mexico is currently the leading importer of U.S. pork in 2023 with 446.1 thousand metric tons in export sales accumulated as of Sept. 8, 2023.

2023 broiler production and demand estimates were both reduced slightly from

August. 2023 production was estimated at 46.19 billion pounds, down slightly from August and 483 million pounds, or about 1%, below 2022. Demand was estimated to be 39.06 billion pounds, down only slightly from August or 2% below 2022. Price projections reflect the drop in demand. USDA estimates prices for the second half of 2023 to average \$1.145 per pound, about 13% lower than the second half of 2022.

USDA projects egg prices to increase by 3 cents per dozen in quarter three, and by an additional 21 cents per dozen in quarter four. These price increases come from a 57.5-million-dozen decrease in production from hatchery data. While fourth quarter prices are projected to increase, the \$1.60 estimate is 257% lower than the \$4.11 per dozen prices in the fourth quarter of 2022.

So what does all of this mean for consumers? Fill your freezers while you can.

"Public opinion polls are rather like children in a garden, digging things up all the time to see how they're growing." -JB Priestley

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

Consider this: The search for the positive

SOMETIMES I feel like a cartoon character. The main character in a single frame, standing there with the television, radio, social media all sounding off at the same time with the rhetoric of today's news coming from some. Nothing of a positive nature, only that which spews the hate, devastation and sadness in today's world.

Those that are the closest to me, neighbors, friends, family, are trying to counter the negativity, trying to help keep me positive, but getting drowned out in the rhetoric.

Somehow, I only hear the voices of those few and can ignore the rhetoric. I guess it's because I can turn off the television, turn off the radio, not look at social media redirecting away from the bad and let the good begin to rise above. So it starts, my

search for the positive stories, for the goodness that's out there. Because we all know there are more good people, more honest people, more loving people than there are hateful, mean and unhappy ones. The latter only shout louder and carry bigger sticks.

So why is it that there seems to be nothing else but negativity in broadcasting today? No matter what channels you watch, all seem to be stuck there in the muck and mire of helplessness. Is it really because this "alternate reality" pays the bills? Can we really call this news if it never stops? We all should know what is happening in the world, but we need to know when we must stop and find the optimistic news that is out there for us so as not to get swept into helplessness as they have been.

Even I, in my articles,

have been swept up in the frenzy. Though I try to keep them informational for you to read and decide for yourself, many have had a note of the seriousness of situations. I can only hope that you read my writings then read the rest of the news in this paper. Because there are many stories of a positive nature.

Such as our Hubs won the Interstate 8/KRC Blue Division crown in a game against one of our toughest rivals, Richmond-Burton; Charities of the area grant scholarships to deserving students, or money to those that are hurting; New businesses coming to town; GoFundMe sites are being set up for local families in need; History of Rochelle comes to life

through the words of our local historian.

Local newspapers are the life blood of a community. They truly provide the news as it used to be. The bad and the good. That's the way it should be. News articles, not 24-hour news drama. If you are used to reading your news online, almost all local newspapers have a web site with the newspaper itself, and with additional news you might miss. The key is to keep the news short, sweet and positive. This is what they do.

It is sad to see some newspapers in decline. Personally, I think local papers have been hit the hardest. Yet, these are the ones we need to thrive. These are the ones that tell us about ourselves.



Reed Harris

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
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(217) 782-1942

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@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



(COURTESY PHOTO)
The Golden K Club sponsors the Creston School Builders Club, and their advisor is Ms. Lin. Mr. Larry Wing is their Kiwanis advisor. The newly-elected officers were installed by Mr. Ric Taylor, lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Division 13. The new officers are: Vice President Lexi Crawford, President Jasmyn Mascote, Secretary Leelee Garland and Treasurer Brock Heller.

Creston School Builders Club elects officers

CRESTON — The Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K Club recently visited Creston Elementary School. They were greeted by Ms. Stachlewitz, superintendent. The Golden K Club sponsors the Creston School Builders Club, and their advisor is Ms. Lin. Mr. Larry Wing is their Kiwanis advisor. The newly-elected officers were installed by Mr. Ric Taylor, lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Division 13. The new officers are: Vice President Lexi Crawford, President Jasmyn Mascote, Secretary Leelee Garland and Treasurer Brock Heller. The club has several projects started this year, including plastic bottle caps for a bench, aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald house and American flag retirement.

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

October 26 – (Thursday) – Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn
October 31 – (Tuesday) – Happy Halloween!! - Chili, Hot Dogs, (Sauerkraut for hot dogs)
November 5 – NO SUNDAY BRUNCH

KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

****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**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 25 Bianca Herrera	Oct. 30 Jack Powell
Oct. 28 Stephanie Wiginton Bryce Weems	Oct. 31 Angel Weyhrauch McKinley Moser

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



- Sept. 29 - Juan Martinez, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 30 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Oct. 1 - Caring Friends, Dixon, \$50
- Oct. 2 - Shawn Meyers, Keokuk, Iowa, \$25
- Oct. 3 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 4 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Oct. 5 - Rochelle Police Dog, \$25
- Oct. 6 - Linda Alderks, Chana, \$25
- Oct. 7 - Rochelle Fire Fighter Social, \$25
- Oct. 8 - Calvin M. Jacobs, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 9 - Mic Brooks, Rochelle, \$250
- Oct. 10 - Jessica Mueller, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 11 - Jason Burdin, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 12 - MeLisa Young, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 13 - Jasmine Sarabia, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 14 - From the Heart, \$25
- Oct. 15 - Michele Perez, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 16 - From the Heart, \$25
- Oct. 17 - City of Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 18 - Erica Walton, Moline, \$25
- Oct. 19 - Merry Mathis, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 20 - Emily Dysart, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 21 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Oct. 22 - Diane Cecil, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 23 - Bob Hammon, Sycamore, \$25
- Oct. 24 - From the Heart, \$25
- Oct. 25 - Jacob and Taylor Bigelow, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lass
 - 4 Choose
 - 8 Beanies
 - 12 Historic time
 - 13 Actor's quest
 - 14 Theater award
 - 15 Contingency funds
 - 17 Goddess of victory
 - 18 Orange veggies
 - 19 Pursuing
 - 20 Cellist Casals
 - 22 Innocent one
 - 24 New York canal
 - 25 Misfortune
 - 29 Balloon filler
 - 30 Pal
 - 31 Big D.C. lobby
 - 32 Melancholy melodies
 - 34 Alike (Fr.)
 - 35 Aftermath
 - 36 Condition
 - 37 Of the Arctic
 - 40 Chinese dynasty
 - 41 Egg
 - 42 Believed
 - 46 Ganges wrap
 - 47 Skip
 - 48 Apprehend

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

- 49 BPOE members
- 50 Lectern locale
- 51 Sticky stuff
- DOWN**
- 1 Prized session
- 2 Altar constellation
- 3 Small beetle
- 4 Teaser ad
- 5 Charged bits
- 6 The Browns, on scoreboards
- 7 Lock opener
- 8 Have a huddle
- 9 Slightly
- 10 Toll road
- 11 Crystal gazer
- 16 Like ganders
- 19 "Dear —"
- 20 Stew veggies
- 21 Operatic solo
- 22 Police ID
- 23 Tosses in
- 25 Nonsense
- 26 Attractive
- 27 "I smell —!"
- 28 Hardy cabbage
- 30 Sow's mate
- 33 Hindu teachers
- 34 Sicilian volcano
- 36 Prepares flour
- 37 Sit for a photo
- 38 Ellipse
- 39 Hide in the bushes
- 40 1502, in Old Rome
- 42 Brick carrier
- 43 "I — Rock"
- 44 Eastern "way"
- 45 "Game of Thrones" airer

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: T equals K

OGYO TZFA ZP PD NFLDHHDFWR
ICFCUDWCFO OGYO CUCJRIDER
ICAYF LYWWZFA GZH
"RDNJ JDRYW TZFEFCPP."

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Answer

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

Answers

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

That king is so uncommonly benevolent that everybody began calling him "Your Royal Kindness."

answer

CryptoQuip



Happy Haunting

35 million pounds of candy corn are produced each year

\$1.3 billion total October sales of candy and snack foods

\$182.9 million the estimated value of pumpkins sold in the United States

4,921 the number of pumpkin patches in the United States

Official Rochelle Trick-Or-Treat Hours

Saturday, October 28, 2023
5:00-8:00 pm

Witch's "BrewHA-HAs"

What's in a ghost's nose?
BOO-gers

Why did Dracula go to the doctor?
He was "coffin" too much.

Which skeleton won the candy-eating contest?
No body

What was the witch's best subject in school?
Spelling

What type of rocks do skeletons collect?
Tombstones

What's a ghost's favorite food?
Ice Scream


Chocolate Candy
#1 treat preferred by trick-or-treaters

Witch
Most popular online costume search

2,702 lbs
World record for the heaviest pumpkin

These businesses would like to remind everyone to follow these tips for a fun and safe Halloween!

Source: Statistics Canada 2016



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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



SECTIONAL DUO

RTHS runners Luis Hernandez and Annaliese Koziol qualify for sectionals.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity football team defeated Richmond-Burton 30-20 on Friday to win the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference Blue Division title. It's Rochelle's first conference title since 2004. The Hubs finished the regular season with a 7-2 overall record and a 6-0 conference record.

Hubs win I-8/KRC crown

Rochelle claims Blue Division title after 30-20 victory over Richmond-Burton

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND — The Gatorade bath eventually found its way to head coach Kyle Kissack after the Rochelle Hub varsity football team recorded a historic win over Richmond-Burton on Friday. With the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference Blue Division title

on the line, Rochelle went on the road and outdueled the state-ranked Rockets, who entered as the No. 5 rated team in Class 4A. Freshman Dylan Manning rushed for a team-high 103 yards and one touchdown while adding a 25-yard touchdown catch as the Hubs defeated Richmond-Burton 30-20. It's the first conference championship since 2004

for the Hubs (7-2, 6-0 I-8/KRC Blue), who will learn their playoff fate when the IHSA postseason pairings are released Saturday evening. In addition to the historic team achievement, Rochelle saw junior Grant Gensler eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season with a 17-carry, 101-yard rushing effort on Friday.

"We've grown so much throughout our season and we've fought our way through a lot of adverse situations," Kissack said. "Our message remains consistent in that we have to find ways to get better every day and that let us to this moment. We faced a team that's won 60 games over the last five years and we played really well tonight. We consistently ex-

ecuted our fundamentals and all of those things that we coach on a daily basis were executed well." Richmond-Burton (7-2, 5-1 I-8/KRC Blue) stole a possession to start the game, successfully converting an onside kick to immediately take the momentum. But the Rochelle defense, which notched its fourth shutout this season during last week's win

over Plano, came through with a big stop in the red zone, where junior safety Elijah Harley broke up a pass on fourth down. Rochelle capitalized on the defensive stand, stringing together a 10-play, 81-yard drive that culminated with one of the team's biggest offensive plays of the evening.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Cross Country

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Rochelle Township High School runners race at IHSA 2A Kaneland Regional on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams competed in the IHSA 2A Kaneland Regional on Saturday. The Hubs finished ninth out of 11 schools with 273 points, while the Lady Hubs took 11th with 292 points. Representing the Hubs were Luis Hernandez, Declan McGee, Elijah Mayen, Levi Waddle, Hadley Losoya, Caleb Wyssbrod and Cash Budde. Representing the Lady Hubs were Annaliese Koziol, Rose Luxton, Vivi Worthington, Brisa Zepeda, Bridgett Ramirez and Isabella Biggs.



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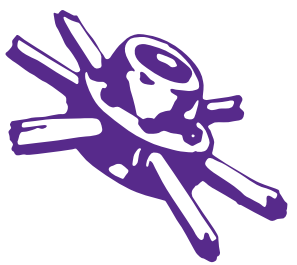
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SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle clinches No. 8 seed in IHSA 5A Playoffs

From page 1

Faced with a fourth-and-6 down at the Richmond-Burton 42-yard line, junior quarterback Carson Lewis dropped back and fired a 42-yard touchdown to sophomore Brode Metzger, who ran out of the backfield and over the middle of the Rocket defense for an easy catch-and-run for six points.

The Hubs took an 8-0 lead into the second quarter, where senior line-backer Brock Metzger and members of the Rochelle defense forced the second of two first-half three-and-outs for the Rocket offense. Metzger recorded a team-leading 12 tackles on defense for the Hubs, who extended their lead when sophomore fullback Roman Villalobos ran through the middle of the line of scrimmage for a 7-yard touchdown. The score helped Rochelle hold a 16-0 advantage.

"It's an amazing feeling and we balled out tonight," Metzger said. "We knew Richmond-Burton was a great team on offense and we watched a lot of film on them. We were hitting them low and we made sure they weren't the ones running us over. Our confidence is through the roof after beating this team and I feel like we can come out and beat anybody we face."

A 23-yard pass from quarterback JT Groh to wide receiver Jack Martens late in the second quarter sparked Richmond-Burton's lone scoring drive of the first half. The Rockets reached the end zone on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Groh to wide receiver Max Loveall, but the Hubs stopped Richmond-Burton's 2-point conversion attempt, with junior corner Xavier Villalobos tackling Martens short of the goal line. The Rockets were just 1-of-3 on 2-point plays Friday.

Rochelle took a 16-6 lead into the third quarter,



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Dylan Manning rushed for 103 yards and one touchdown while adding a 25-yard touchdown catch during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Richmond-Burton on Friday.

where a critical dropped pass by the Rockets resulted in an interception for Gensler, who snatched the football and returned it deep into Richmond-Burton territory. The Hubs took advantage of the Rocket mistake, scoring on a 25-yard touchdown pass over the middle from Lewis to Manning, who added a 16-yard touchdown run during the fourth quarter to help clinch Rochelle's victory Friday evening.

"Dylan is mature beyond his years right now," Kissack said. "We needed a spark when we called him up during the third week of the season and he's answered the bell at every round. We've given him more and more responsibility each week. We gave him the majority of the carries at the end of the game and we trust him.

I'm really proud of him and he's a really humble kid."

A 24-yard touchdown pass from Groh to Martens made the score 24-12 in favor of the Hubs entering the fourth quarter. Rochelle answered with Manning's rushing touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, when the freshman wingback burst through the line of scrimmage and carried several Richmond-Burton defenders into the end zone. A 7-yard touchdown run from Ryan Saranzak late in the fourth quarter wasn't enough for the Rockets to come back.

Junior Brandyn Metzger and senior Isaac Lopez each recovered onside-kick attempts by the Rockets to keep the Hubs rolling during the second half. Leading 30-20 with less than two minutes remain-

ing, Rochelle iced its win with a 17-yard rush from Gensler, who also added five tackles on defense. The Hub offense outgained the Rocket offense 333-245 in the win.

"We came into this game knowing it was going to be a pretty even matchup," senior corner Tommy Tourdot said. "We knew we had to work hard this week to get this win and that's what we did. We had a great week of practice and our scout-team defense gave us a really good look at what Richmond-Burton would do. We knew they had a good offense, but we're a really good defense. We're really confident in ourselves and we trust each other and our abilities."

Playoffs

The IHSA released

its official 2023 football playoff brackets on Saturday night. The Rochelle Hub varsity football team earned the No. 9 seed in the Class 5A North Bracket and will face No. 8 seed Wheaton St. Francis in the first round. The game will be played on Friday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Wheaton St. Francis.

Rochelle (7-2, 6-0 I-8/KRC Blue) will look to build on its current four-game winning streak that includes a 30-20 victory over Richmond-Burton to clinch its first conference championship since 2004. Wheaton St. Francis (7-2, 2-1 CCL/ESCC Orange) has won five straight games.

Rochelle and Wheaton St. Francis met in the IHSA 4A Playoff Quarterfinals last season, with the Spartans defeating the Hubs

35-16 at Rochelle Township High School.

Fresh/Soph

The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team concluded its season with a 17-14 loss against Richmond-Burton on Friday. The Hubs finished the season with a 7-1 overall record and a 5-1 record in the Interstate 8/KRC Blue Division.

Sophomore Brenden Voight rushed for a 3-yard touchdown, while sophomore Van Gerber tossed a 25-yard touchdown pass to freshman Warren Schweitzer. Sophomore Mark Green recorded an interception and five tackles to lead the Rochelle defense in the game.

Sophomore Markell Pogue added six tackles and freshman Brody Bruns totaled five tackles.

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SPORTS

RTHS Golf

Young core creating optimism for the future

IHSA Sectional qualifiers Metzger, Dyer headline eligible returners for 2024

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A combination of talented underclassmen and first-year senior players led the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team to a two-win season and a seventh-place finish in the IHSA 2A Rock Falls Regional this fall. With several seniors set to depart from the roster, head coach Glen Mehrings will look to his young core for continued success in the near future and beyond.

Rochelle concluded the season with a 2-10 overall record and a 0-5 record in the Interstate 8 Conference. The Hubs scored wins over North Boone and Mendota while taking sixth in the conference tournament, where sophomore Ian Metzger became the program's first individual conference champion on the boys side in school history. Metzger also became a two-time IHSA Sectional qualifier, while freshman Alex Dyer reached sectionals for the first time as a Hub.

"We had eight seniors this season and four of them were first-year seniors," Mehrings said. "A lot of them were contributors to the varsity team this

season... Those first-year guys certainly helped our varsity team and we had some seniors make big strides on our JV team. We shot between 170 and 180 as a team for most of the season and we had three underclassmen anchoring us. Those underclassmen were typically our top three players during the season."

Among the seniors who earned varsity roles this season were Chandler Cunningham, Obie Nava and Owen Messer, who received Rochelle's Most Improved Player award this season. Seniors Cale Workman and Parker Lenkaitis also earned varsity starts at different points in the season. Those five seniors, along with Alexander McBride, Haley Bozinovich and Elise Horner, who earned Rochelle's Girls Most Valuable Player award, will depart from the 2023 roster.

"I think our team score should certainly drop over the next two or three seasons," Mehrings said. "We'd like to lower our score into the 160s and eventually the 150s with those three solid underclassmen anchoring our lineup. I think we have a few individuals returning who will have a chance



Cale Workman (left) is one of eight seniors departing from the 2023 roster for the Rochelle Township High School golf team. Freshman Alex Dyer (right) is one of three key underclassmen eligible to return in 2024.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

to make it to sectionals or even the state championship meet next season."

Rochelle's underclassman threesome includes Metzger, who earned All-Conference recognition and the team's Boys Most Valuable Player award this season, as well as

Dyer, who was named an All-Conference Honorable Mention. Rochelle's young core also includes freshman Owen Carmichael, who was a varsity starter all season and only missed sectionals by a few strokes. Juniors Chris Hickey and Jacob Ost are two players

who could earn varsity roles next year.

"Ian was steady for the entire year and I thought Alex and Owen worked through some peaks and valleys this year," Mehrings said. "Ian's going to work really hard over the summer and I'm sure Alex

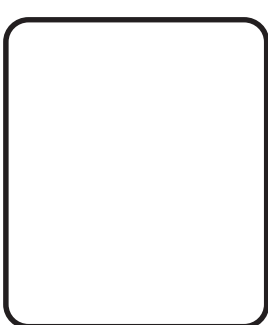
and Owen will follow suit. I think the success of one player will motivate the others because they know that success is achievable. I'm excited to see how that pans out over the next 12 months. They work really hard on their own and they love to play golf."

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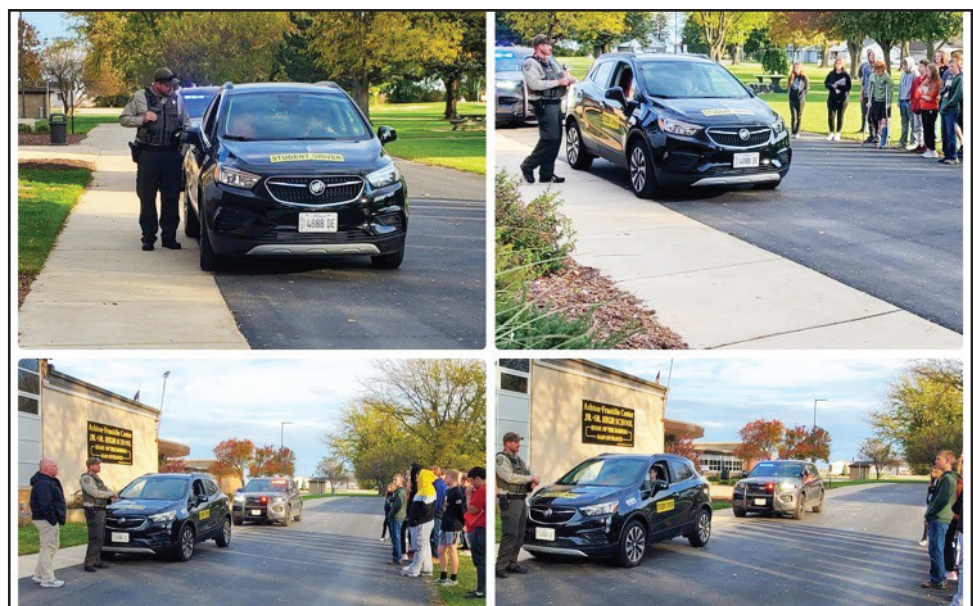
ASHTON NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center School District celebrates National Bullying Prevention Month and Unity Day
October is National Bullying Prevention Month with Unity Day on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The Ashton-Franklin Center School District participated in Unity Week dress-up days last week and received push-in lessons around the topic of bullying. Monday's theme was Team Up Against Bullying. Tuesday's theme was Pair Up Against Bullying. Wednesday's theme was Wear Orange. Thursday's theme was Stand Up To Bullies by wearing your favorite shoes.



Coffman, Mershon named AFC Raiders of the Week
Mallory Coffman (volleyball) and Logan Mershon (football) were recently named the Ashton-Franklin Center High School Raiders of the Week. "These two have shown incredible leadership and work ethic both on and off the court/field," a district Facebook post said. "While their athletic performances are at a high level, they are two fantastic students at school as well. We are very proud of these two young adults as they encompass what it means to be a Raider! Congratulations, Mallory and Logan!" The weekly award is made possible by sponsors Rev on 38, New Creations Constructions, Mimini's General Store, Ralphie & LuLu's, Hueber Feeds, The Huddle Café, tmg designs and the AFC Athletic Boosters.



AFC Driver's Ed gets visit from Sheriff's Office
The Ashton-Franklin Center High School driver's education class of Mr. Smith had Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Seeley in Oct. 23. Students practiced a traffic stop and were able to ask questions about the rules and expectations. "Thank you Officer Seeley for being here today and thank you Mr. Smith for ensuring our student drivers are prepared!" a district Facebook post said.

Kish College commits to student cost transparency by eliminating \$1 million annually in fees

MALTA — Kishwaukee College will eliminate several student fees starting in the spring 2024 semester as the College focuses on cost transparency.

At the October Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved the removal of four of the college's six fees. The student activity, technology, registration and lab/studio fees will be eliminated. The two remaining fees—the material and course fees—are under review to determine how they can be removed from student tuition bills. The four fees approved by the board for elimination will save students an estimated \$1 million over a full academic year.

"We want to be as transparent as possible at Kishwaukee College regarding the cost of education. Removing these fees from the total cost of attendance makes it easier for students and their families to plan for funding their education," Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College, said.

Kishwaukee College has improved its financial stability in recent years due to several factors, including increased enrollment, expanded state support for community colleges, and a growing equalized assessed value (EAV) for the Kishwaukee College district.

The college has not increased tuition or fee costs for the past four years.

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CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARY L. SPENCER, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 19, 2023, to JACK A. SPENCER, whose address is 11286 Brighton Oaks Dr., Yorkville, IL 60560, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than April 25, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for JACK A. SPENCER, Executor of the Estate of MARY L. SPENCER, deceased No. 1035 (Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and 8, 2023)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JAMES R. PHIPPS, Deceased. NO. 2023-PR-60

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JAMES R. PHIPPS, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 19, 2023, to PAMELA J. PHIPPS, whose address is 6078 Tudor Lane, Loves Park, IL 61111, and whose attorneys are Fearer Nye & Chadwick, LLC, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than April 25, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER NYE & CHADWICK, LLC, Attorneys for PAMELA J. PHIPPS, Administrator of the Estate of JAMES R. PHIPPS, deceased No. 1036 (Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and 8, 2023)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: IBRAHIM MUSA ABUHAMMUDA, Deceased. NO. 2023-PR-62

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of IBRAHIM MUSA ABUHAMMUDA, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 19, 2023, to MEDHAT SBEIH, whose address is 1208 McClurg Dr., Batavia, IL 60510, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chad-

wick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than April 25, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for MEDHAT SBEIH, Executor of the Estate of IBRAHIM MUSA ABUHAMMUDA, deceased No. 1038 (Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and 8, 2023)

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HELEN B. KLEPARSKI, Deceased. NO. 2023-PR-0000305

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of HELEN B. KLEPARSKI, of Loves Park, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 19, 2023, to GERALYN M. COX, whose address is 10500 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068, and whose attorneys are Fearer Nye & Chadwick, LLC, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Winnebago County Courthouse, Rockford, IL 61101, or with the representative, or both, no later than April 25, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. FEARER NYE & CHADWICK, LLC, Attorneys for GERALYN M. COX, Executor of the Estate of HELEN B. KLEPARSKI, deceased No. 1039 (Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and 8, 2023)

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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

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FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

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203 HELP WANTED

ROCHELLE News-Leader

Part-time local delivery driver

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

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle. No phone calls please.

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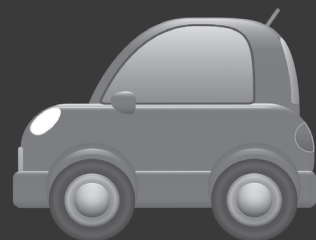
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PRIME TIME

Money management tips for retirees

WHAT constitutes a perfect retirement is different for everyone. Some people may imagine spending their golden years fishing their days away, while others may aspire to finally embrace their inner globetrotter. Though individuals' retirement dreams differ, every retiree will need money, which only underscores the importance of a wise and disciplined approach to money management.

Average life expectancies have risen considerably over the last several decades. According to estimates from the United Nations Population Division, the average life expectancy in Canada for both sexes is just under 83 years, while it's slightly more than 79 in the United States. Those figures are a welcome sign, but they may inspire a little fear among seniors who are concerned that they might outlive their money. No one knows how long they will live, but everyone can embrace a handful of money management strategies to increase the chances that they won't feel a financial pinch in

retirement.

- Study up on the tax implications of withdrawing from your retirement accounts. Every retirement investment vehicle, whether it's an IRA or a 401(k), has tax implications. Money withdrawn too early may incur tax penalties, and even money withdrawn long past retirement age could elevate retirees into a new tax bracket that could prove costly. A financial advisor can help retirees determine the tax implications of withdrawing money from their retirement accounts and may even develop a detailed guideline of when withdrawals should be made and how much should be withdrawn in a given year in order to minimize tax liabilities.

- Prioritize your own needs. Though retirees, particularly those with children and grandchildren, may feel an obligation to help their families in difficult financial times, generosity can be very costly for adults who have stopped working. Retirees may or may not have opportunities to generate new income, and even those who do likely won't

make enough to meet their daily financial needs. Given that reality, retirees must prioritize their own financial needs, including their immediate needs and those they will have for the rest of their lives. Though it might be difficult to turn down loved ones' requests for financial help, retirees must make sure they can pay their bills and maintain a quality of life that won't jeopardize their long-term health.

- Examine your housing situation. Equity in a home is a feather in the cap of many retirees. Retirees who own their homes and live in locations with high property taxes might be able to cash in on their equity by selling their homes and downsizing to a smaller home with lower property taxes. If moving is not a consideration, discuss a reverse mortgage with a financial advisor. A trusted financial advisor can highlight the advantages and disadvantages of reverse mortgages, which are a great option for some people to improve their financial well-being in retirement.

- Stick to a budget during retirement. The U.S. Department of Health and



Human Services reports that roughly 70 percent of individuals who turn 65 will need long-term care in their lifetimes. That's just one expense retirees must budget for, and it's more sizable than some people may recognize. In fact, the Fidelity Retiree Health Care Cost Estimate

found that the average retired couple age 65 in 2022 will need roughly \$315,000 to cover health care expenses in retirement. And health care costs are just one of many expenses retirees can expect to have. Budgeting and avoiding overspending can ensure retirees

have the money they need when they need it.

No one wants to outlive their money in retirement. Various strategies can help retirees effectively manage their money so they can enjoy their golden years without having to worry about their finances.

Tax breaks aging taxpayers may be eligible for

GROWING older comes with many perks for those who are open to exploring the benefits. In addition to senior discounts on movies, meals and more, moving into one's golden years could offer some breaks when it comes to taxes and finances.

It is always best to go over tax- and finance-related plans with an accountant or certified financial planner to figure out what is in your best interest. However, generally speaking, here are some potential age-related tax perks.

Older individuals can contribute more to employer-sponsored retirement accounts and Roth or traditional individual retirement accounts (IRAs), according to AARP. For 2023, the contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k) and 403(b) programs, most 457 retirement savings plans and Thrift Savings Plan through the U.S. Federal Government can increase their contributions to \$22,500 — a jump of \$2,000 from last year. Those over age 50 can maximize contributions even more, up to a total of \$30,000.

The Balance Money says for tax year 2022, people age 65 or older can add an extra \$1,750 to the standard deduction they're eligible for if they are unmarried and not a surviving spouse. Those who are married and file joint returns can add \$1,400. For tax year 2023, those amounts go up to \$1,850 and \$1,500. In addition, the standard eligible deductions increased. Most older taxpayers feel the bigger standard deduction plus the extra standard deduction is more than any itemized deductions they can claim and choose this option when filing their returns.

The ability to contribute more to tax-deferred retirement accounts enables older adults to reduce their taxable incomes. This, in turn, reduces the amount that needs to be spent on income taxes.

According to The Arbor Company, which oversees



senior living communities, the filing threshold is the income that must be made before being required to file a tax return. Typical taxpayers who are either employees or retired and drawing pensions or Social Security find the threshold increases over age 65. Single filers over age 65 do not need to file returns if their incomes are \$14,050

or under. Married filers over age 65 have a threshold of \$27,400. If primary or sole income comes from Social Security or a pension, those over age 65 may not have to file returns at all.

Differing from deductions, a credit for taxpayers is available to people age 65 or older or retired persons on permanent and total disability who receive taxable

disability income for the tax year, according to the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, this credit is for those who have an adjusted gross income or the total of nontaxable Social Se-

curity, pensions, annuities, or disability income under specific limits. The eligibility levels change from year to year. Credits range from \$3,750 to \$7,500.

These are some of the

tax breaks American seniors can expect when filing their income tax returns. Speak with an accountant and financial planner about other perks that come with aging.






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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Tennis

Growth defines six-win season for Lady Hubs

Junior netters Doyle, Williams headline varsity players eligible to return in 2024

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Growth was the central theme for head coach John Michael Loggins as he detailed the successes of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team during the 2023 season.

With several seniors set to depart from the program, Loggins and the coaching staff will aim to continue growing the roster as the Lady Hubs prepare to rebuild from a six-win season.

Rochelle finished the 2023 season with a 6-9 overall record and an 0-5 record in the Interstate 8 Conference. The Lady Hubs shined against non-conference opponents, scoring wins over Rockford Lutheran, DeKalb, Sterling, Mendota, Newman Central Catholic and Rockford Christian. Rochelle also finished first in the Harlem Invitational while taking second in the Lady Hub Invitational

and placing fifth out of 10 schools in the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional.

"I'd describe our season as a season of growth," Loggins said. "Our players developed shots that they didn't have early in the season and I thought our players fought really hard. I switched our doubles teams around during the season and they adapted really well. We had great spirits throughout the season and my goal was for the girls to try hard and get better. We had girls who were great friends, who cheered each other on and wanted the best for each other."

Seniors Elin Zheng and Kara Martinez took the court for the Lady Hubs in singles this season, while three seniors including Macenzie Glosser, Annaleigh McKinney and Allison Dickey battled in doubles this season. Those five seniors, along with Adamaris Betancourt and Jessica Nguyen, are set to depart from the 2023 roster. Ju-

nior doubles players Riley Doyle and Kitty Williams are two varsity starters who could see larger roles on the team next season.

"It was a real pleasure to have Macenzie on the team this year," Loggins said. "She's a player who fits our theme of growth. Her first serve became a real threat and I thought that both Allie and Annaleigh became great leaders who were always positive and looking for the best for our team. Elin's been a staple for our program and her skill level brought everybody else's skills up. Kara was a warrior for us and I wish we had her in our program for all four years."

Juniors Erin Murphy and Kendyl Darby each earned varsity starts during the season and could see larger roles on the team next season. Sophomore Teagan Auld, who was Rochelle's No. 1 singles player at the JV level, could move into a varsity singles role for the Lady Hubs in 2024. Junior Abby Metzger



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Allie Dickey is one of five varsity starters who will depart from the 2023 roster for the Rochelle Lady Hub tennis team.

is another player who could move from JV to varsity next season.

"Teagan battled with both Elin and Kara during practice and I'm excited to

see where she lands next year," Loggins said. "I'm excited to see what Kendyl, Abby and Erin can do next year. It was their first year, but they made leaps

and bounds from our first day of practice. I'm looking for Riley and Kitty to lead the charge as our most experienced players on the varsity team."

RTHS Boys Soccer

Hubs push through injuries during five-win season

Salazar, Sergeant highlight varsity senior starters departing from 2023 roster

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Aslew of injuries made wins difficult for the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team to achieve during the 2023 season. But with a small senior class set to depart from the roster, head coach Brad Male and his staff will look to its returning players to turn their fortunes around.

Rochelle finished the 2023 season with a 5-13-2 overall record and a 2-8 record in the Interstate 8 Conference. The Hubs secured conference wins over Ottawa and LaSalle-Peru while notching nonconference victories against Genoa-Kingston, Stillman Valley and Dixon. Rochelle's season concluded with a 1-0 shutout loss to Freeport in the IHSA 2A Rochelle Regional Quarterfinals.

"I was hoping for a better outcome in the conference, but we were down a few players for most of the season and we were dealing with some injuries," Male said. "I thought we progressed well toward the end of the season, but it's tough when we're playing against teams like Kaneland and Sycamore and we're not at our strongest. I was pleased with how we progressed toward the end of the season

and I'm excited to see what our returning players can do next year."

Among the seniors set to depart from the varsity roster are four-year starting forward Diego Salazar, who recorded 20 goals and five assists this season, and two-year starting defender Nathan Sergeant. Defenders Leoncio Mejia and Edgar Cortes along with forwards Alex Garcia and Jesus Mondragon are four more seniors who will depart from the program after this season. Salazar concluded his successful varsity career at Rochelle with 49 goals and 17 assists.

"Those roles will be hard for us to fill," Male said. "Diego's done an exceptional job over the last couple of years and he was one of our leading scorers. We're going to miss his scoring, but I think we have a few kids who will work into those roles. I thought Nathan was exceptional on the back line for us and I wish we had him in our program for all four years. We relied on him a lot in the back and he filled his role well. Hopefully we can fill both of those spots next year."

The Hubs will have a talented junior class eligible to return next season. That class includes forwards Alberto Casillas, who fin-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Fernando Diaz (right) is one of several starters eligible to return from the 2023 roster for the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team next season.

ished with 25 goals and five assists, and Fernando Diaz, who became a captain late in the season and totaled seven goals with seven assists. Rochelle will also have starting underclassmen like

sophomore forward Kevin Orozco (three goals and one assist) and sophomore midfielder Heilly Zepeda (four goals and one assists) eligible to return.

Additional starting un-

derclassmen such as sophomore goalkeeper Antonio Hueramo (166 saves) as well as freshman midfielders Alexis Nava (four assists), Danny Garcia (three assists) and freshman

defender Eliud Lombardia could return for the Hubs next season.

Junior defenders Bryan Garcia, Luis Milan and Francisco Diaz are all eligible to return in 2024.

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