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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 2023

Horner announces run for coroner

Rochelle resident approaching five years as deputy coroner

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — On Thursday morning on the front lawn of the Old Ogle County Courthouse in Oregon, Chad Horner of Rochelle formally announced his Republican candidacy for the office of Ogle County Coroner. The 2024 Republican Primary will be held on March 19.

Horner is currently in his fifth year as Ogle County's deputy coroner. He is co-owner of Unger Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle and a graduate of Illinois State University and Worsham College of Mortuary Science.

"I would not be here without the support of my wife and children, my extended family, my friends and many elected officials," Horner said Thursday. "I am running because of my qualifications, my experience and my roots in Ogle County, which make me the best candidate for this office. My experience as a funeral director, a business owner and my educational background and my nearly five years of service as your full-time deputy coroner combine to make me the candidate ready to hit the road running once I'm



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday morning on the front lawn of the Old Ogle County Courthouse, Chad Horner of Rochelle formally announced his Republican candidacy for the office of Ogle County Coroner. The 2024 Republican Primary will be held on March 19.

elected."

Current Ogle County Coroner Lou Finch will not be seeking reelection. Horner said Thursday that the office under Finch has played "a significant role" in the criminal justice system in the county preserving evidence and finding causes of death.

"Our office of dedicated and knowledgeable people have worked to develop procedures that work with other aspects of law enforcement," Horner said. "During my five years of service, I have strength-

ened those relationships, and that's why I have the endorsement of the county's top law enforcement officers, Sheriff Brian VanVickle and State's Attorney Mike Rock."

Horner is also endorsed by Lee County Coroner Jesse Partington, DeKalb County Coroner Dennis Miller, Stephenson County Coroner Todd Welch, Carroll County Coroner Matt Jones and Winnebago County Coroner Jennifer Muraski.

"Their confidence in me means a lot," Horner

said. "I am a sixth generation funeral director. My family and I have served the people of Ogle County at their hour of need since 1861. I am also very proud that I'm the third generation of my family to serve the people of Ogle County through the coroner's office. Public service and working with people is a hallmark of my business and it is a critical part of the content of my character. I would be honored to be elected by the people of Ogle County and to serve as their coroner."



Sheriff talks operational changes

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON — Since Sept. 18, local law enforcement has been operating under the new standards put in place by the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform legislation that eliminated cash bail.

An individual's wealth no longer plays a role in whether they are incarcerated while awaiting trial. Judges can still order someone to be detained as they await trial, but the new system is instead based on an offender's level of risk of reoffending or fleeing prosecution. Illinois is the first state to fully eliminate cash bail. The SAFE-T Act also reformed police training, certification and use-of-force standards, expanded detainee rights, and gave the attorney general's office authority to investigate alleged civil rights violations by law enforcement.

See SAFE-T page 2

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Lions Candy Day set for Oct. 14

The Rochelle Lions Club will hold its annual Candy Day on Oct. 14. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
78 65

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
75 58

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
61 47

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
57 41

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OBITUARIES

- SHIRLEY ANN WITROW
- FRIEDA IRENE GRENNAN

See page 4

INSERTS

- FARM & FLEET

INSIDE

Local News.....	2, 3
Obituaries.....	4
Opinion.....	6
Community.....	7



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Second Small Business Bingo event raises \$6,433 for HOPE of Ogle County

Next events scheduled for Nov. 2 and 13 at Flight Deck hangar

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A Small Business Bingo fundraiser event held at Salt 251 in Rochelle on Sept. 18 raised \$6,433 to benefit HOPE of Ogle County, Event Organizer and AP Massage Therapy Owner Ashley Patrick said.

The bingo event included prizes donated by local small businesses with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting HOPE of Ogle County. The cost was \$15 per person for 10 rounds of bingo. A cash bar and food options were available for purchase. Just over 230 people attended, Patrick said, filling the Salt 251 banquet room. \$2,500 in matching funds were donated by Salt 251 Owner Jim Withers. Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh were guest bartenders at the bingo night.

See BINGO page 3



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A Small Business Bingo fundraiser event held at Salt 251 in Rochelle on Sept. 18 raised \$6,433 to benefit HOPE of Ogle County, Event Organizer and AP Massage Therapy Owner Ashley Patrick said.

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LOCAL NEWS

SAFE-T: VanVickle details operational changes due to state legislation

From page 1

It also required body cameras at all police departments by 2025.

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said Sept. 28 that his office was prepared for the elimination of cash bail and that it has gone as expected since. For arrests post Sept. 18, charges can be in either must-detain or non-detainable categories. Those in the must-detain category go to jail and usually within 48 hours on business days they'll appear in front of a judge for a detention hearing and the judge will make the ruling on whether they'll remain in jail or not.

On non-detainable offenses, there's 17 different questions that determine whether an individual can be detained or not.

"So we have to go through a process of determining the answers to those questions and then speaking with the state's attorney's office to get their approval to hold those people on a

non-detainable offense," VanVickle said. "So it's complex. There's a lot of leg work that had to be done on the front end, but we've used electronic tools to ease the reporting piece of that. Those 17 questions are all done electronically and forwarded to the state's attorney. We've put a lot of forethought into the process and while it seems tedious, it hasn't really slowed our process."

Arrest warrants issued to prior Sept. 18 are still being treated under the old format, VanVickle said, and those are still handled in the same manner. If cash bail is assigned to them, people can still post bond on them and be released from jail. If they can't post bond, they appear in court in front of a judge.

VanVickle was outspoken against the elimination of cash bail and various aspects of the SAFE-T Act, and was involved in the legislation through the Illinois Sheriff's Association and testified before lawmakers in Springfield.

Among his biggest concerns was those charged with crimes such as battery being back out in the community shortly after being arrested.

"We've had people that have been arrested for aggravated domestic battery in which the victim was choked and they were released from jail," VanVickle said. "That was a concern. All of the concerns that we've talked about with people not being in jail and being back in the public have happened. That's going to be a concern moving forward. We're 10 days into this. Obviously we have people that have been arrested and have been in front of a judge and have been released and how long is it until they're going to reoffend? That's a concern. What we predicted was going to happen has so far held true. Those people are not being held in jail and they're back out in our community. That has happened in Ogle County already in cases involving battery."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said Sept. 28 that his office was prepared for the elimination of cash bail and that it has gone as expected since.

The Ogle County Jail's inmate population is down since the Sept. 18 changes, the sheriff said, which was expected. There are now about 15 less inmates since Sept. 18, which VanVickle called "fairly significant" for a jail of Ogle County's size. That number could continue to decrease, he said.

Inmates arrested prior to Sept. 18 are able to petition the court system to be moved over to the new format, and the sheriff said a number of those filings have been made by inmates in Ogle County.

Winnebago County's jail population has seen an increase since Sept. 18, and not all counties have seen the same impacts of the SAFE-T Act changes. Shorter-term jail stints could be seen in Ogle County.

"What I think we're going to see more than anything is that while our jail population may go up, it's going to be a higher number of people that are just there for the 48 hours. That's something that we're watching closely because obviously that's a lot of work when you're constantly booking people in and releasing people. That takes a lot of time and manpower to do. That's something that we're definitely monitoring because that's something that I can definitely

see happening down the road."

The new Ogle County Jail opened in early 2021. VanVickle said the 42,000 square-foot, 154-bed facility potentially seeing less use under the new conditions is "obviously a concern." Ogle County does have contracts with the federal government to house inmates and VanVickle said inmates from those contracts could be increasing soon after the numbers have been down in recent years due to COVID-19.


"While we won't have as many of our own inmates, we should definitely see a potential increase in contracted inmates," VanVickle said. "But again, the pendulum always swings. You look at the population of the jail in the 1980s and 1990s and it fluctuates up and down. It's just a product of society and time and when we did our needs assessment, there was some consideration for the future, but also knowing what's happened in the past. We've seen the fluctuations based off of the past and looking forward with our potential population growth moving forward, that was how the determination was made for those beds. While we don't have the people there today, it was cost effective to build the

size jail we did looking forward."


The Ogle County Jail is currently run at minimum staffing of three correctional officers and a supervisor. Staffing could only see an increase due to more inmates. Having fewer inmates going forward due to the elimination of cash bail would mean a cost savings to the county with it having to spend less on things like meals, water and sewer.

The sheriff said his goal was to make the SAFE-T Act change over process as "status quo for deputies as possible." They continue to bring people to jail to be processed, whether they'll be released shortly afterwards or not.

"To be honest, it's a concern that people are getting in and out of jail on a battery charge before the reports are even done," VanVickle said. "The deputies are spending a couple of hours finishing up reports and getting evidence processed and these people are already out of jail and on their way home. It's not a surprise. We knew this was going to happen and we tried to explain it to the legislature prior to the new law passing and being implemented. There's not been really many surprises for us. Everything that we said was going to happen has come true."



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In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
- BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

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BEST, Inc. awarded with Apprenticeship Expansion Grant

OGLE COUNTY — The Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.) was recently awarded an Apprenticeship Expansion Grant of \$110,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide business engagement and technical assistance for the develop-

ment of new and expansion of existing apprenticeship programs. The grant is for a one-year period with the possibility of extending it for up to an additional four years in June 2024. Technical Assistance and outreach covers the eight counties that BEST serves: Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, La Salle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam

and Whiteside. BEST will also serve as a liaison to connect businesses to the US Department of Labor Region 5 Office of Apprenticeship.

This first year of the grant will run from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Staff anticipate the standup of at least two programs in the area of broadband services in Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties and to place virtual reality goggles in two Career and Technical Education facilities for career exploration for participating youth. This year will serve as a pilot project that can be expanded to other areas of BEST's service delivery area.

Because apprenticeship programs have demonstrated to be a strong recruitment and retention strategy, staff will also be reaching out to other companies across all industry sectors in their eight counties in an effort to expand apprenticeship opportunities for area job seekers and provide a skilled workforce for area businesses.

The agency hopes to be able to apply for and receive additional funding during the 2024 grant bidding process.



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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The bingo event included prizes donated by local small businesses with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting HOPE of Ogle County. The cost was \$15 per person for 10 rounds of bingo. A cash bar and food options were available for purchase. Just over 230 people attended, Patrick said, filling the Salt 251 banquet room.

BINGO: Small business fundraiser held at Salt 251

From page 1

The event was the second of its kind in recent months. In August, the inaugural Small Business Bingo night raised a total of \$4,510 for Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center. Over 150 people attended that night, which raised \$2,255, which was matched by Withers.

“To see how much this event has grown already, and I hope it continues to grow, was awesome,” Patrick said. “We had almost 100 more people than the first time and we raised twice as much money. It was just amazing. And Jim’s \$2,500 contribution was just huge. To be able to write a check for over \$6,000 to HOPE of Ogle County means a lot to

me personally. I think we have a lot of really good organizations in Rochelle and bringing awareness to the services that HOPE can offer for those in our area that are affected by domestic violence is an important thing. I love being able to see this grow and the community coming out in such great numbers showing their support.”

Patrick said that along with funds, she’s enjoyed raising awareness for the nonprofits the events have helped. Both Shining Star and HOPE of Ogle County have seen increased interest from volunteers since, she said.

The AP Massage Therapy owner thanked the city, local businesses and organizations for their support of Small Business Bingo

so far. Patrick and a small group of volunteers have worked to put on the events each time.

“There are about 5-6 of us that have done everything from the setup to getting people through the ticket lines and selling raffle tickets and collecting donations,” Patrick said. “There’s been a very small number of us working behind the scenes and they have been nothing short of amazing to help put on this event that has grown much larger than we ever imagined.”

With over 230 people attending, Patrick and company had to get creative to fit all of the attendees into the Salt 251 ballroom on Sept. 18. Due to the large turnout, the remaining two Small Business Bingo

events will be held in the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill at 1207 E. Gurler Road.

“Jim and the team at Salt 251 have been great and so accommodating and generous,” Patrick said. “Jim has made donations and has given out gift certificates and a lot of his own time and money to be able to make this possible so far. Unfortunately, we have just outgrown the space and it’s a great problem to have for a fundraiser. I hate to move the venue because it’s beautiful and they’ve been great to work with so far, but I’m also excited to see this continue to grow and the only way to make that possible is to move to a bigger venue.”

The next Small Business Bingo event will be held

Nov. 2 (to benefit Focus House) from 5-7 p.m. That night was moved from its original date to not conflict with the Trick or Treat Safehouse event in Rochelle. The fourth and final planned Small Business Bingo event will be held Nov. 13 (to benefit The Kitchen Table) from 5-7 p.m. The event pages and more details can be found on the AP Massage Therapy Facebook page.

“The events will be a little closer together, but I think they’ll still have great turnouts now that the word is out and people are really excited about it,” Patrick said. “We’ve had two really great turnouts so far and I hope to see that continue for the last two events.”

Patrick originally hoped that each Small Business

Bingo event would attract 100-150 attendees when she first conceived of the fundraiser. Her goal is to continue to grow it and to learn from each night of it to raise more funds and make it a better experience for guests.

“It’s gone beyond my wildest dreams,” Patrick said. “It started with just an idea that I had. I wanted to do something on a bigger scale to give back and make a bigger impact and encourage people to get involved. After each event, I’ve had more and more people approach me about wanting to get involved and volunteering or donating. It has been a huge undertaking to put this together, and it’s been overwhelming in the best way to see it grow how it has.”

U of I Extension hosting the Ogle County Farm Stroll Oct. 15

OREGON — Have you ever wanted to see a beekeeper in action? Or pick your own apples and berries? Join us for this free, family friendly event that will satisfy your local food cravings and curiosities!

On Sunday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

University of Illinois Extension will host the Ogle County Farm Stroll, a self-guided driving tour of highly diversified family farms, all open to the public on one big day. There will be farm tours, demonstrations and of course fresh local food samplings and sales. Dress

for the weather, it will take place rain or shine.

The farms participating in this year’s Farm Stroll are Barnhart’s Stone Corner, Berry View Orchard, Dietrich Ranch, Happily Homegrown, Hough’s Maple Lane Farm and Orion Organics.

Come see farm raised

cows, organic fruits and vegetables, pigs, and so much more. One of the farms is full of antique farm equipment and farming history. How does the stroll work? Just choose which farms you want to see and create your own route using the map and brochure provided.

This is a free event, but bring some cash to stock up on local, farm-fresh products.

Follow Ogle County Farm Stroll on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information, brochures, maps, and spotlight features on each farm: <https://www.facebook.com/northernill>

farm stroll. Contact Cindy Jankiewicz, program coordinator, at Extension’s Ogle County office at 815-732-2191 or email cjankie@illinois.edu with any additional questions you may have or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program.

Protect Illinois Communities Act endorsement affidavit now available

SPRINGFIELD—People can now submit an endorsement affidavit online for assault weapons, assault weapon attachments, .50 caliber rifles, and .50 caliber cartridges. On Jan. 10, 2023, Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law Public Act 102-1116, the Protect Illinois Communities Act, regulating the sale and distribution of these items in Illinois, along with large

capacity ammunition feeding devices. The act went into effect immediately upon signing. Individuals who possessed assault weapons, assault weapon attachments, .50 caliber rifles, and .50 caliber cartridges before the Act took effect are required to submit an endorsement affidavit through their Firearm Owner’s Identification (FOID) Card account prior

to Jan. 1, 2024. Large-capacity ammunition feeding devices are regulated, but do not require an endorsement affidavit.

As of Oct. 1, 2023, individuals are able to submit their endorsement affidavits online. Affidavits must be submitted online through a FOID Card account. Individuals can access their FOID Card account from the ISP

Firearms Services Bureau website, or going directly to www.ispfsb.com/Public/Login.aspx. If you have forgotten your username or password, links on the login page will help you recover or reset your information. The same Firearms Service Bureau links can be used to create an account for those who do not have one. You will need an email address, and

driver’s license or State ID to create an account. A tutorial video on how to create an account can be found on the ISP FOID webpage under Application Help.

A tutorial video on how to submit an endorsement affidavit through your FOID account is also available on the ISP website and can be found on the Protect Illinois Communities Act, Regulation

on Assault Weapons page. Individuals who need help submitting an endorsement affidavit can refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page or visit one of the ISP FOID Kiosks, both of which can be found on the ISP website at <https://isp.illinois.gov/Home/AssaultWeapons>. Do not bring your weapon, ammunition, or accessories if you visit a Kiosk.

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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Shirley Ann Withrow

ROCHELLE — Shirley Ann Withrow, 81, passed away Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 in Rochelle at her home. Shirley was born on March 1, 1942, to Charles and Faye (Nash) Spencer in Rochelle. On April 16, 1965, she married Jerry Allen Withrow in Rochelle. She provided childcare for many local families for years.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Jerry of Rochelle; three daughters: Julie (Dave) Christopherson of Rochelle, Jodi Withrow of LaSalle and Jan (Johnny)

Smith of Rochelle; five grandchildren: Ryan (Annie) Christopherson, Tyler (Lindsey) Christopherson, Priscilla Withrow, Caleb and Lilyana Smith; and five great grandchildren: Arelyn and Josie Withrow, Willow, Alexander and Genevieve Christopherson. In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her grandson, Jason Christopherson.

The memorial visitation will be from 11 to noon, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023 at the Unger-Horner Funeral



Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The memorial service will follow at 12 with Pastor Doug Forsberg officiating. A memorial will be established. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

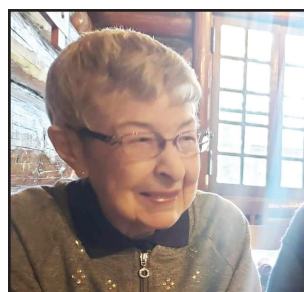
Frieda Irene Grennan

ROCHELLE — Frieda Irene Grennan, 93, passed away Sunday, October 1, 2023. She was the youngest of five children born to John and Nova (Johnson) Jenkins in a farmhouse near Kings, Illinois. She grew up in Rochelle, Illinois and graduated from Rochelle Township High School. In high school, she worked as a soda jerk at Hayes Drug Store and also at Morgan Dye Company.

Frieda married the love of her life, Doran Grennan on August 19, 1950 in Rochelle. She worked at the phone company before having children and then later worked 33 and a half years at the Ogle County Courthouse in various jobs including Justice of the Peace, and the Circuit Clerk, Public Defender, and Coroner's offices. She was preceded in death by her husband, Doran, her

parents, John and Nova, one brother, Everette, and three sisters: Ruth, Helen, and Bette.

Frieda loved celebrating birthdays and Christmas, and they were always big family events. She loved to sew, knit, and made hundreds of quilts through the years. Everyone in the family has several of her beloved quilts and it was her favorite hobby. Frieda and Doran enjoyed many trips to Las Vegas, The Grand Ole Opry, Hawaii, and Palm Springs. When their children were young, they took many road trips including west to the Grand Canyon, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and a train ride home from California. She loved picnics and boating at the river, and Sunday trips to Ladd for Ripp's Chicken. Her time spent with her children and grandchildren were her happiest moments.



Frieda is survived by her two children: Jeanne (Jack) Leamanczyk, Jim (Kim) Grennan; four grandchildren: Chad Broderick, Brittany Broderick, Seth (Meggan) Grennan, and Carri (Craig) Tommey; and seven great grandchildren: Alexandra, Sean, Liam, Shea, Finn, Madison, and Archie. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews that were very dear to her heart. Private services will be held in Rochelle, Illinois with private burial. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Sept. 30, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Cristian Manuel Tinoco-Hernandez, 25, of Durango, Mexico, for no driver's license. Tinoco-Hernandez was taken into custody without incident and released on a notice to appear with a return court date set. Tinoco-Hernandez was additionally cited for no splash guards.

On Sept. 30, deputies responded to the intersection of Marrill Road and Holcomb Road for a report of a possible crash, indicated by an Apple iPhone crash notification. A preliminary investigation by the sheriff's deputies determined that a blue 2007 Chrysler Town and Country van was

traveling south on Marrill Road and failed to stop at the posted stop sign. The van continued south on Merrill Road, lost control, and entered the east ditch, where it struck a creek embankment, coming to rest a short distance later. The driver, Matthew Frank, 26, of Byron and passenger, James Collard, 55, of Rockford were pronounced deceased at the scene by the Ogle County Coroner's Office. Deputies were assisted by Oregon Fire, Stillman Fire, and the Ogle County Coroner's Office. The incident remains under investigation.

On Oct. 1, deputies, along with Stillman EMS, responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Big Mound Road and White Rock Road. After an investigation, it was learned

that Diane Winters, 54, of Kings, entered the intersection, striking an oncoming vehicle. Winters was cited for failure to yield at a stop intersection. Maggio's towing removed all the vehicles from the location. All parties involved refused medical treatment.

On Oct. 1, deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 northbound at mile marker 105 for a traffic violation. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested a 16-year-old juvenile of Rockford for driving with no valid license. The juvenile was additionally cited for following too closely. The juvenile was released on a notice to appear and transported to the custody of a legal guardian.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 29, John D. Davidson, 53, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He was released on an notice to appear.

On Oct. 1, Matthew L. Hurst, 39, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated battery and transferred.

On Oct. 2, Colleen G. Massamba, 37, of Ohio was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, disobeying a traffic control device and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She was released on a notice to appear.

Jenkins, 38, of Belvidere was cited for expired registration. He was released on an I-Bond.

On Oct. 2, Jalen M. Lingren, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for violation of stalking/no contact order and transferred.

On Oct. 2, the Rochelle Police and Fire Department responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 38 and Caron Road for a traffic crash involving a vehicle and bicycle. A preliminary investigation revealed that a black Pontiac driven by a 21-year-old female was eastbound on Route 38

when it struck a bicycle driven by a 21-year-old male in the intersection of Route 38 and Caron Road. The bicyclist was also traveling eastbound on Route 38 when it appears he attempted to head northbound on Caron Road and was struck.

The bicyclist was flown to an area hospital with serious injuries. The female driver of the vehicle was not injured during the incident. The Rochelle Police were assisted with the investigation by the Illinois State Police Crash Reconstruction Team.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Fehr Graham recently wrapped up its third community service event to mark the firm's 50th anniversary. This time the theme was "Let's Build Something Together," and the team installed a recycled park bench at Sweeney Park in Rochelle.

Fehr Graham installs bench at Sweeney Park to mark firm's 50th anniversary

ROCHELLE — Fehr Graham recently wrapped up its third community service event to mark the firm's 50th anniversary. This time the theme was "Let's Build Something Together," and the team installed a recycled park bench at Sweeney Park in Rochelle. The 200-pound bench was made from do-

nated bottle caps.

Fehr Graham collected bottle caps, poured the cement for the pad and secured the bench with brackets. Fehr Graham employees and families helped with the project, guided by T.J. Riggs of Riggs Construction. The Kiwanis Club provided the recycled

bench, and Fehr Graham covered the building costs. The project is part of Fehr Graham's commitment to community involvement. Other initiatives this year were a supply drive for the Rochelle Rescue Mission and a tree planting at Sweeney Park to celebrate Earth Day.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Warning signs of domestic abuse

HOPE of Ogle County is celebrating 40 Years of giving hope to survivors of domestic abuse. All services provided by HOPE are confidential and there are no fees for services offered. HOPE is available 24/7 (815-562-8890) and there is an advocate to provide immediate support and safety information. Counseling services for adults, teens and children are offered in Rochelle, Polo and Oregon. Court advocacy is also available in Ogle County. Services are available in Spanish and Language Line is utilized as well. Emergency shelter services and resources are also available.

Domestic abuse is a serious issue that is more prevalent than people may realize. Data from

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that nearly 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States.

People experiencing abuse of domestic abuse often feel helpless against their aggressors. Those experiencing domestic abuse are not alone and there is support and help.

Anyone can help by learning to recognize the warning signs that someone is being abused, and WebMD notes that such signs include:

- Excuses for injuries
- Personality changes, like low self-esteem in someone who had previously been a confident individual
- Constantly checking in with their partner
- Never having money

on hand

- Overly worried about pleasing their partner
- Skipping out on work, school or social outings for no clear reason
- Wearing clothes that don't align with the season, such as long sleeve shirts in summer to cover bruises
- Scratches in their neck
- Domestic abuse does not have to be physical, often emotional abuse and controlling behaviors are the most difficult to contend with
- Concerned individuals also can learn to spot the warning signs of abusive and controlling partners, family members and caretakers. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, people who use abusive in relationships come from all groups, cultures, religions, and economic

backgrounds. In fact, the NCADV notes that one study found that nine out of 10 abusive persons had no criminal records and were generally law-abiding outside their homes. That can make it hard to spot, though the NCADV indicates that abusive personalities may exhibit certain warning signs, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Extreme jealousy
- Possessiveness
- Unpredictability
- A bad temper
- Cruelty to animals
- Verbal abuse
- Extremely controlling behavior
- Antiquated beliefs about gender roles within relationships
- Forced sex or disregard of their partner's unwillingness to have sex
- Sabotage of birth

control methods or refusal to honor agreed upon methods

- Blaming for anything bad that happens
- Sabotage or obstruction of person's ability to work or attend school
- Controls all the finances
- Abuse of other family members, children or pets
- Accusations of partner flirting with others or having an affair
- Control of what partner wears and how they act
- Demeaning the person, either privately or publicly
- Embarrassment or humiliation of the person in front of others
- Harassment of the person at work
- *Non-fatal strangulation has serious safety and medical safety consequences.

According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, "A woman who has suffered a nonfatal strangulation incident with her intimate partner is 750% more likely to be killed by the same perpetrator...with a gun." If you or someone you know has been strangled medical attention and immediate safety planning is important.

Anyone who is experiencing abuse or suspects a loved one or acquaintance is in an abusive relationship is encouraged to call HOPE of Ogle County at 815-562-8890, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline and Text Line 877-863-6338, or National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 800-787-3224 (TTY).

Recognizing and reporting child abuse

No one wants to imagine a scenario in which a child is threatened or unsafe. Unfortunately, children confront abusive situations every day.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines child abuse as any emotional, physical mistreatment, neglect or sexual abuse perpetrated by an adult in a role of responsibility on someone who is under the age of 18. Everyone, whether they have children of their own, work with children or even people who do not routinely interact with children, can do their part to protect children by learning to recognize the warning signs of child abuse.

In many instances, school officials and teachers are some of the first people to recognize potentially abusive situations

in children's homes. The general public can educate themselves about possible signs of child abuse; they may be a abused child's only advocate. Here are some signs of potential physical and emotional abuse.

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, and marks around the neck.
- Bruising behind the ear.
- Depression or excessive crying.
- Sudden changes in the child's behavior or demeanor.
- Poor hygiene and self-injury.
- Lack of energy or constant hunger.
- Increase in attention-seeking behaviors.
- Increased absences from school.
- Witnessing an adult pinching to inflict pain, slapping or tripping a child.

- Witnessing an adult threaten to harm a parent or caretaker.
- Knowledge of an adult withholding sleep, food or medication from a child.
- Seeing a child flinch when touched.
- A child wearing inappropriate clothing for the season to cover up injuries.

Individuals are urged to act if they suspect a child is being abused. People should contact their local child protective services agency and local law enforcement.

For Illinois reports of suspected child abuse. Illinois Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

For additional information on protecting children from abuse: Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center 815-284-1891 or HOPE of Ogle County 815-562-8890






Rochelle Police Department

**Call for help:
911 or 815-562-2131**

Never hesitate to call the police if you are being abused or suspect that someone is being abused.


10032031



HOPE of Ogle County
www.hopedv.org
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Si conoce a alguien que haya sufrido abuso doméstico o en el noviazgo, comuníquese con nuestra agencia para obtener más información sobre cómo podemos ayudar. Si necesita obtener más información sobre sus derechos en una relación y cómo protegerse del abuso, contáctenos. Estamos aquí para escucharte y apoyarte las 24 horas del día.

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If you know of someone who has experienced domestic or dating abuse please contact our agency to learn more about how we can help and how you can help. If you need to learn more about your rights in a relationship and how to protect yourself from abuse please contact us. We are here to listen and support you 24 hours a day.

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LOCAL VIEWS

GUEST COLUMN

Harris - Consider this: Political polls

WHAT do political polls tell us? The first thing you might say to me is that I am always talking about limiting your political decisions to how the candidates vote on the issues that are put forth to them. I still believe this to be true and will never waver from that. Why I bring up polls is to try and see why these may be the worst way to decide.

We are browbeaten with polls from everywhere. Whether you believe a particular source is liberal or conservative, polls are one of the first things presented to us to consider. Why? The most crucial part of a poll, to me, is the total number of those who were polled. And they always say it is a random national sample. Have you ever been polled?

Where does this random sample come from?

Who knows but I have ideas which we can consider. A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted by landline and cellular telephone on Sept. 15 through Sept. 20, 2023, in English and Spanish, had a sample of 1,006 adults. What? They polled 0.00000623 percent of our total registered (I hope) adults. Whew! What a feat! Hundreds of millions of people in a nutshell.

So, what can we look at next? Maybe the use of the word random. Pollsters surely have some sort of method of choosing randomly. Yet we must look at their original list of people. Was the original list of all the voters in the country? Was it a list of all the people in the country registered or not? Was it a list supplied by another entity? Was it a list of their subscribers or watchers? Was it a list of who's who,

or of who's not, or maybe of you and me?

Of course, the last list named would be the most important. But what of the others? The original list on which the random population is taken must be a list of registered voters, right? Would we want those not registered to tell us what they think? What about a list supplied by another? Who is this other? The government, no, probably not. How about their subscribers or watchers? Would they not be skewed by what they are reading or watching?

Take, for instance, the news out there now. I see news on the Republicans and their nomination runs almost exclusively. I do know, however, that the Democrats do not have this type of race so I can

give the press some leeway for that. About the only thing I see or hear about the Democrats is that Biden is too old, the economy is bad, and we are heading down the rabbit hole. So, if the people hearing these types of news bytes are being polled, what will they say? Will they be biased by what they read and see?

Then there might be a list of people that include you and me. Again, I ask, have you ever been polled? I know that I haven't. Nor do I expect to be.

Now we can get to those who were called on their landlines. Who are these people? Who keeps a landline in their home these days? And, most importantly, do they answer that line? Or do they keep it for faxing or some other

office need? Maybe, they have a machine on that line answering, "I'm voting for _____" or "_____ 2024". So, will they be counted?

Polls will be right sometimes. The odds are there. But how often? The FiveThirtyEight group has a web page as follows; <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-polls-are-all-right/>. There have been errors in polls of as high as 10.1 percent. If an error is six points, the empirically derived margin of error is closer than 14 or 15 points. That's far off in my book.

So, the next time a poll comes out on our news channels and in publications, how closely will you be listening. Will you ignore them as I do and just hope they go away? Will you revert to the voting behaviors of our candidates? Will you realize that the poles on a pole barn are much

truer than the political polls we hear about? Who invented these anyway and how long will we be bombarded?

One thing I do know for sure. Our campaign seasons are way too long and pull our candidates away from their families, jobs, and lives way too often. Getting rid of big donors in politics would help. Leave it to us through our taxes. What would help even more is shortening our campaigns to six months total. Three months before primaries and three before the election. If any of them gripe that this is too short, maybe they shouldn't really be running for government.

Finally, limit the airtime for each candidate and make sure it is equal for each. Better yet, have them publish their voting record on every policy, bill and law. Should we really ask for anything less?

Reeder: Written checks are disappearing

"Paper checks are dead and cash is dying."

When I read that headline in the *Washington Post* last week, I cringed.

According to the *Post* article, back in 2000, six out of 10 non-cash payments were made with a paper check. Today it is one in 20.

Or consider this: 57 percent of Americans haven't written a check in the past month. None. Nada. Zero. Zip.

If check writing is going the way of the dinosaur, I must be a regular *Tyrannosaurus rex*. I still pay my bills by check.

I line up my bills on my desk and pay each of them with the swoop of a ballpoint pen. To me, it screams financial responsibility.

But soon those giant, oversized, foam board novelty checks will be the last remnant of what was a 20th Century fiscal icon.

I was thinking about that at a recent Downtown Springfield Kiwanis meet-

ing when a local merchant presented a grant via one of those gigantic emblems of generosity.

I found their use of this symbol curious because when I tried to make a purchase from the same store last month, they wouldn't take my check. A clerk informed me they quit accepting customer checks two years ago.

Hmmm, they'll give a symbolic check but not accept a real one?

I remember when merchants preferred checks. Credit card companies charge them between 1.5 percent and 3.5 percent of each transaction. More than a few times, I've negotiated a discount on merchandise by offering to pay with a check rather than a charge card.

Destiny Nance-Evans, a senior vice president at Security Bank in Springfield, tells me that checking accounts remain popular. But increasingly customers don't use them to write checks.

They are using debit

cards and electronic transfers to draw money from the accounts.

She said she personally prefers these types of transactions to ones involving paper checks because they are more secure. She noted every paper check has a routing number and account number printed on its bottom and if an unscrupulous individual were to get ahold of the information it could be misused.

Still, I can't help but think something is lost as the written check goes by the wayside.

I opened my first checking account when I was 11. My dad thought it was important that his sons have experience operating their own businesses. My brother raised hogs. I raised cattle.

I purchased bull calves from dairy farmers across Knox County, took them home and raised them on

a bottle. (Dairy calves are raised on formula because humans drink their mother's milk.)

I felt like a regular Rockefeller writing a \$25 check for a Holstein calf.

My mother taught me to carefully record each transaction in my checkbook: milk replacement, feed, a pitchfork. Checks were about responsibility and accountability.

When I received a check in the mail from Bill Robinson, the farmer I eventually sold the calves off to, I felt a sense of accomplishment. Holding something tangible in my hands was a reward for hard work.

In college, my peers griped about their parents monitoring their activity by reading the cancelled checks the bank mailed home with a statement each month.

"You're writing a lot of checks to Domino's Pizza.

Why aren't you eating in the dorm cafeteria?" annoyed parents would exclaim.

Decades later when I wed, the checking account became a point of contention.

Spouses have to communicate with one another. And nothing requires communication more than a joint checking account.

My wife, God bless her, has a phenomenal memory and can remember all of her transactions. But somehow, she'd forget to tell me about them.

It was a recipe for checks bouncing higher than a super ball.

We experimented with separate checking accounts. But that created a mindset of: "his money" and "her money"—never a good idea. In marriage everything should be "ours."

Eventually, we tried a joint account again and learned to communicate better. It wasn't just good for the finances but for the marriage.

A young man I do busi-

ness with needed to pay me and asked about sending me a Venmo payment. I told him I didn't have an account. This exasperated, college-educated, 20-something then asked how he was supposed to get the money to me. I told him to mail me a check.

He had to watch a YouTube video to learn how to fill one out.

As the written check fades away, the American lexicon will be altered. Terms like: "Grip and grin;" "Rubber check," "The check is in the mail" and "Paycheck Fridays" will slowly disappear from our language.

Future students may ponder these words of '60s radical Jerry Rubin:

"The individual who signs the check has the ultimate power."

Will those future scholars ponder this statement or simply ask: "What's a check?"

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.



Reed Harris



Scott Reeder

How to contact government officials

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

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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

Kishwaukee College continues increased enrollment trend

MALTA — Kishwaukee College's enrollment continues to increase, with fall 2023 10th day enrollment reporting 9.4 percent higher than fall 2022. The college saw a significant increase in enrollment this past summer, showing a total enrollment increase of 10.5 percent for the year to date.

The positive trend continues from the 2022-2023 school year when the college reported a 5.3 percent enrollment increase from the previous year.

"We are pleased to see so many students choosing to attend Kishwaukee College. The college is committed to meeting the needs of our community, helping students create the life they want," Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College, said.

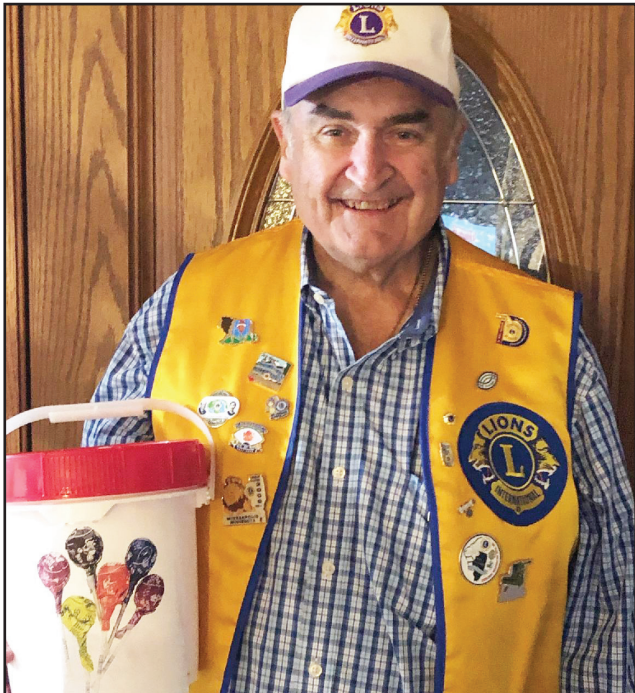
Fall enrollment highlights at the college include new student enrollments up more than 17 percent, with more students physically on campus than in the last four years. Kish also continues to offer online instruction to meet the educational needs of student's busy schedules, with more than 36 percent of enrollments in online classes.

"The enrollment increases are a sign we are providing the best possible opportunities for our students. Kishwaukee College will continue to adapt to the changing needs of our students and the community," Bob Johnson, chair of the Board of Trustees, said.

Kishwaukee College serves approximately 4,000 students annually, offering transfer programs, career-ready degrees and certificates, short-term training and more. For more information on Kishwaukee College, visit www.kish.edu.



(COURTESY PHOTO) Kishwaukee College students meet at the welcome desk in the Student Center during the first week of classes. Kish's fall 2023 enrollment is 9.4 percent higher than the previous year.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Lions Club will be conducting their annual Candy Day fund raising event on Oct. 14.

Rochelle Lions Club Candy Day is Oct. 14

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lions Club will be conducting their annual Candy Day fund raising event on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Lions will be located at Walmart, Ace Hardware, Walgreens and in downtown Rochelle, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., collecting donations in return for a roll of mints or a Tootsie Roll Pop.

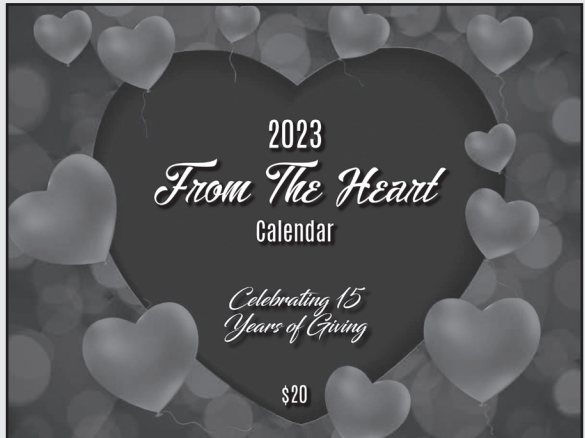
All funds collected are utilized to provide vision and hearing services to those in need within the greater Rochelle area.

The Lions thank you in advance for supporting their efforts to provide these vision and hearing services. Donations may also be sent to Rochelle Lions Club, PO Box 283, Rochelle IL. 61068

Eswood Community Club hosting Drive Thru Pork Chop Dinner

LINDENWOOD — Eswood Community Club is hosting a Drive Thru Pork Chop Dinner at Eswood Elementary School, 304 N. Main St., Lindenwood on Sunday, Oct. 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ogle County Pork Producers will be cooking pork chops from Headons Fine Meats. Dinner includes pork chop or hot dog, baked beans,

applesauce, chips, roll and a brownie. Advance ticket prices are \$12 for dinners with two pork chops, \$10 for dinners with one pork chop and \$5 for a hot dog dinner. Advanced ticket sales will end on Tuesday, Oct. 3. Prepackaged pork chops are available for purchase: Package of five pork chops for \$18. Must be ordered in advance.



- Sept. 8 - Jason Burdin, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 9 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 10 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
- Sept. 11 - Alexis Barbosa, Newark, \$25
- Sept. 12 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 14 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 15 - Katherine Slattengren, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 16 - David Bills, Port Byron, \$25
- Sept. 17 - Norna Seaworth, Lindenwood, \$50
- Sept. 18 - Therese Fenwick, Winchester, VA, \$25
- Sept. 19 - Elizabeth Bontz, Amboy, \$25
- Sept. 20 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Sept. 21 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 22 - Teresa Schlesinger, Compton, \$25
- Sept. 23 - Mark - Meyers Furniture, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 24 - Thelma Geske, Steward, \$50
- Sept. 25 - Brenda Bickerman, McNabb, \$25
- Sept. 26 - Dave Pest, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 27 - Steve Howell, Dixon, \$25
- Sept. 28 - Jodi Jacobs, Panama City, Florida, \$25
- 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



Coffee Break

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sketch
 - 5 Shock partner
 - 8 Verdi heroine
 - 12 Ms. McEntire
 - 13 Scale note
 - 14 Mosque VIP
 - 15 Shakespeare title starter
 - 16 Centennial State
 - 18 Man's youth
 - 20 San Francisco griddier
 - 21 Newt
 - 22 Take to court
 - 23 Give a leg up
 - 26 Madrid museum
 - 30 Klutz
 - 31 Author Tan
 - 32 Have a bug
 - 33 Swagger
 - 36 Open-mouthed
 - 38 Mornings (Abbr.)
 - 39 A Gabor
 - 40 Painting of a scene
 - 43 Public speakers
 - 47 16th-century Spanish explorer
 - 49 Loafer, for one
 - 50 Scent
 - 51 Nourished

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				52			
53					54				55			

DOWN

- 1 Colorless
- 2 Move, in realtor lingo
- 3 With skill
- 4 Cleanses
- 5 Fancy neckwear
- 6 Fireplace fuel
- 7 Right angle
- 8 More ventilated
- 9 One-named supermodel
- 10 Miami-County
- 11 Latin love
- 12 "Movin' -" ("The Jeffersons" theme)
- 13 Frequently
- 14 Devious
- 15 Short 'do
- 16 Galley item
- 17 Son-gun link
- 18 Comic Philips
- 19 Small battery
- 20 Quick swim
- 21 Flamenco cheer
- 22 Billboards
- 23 Mists
- 24 Prayer ender
- 25 "Selma" director
- 26 DuVernay
- 27 Fitzgerald title character
- 28 Wear down
- 29 Garbage barge
- 30 Morse -
- 31 Yankee nickname
- 32 Praiseful pieces
- 33 Wheeling's river
- 34 Bakery buy
- 35 Hunt for
- 36 Sternward

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **P** equals **D**

TPP VFHJRQVY CZDARQRVY BZT
BRWW TYWD VQQHCS CVDFHYSA
RY RAJVHWR MVYNYTSHA:
PTQSTJ AZHNNHW.

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

King Crossword

CryptoQuip

answer

Odd American physician who will only accept payments in Israeli banknotes: Doctor Shkel.

ON THE FARM

What consumers can do to support local farmers

FARMING has never been a vocation for individuals looking for easy work. Farmers typically work long hours, braving the elements regardless of how unpleasant the weather may be.

All that hard work ensures individuals who live in rural, urban and suburban communities have access to healthy foods. Such devotion merits support, and thankfully there are many things consumers can do to show their appreciation for local farmers.

- Buy fresh foods at your local farmers market. Farmers markets are many foodies' favorite places, but they aren't exclusive to individuals with a passion for food. Everyone needs to eat, so why not eat foods grown locally, which are generally more fresh and appetizing than imported fruits and vegetables sold at chain grocery stores? Even individuals who don't typically eat fresh fruit and vegetables can find something delectable at a local farmers market, where anything from homemade tomato sauces to locally raised fresh beef and pork might be on sale.

- Order directly from local farms. Some farmers have embraced the e-commerce revolution and begun selling the foods they grow to consumers via their own websites. Research local farms and determine if it's possible to buy directly from them. Farms may offer delivery or pick-up, and consumers can enjoy fresh foods even more knowing that



they helped farmers earn higher profits by buying directly from them.

- Check labels before buying in local grocery stores. Packaging labels will indicate where fruits and vegetables came from. When possible,

choose items produced by local farmers. This may include fruits, vegetables, meat, pork, or even desserts like pies. Locally produced foods often taste more fresh than items sent from overseas or distant farms, and consumers will

feel better knowing they helped to support local farmers.

- Spread the word. Get the word out after a satisfying experience with local farms and farmers. Whether it's buying food from farms or taking

advantage of family days that let kids enjoy a day on the farm, sharing positive experiences via social media or word-of-mouth can be a great way to inspire your neighbors to support local farmers as well.

Consumers can do

much to support hard-working local farmers. In addition to feeling good about supporting their rural neighbors, consumers also might feel good when they sit down and enjoy a meal featuring locally grown, fresh foods.

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS

GIRLS TAKE THIRD PLACE

The Rochelle Lady Hub volleyball team took third at the Sterling Invitational.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

Hubs dominate Indians

Rochelle totals nearly 500 yards in 47-0 Homecoming victory over Marengo

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — After a tough road loss against Sycamore last week, the Rochelle Hub varsity football team played with renewed energy during Friday's Homecoming game against Marengo.

The Hubs offense exploded for nearly 500 yards, while the defense completed its third shutout this fall as Rochelle dominated the Indians 47-0 in Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference action. The Hubs (4-2, 3-0 I-8/KRC Blue) needed only three plays on their opening drive to find the end zone, scoring after junior Grant Gensler took a toss outside for a 44-yard touchdown run. Gensler led the offense with 152 rushing yards and three touchdowns on just six carries.

"Coach [Kyle] Kissack and coach [Erick] Olson preached to us all week about bouncing back after our tough loss against Sycamore," junior lineman Kaiden Morris said. "We knew that we were the more physical team and I thought we went out there tonight and showed everyone what we could do. We took our anger from last week out

on Marengo tonight. We were all on the same page and Grant ran the ball great tonight. We wouldn't be here without him."

The Indians found some success on their opening drive, moving the ball deep into Rochelle territory before the Hub defense made its first of several stands in the game. Presented with a second-and-4 at its own 17-yard line, Rochelle forced two incomplete passes and junior lineman Alex Pemberton also took Marengo quarterback David Lopez down for a 2-yard loss. The trio of stops led to a turnover on downs for the Indians, who were 1-for-6 on fourth downs in the game.

Rochelle capitalized on its defensive stand, with Gensler exploding for a 72-yard run through the middle of the Marengo defense before reaching the end zone on a 2-yard touchdown run to help the Hubs take a 14-0 lead midway through the first quarter. A pair of pass breakups by the Hubs forced Marengo to punt on its second possession, with Rochelle eventually extending its lead early in the second quarter, where Gensler rushed for a 5-yard touchdown off the right side.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
A swath of Rochelle Hub defenders including Ryan Senne, Brock Metzger and Elijah Harley combine to tackle Marengo's Isaac Anthony during the varsity football team's Homecoming game against the Indians on Friday.

The score was set up by a 27-yard pass from junior quarterback Carson Lewis to senior wide receiver Tommy Tourdot, who had

93 total yards for the Hubs in the win. Trailing 20-0, Marengo had minimal answers for the Rochelle defense, which forced another

punt midway through the second quarter. The Hubs, who allowed only 151 total yards to the Indians on Friday, went ahead 26-0 after

junior Elijah Harley took a toss outside and strolled in for an 11-yard score.

See HUBS page 8

Rochelle Junior Tackle

Junior Hubs sweep regular-season finale over Winnebago

Rochelle set to host Big 14 Conference Championship games at Helms Park

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

WINNEBAGO—The Rochelle Junior Tackle football teams concluded the regular season with a four-game sweep over Winnebago on Saturday afternoon. Rochelle will host the annual Big 14 Conference Championships at Helms Park this coming Saturday.

The Junior Hub eighth, seventh and fifth-graders have all advanced to the championship games in Rochelle, while the sixth-graders will compete for third in the conference at Dixon on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

8th Grade (8-0)

Rochelle cruised over Winnebago 32-6 to finish the regular season undefeated. The Junior Hubs scored early in the first quarter, when Andrew Eyster rushed for 10 yards and Caiden Redlarczyk followed with a 55-yard touchdown run. Leading 8-6 in the second quarter, Rochelle scored again when quarterback Cohen Haedt fired a 68-yard touchdown strike to tight end Holden Liebhaber. Sebastian Albertson recorded a sack on Rochelle's next defensive drive.

The Junior Hubs ex-



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)
Eighth-grader Luke Chadwick runs through the line of scrimmage during the Rochelle Junior Tackle football game against Winnebago on Saturday. The eighth-graders won 32-6 to finish the regular season with an 8-0 record.

tended their 16-6 halftime lead during the third quarter, where Haedt found Redlarczyk for a 53-yard

touchdown pass. Haedt remained red hot under center during the second half, throwing a 63-yard

touchdown pass to Liebhaber that gave Rochelle a three-score lead. Luke Chadwick and AJ Milan

capped off the stout offensive effort with a 21-yard rush and a 13-yard rush during the fourth quarter.

Rochelle finished with 328 total yards in the victory.

See RJT page 3



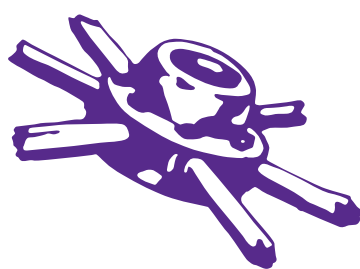
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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle football teams swept Winnebago in Big 14 Conference action on Saturday. At left, seventh-grader Benjamin Morris looks for a Winnebago defender to block. At right, sixth-grader Kamden Kessen shakes off a Winnebago tackler. Below, fifth-grader Grange Kissack slides down with the football.

RJT: Three Rochelle teams advance to Big 14 title games

From page 1

Haedt totaled 184 passing yards in the win, while Redlarczyk rushed for 51 yards on three carries and Chadwick rushed for 32 yards on four carries. Eyster finished with 25 rushing yards on four carries and four tackles on defense. Chadwick also had four tackles for the Junior Hubs.

7th Grade

(7-0-1)

Rochelle dominated Winnebago 38-0 to conclude the regular season without a loss. The Junior Hubs moved the ball well in the first quarter, with quarterback Riley Smith tossing a 24-yard pass to tight end Vinny Tornabene before finding Braxton Bruns for a 10-yard touchdown pass. Bruns followed this first-quarter score with a 53-yard rushing touchdown in the second quarter, where Rochelle took a 16-0 lead. Bruns rushed for 76 yards on three carries in the victory.

The Junior Hubs found the end zone again during the third quarter, where Smith connected with Bruns on a 63-yard touchdown pass. Smith then made a massive defensive play later in the third quarter, intercepting a Winnebago pass and returning the ball

56 yards for a touchdown. Leading 32-0, Rochelle sealed the win after Nolan Zick rushed for a 60-yard touchdown during the fourth quarter. Smith finished with 97 passing yards for the Junior Hub offense in the win.

Kyler Rowe led the defense with eight tackles, while Bruns added five tackles and Mason Lopez recorded four tackles including three for a loss. Tornabene had three tackles and one sack.

6th Grade (6-2)

Rochelle clinched its berth in the third-place game with an 18-6 win over Winnebago. The Junior Hubs scored twice in the first quarter, with Elijah Underwood rushing for a 65-yard touchdown before capping off another scoring drive with a 2-yard touchdown rush. Korbin Milos forced the first Winnebago turnover of the game, forcing a fumble that was recovered by Landon Leigh.

Vaughn Manning's 16-yard rush late in the first quarter set the table for Underwood's 2-yard score to help Rochelle take a 12-0 lead. The Junior Hubs scored their third touchdown of the game during the second quarter, where Milos broke off a 21-yard run and Quentin Ansteth



followed with a 25-yard run. Underwood then took the ball for a 4-yard touchdown run that put Rochelle ahead 18-0. Underwood ran for 90 yards and Ansteth ran for 50 yards in the win.

Underwood and Ansteth each finished with six tackles to lead the Rochelle defense in the shutout victory. Milos added three tackles and Zachary Waddle

chipped in two tackles.

5th Grade

(6-1-1)

Rochelle took down Winnebago 24-6 to earn its berth in the conference championship game. The Junior Hubs broke a scoreless tie during the second quarter, when quarterback Grange Kissack fired a 74-

yard touchdown strike to Landon Johnson. Dominic Escatel's 11-yard rush and Noah Hayden's 23-yard rush during the third quarter led to a 19-yard rush from Johnson and a 1-yard touchdown rush from Escatel that gave the Junior Hubs a two-score advantage.

Rochelle sealed its win during the fourth quarter, where Hayden ran for a

20-yard gain and Brycen Williams reached the end zone on a 1-yard touchdown rush. Hayden ran for 52 yards on six carries, while Escatel rushed for 33 yards on eight carries and Johnson ran for 30 yards on three carries.

Bentley Etes compiled seven tackles and Matthew Johnson added four tackles.

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COURT FOR THE
15TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COUNTY OF
OGLE
CITY OF ROCHELLE,
an Illinois Municipal
Corporation, Plaintiff,
v.
PEDRO A. PASQUA
and GLORIA C.
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OWNERS, and
NON-RECORD CLAIM-
ANTS, Defendants
Court No: 2021 MR 44
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Permanent Index Num-
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(Sept. 20, 27 and Oct.
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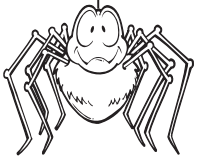
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The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-
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The daytime deliveries would be two or three days
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approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending 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
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general knowledge of area streets and roads.

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

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Public Service
Announcement

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whether it was a
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bad luck. Twain's
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spider was
merely looking
over our
newspaper to see
which merchant
was not
advertising, so
that he could go
to that store, spin
his web across
the door, and
lead a life of
undisturbed
peace ever
afterward."

ASHTON NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Congressman Darin LaHood (third from the right) is shown with staff and board members of LOTS/Reagan Mass Transit District. (left to right): Steve Davis, assistant director of business development; Marcus Cox, asst. director of operations; Greg Gates, executive director; LaHood; Greg Sparrow, board member; and, Aaqil Khan, board member. At right, LOTS Executive Director Greg Gates is shown discussing public transportation updates with Congressman Darin LaHood during his Aug. 31 visit to Lee Ogle Transportation System.

Congressman LaHood visits Lee-Ogle Transportation system

Recent visit provides congressman with updates on developments in public transit

DIXON — On Thursday, Aug. 31, Lee Ogle Transportation System hosted a visit with Congressman Darin LaHood providing the 16th Congressional District Representative with updates related to public transportation along with a tour of the expanding operation at 210 E. Progress Drive in Dixon.

“It was a great opportunity to provide Congressman LaHood with an overview of developments here at LOTS, as well as challenges facing rural

public transportation here and across the State of Illinois,” Greg Gates, executive director of LOTS, said.

Earlier this year, LaHood advanced a \$2.9472 million dollar proposal from LOTS as part of his 2024 Community Funding Project requests. The funding will go toward the construction of additional administrative offices at LOTS’ main office location on East Progress Drive, as well as a new conference room and board room.

“LOTS is vital to connecting our communities,

especially in rural areas, and helps bolster economic development in our region,” Rep. LaHood said.

“Our office has been proud to support a Community Funding Project to bolster future growth and the construction of a new transportation facility for the Lee-Ogle Transportation System. I appreciated the opportunity to see firsthand how federal funding can support our region and I will continue to support these efforts to strengthen the Lee Ogle Transportation System.”

“With the addition of staff to the operation and the pending transition of LOTS to Reagan Mass Transit District, we have no additional office space in our main administrative building on East Progress Drive,” Gate said.

“Funding from the Community Project Funding will provide the additional capacity as the local public transportation continues to grow.”

The 16th Congressional District spans 21 counties, including Lee and Ogle Counties, across central

and northwestern Illinois, ranging from McLean County (Bloomington-Normal) and Peoria County (Peoria) to Winnebago (Rockford) and Jo Daviess (Galena). LaHood serves over 725,000 constituents.

During Fiscal Year 2023, ending on June 30, 2023, Lee Ogle Transportation System provided a total of 83,600 rides in the two-county region, the system’s buses covering 670,000 miles during more than 24,000 service hours.

In addition to the local public transit system,

LOTS administers two Greyhound Connect routes — one that runs along Interstate 88 between Chicago and Davenport, Iowa and a second route between Chicago and Danville along Interstates 39, 90 and 74.

Public transportation services of LOTS are available Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at (815) 288-2117. Information is updated regularly on the system’s web site — www.lotsil.org as well as their Facebook page www.facebook.com/LeeOgleTransportation.



Ashton-Franklin Center fourth-graders experiment with sound in the classroom

Mrs. Holmgren’s Ashton-Franklin Center fourth graders have been experimenting with sound. Students investigated the science of sound, vibrations, and sound waves by feeling the vibrations and making devices for sound to travel through from a distance.

ISP announces results of ACE and OREP patrols

LEE COUNTY — Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander Captain Joseph Blanchette recently announced the results of Alcohol Countermeasure Enforcement (ACE) patrols in Lee and Winnebago County during September. These ACE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting and taking enforcement action in

response to violations associated with impaired driving and illegal transportation or consumption of alcohol or drugs.

Driving under the influence (DUI) citations: zero. Other alcohol/drug citations: zero. Occupant restraint offenses: three. Registration offenses: 11. Driver’s license offenses: three. Insurance violations:

two. Total citations/arrests: 27/three. Total written warnings: 23.

Alcohol and drug impairment is a factor in more than 30 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 53 minutes in the United States. The ACE program allows officers to work even harder at removing danger-

ous DUI offenders from the road. This project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

OREP

Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander Captain Joseph Blanchette announces the results of Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols (OREP) held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside and

Winnebago County during September. These OREPs provided extra patrol coverage for the ISP so officers could focus on saving lives by making sure all vehicle occupants were buckled up.

Safety belt citations: 73. Child restraint citations: one. Total citations: 194. Total written warnings: 53.

Most motorists know safety belts save lives, but

some ignore their safety and that of their families by neglecting to use safety belts and child restraint devices. These patrols reinforce the occupant protection message by focusing on those who ignore the law. Lives can be saved if people simply “buckle up!” This project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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SPORTS

RTHS Cross Country

Koziol leads RTHS teams at Freeport Invitational

Sophomore runner medals for Lady Hubs

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FREEPORT—Sophomore Annaliese Koziol was the lone medalist for the Rochelle Township High School cross country team during Saturday's Freeport Invitational at Highland Community College. Koziol ran the fastest time for the Lady Hubs in the varsity race, finishing 15th out of 68 athletes with a time of 21:21.2 to lead Rochelle to sixth place out of nine teams in the meet.

Sophomores Rose Luxton and Mary Chadwick finished 40th and 43rd with respective times of 25:32.0 and 25:44.3. Junior Brisa Zepeda and freshman Vivian Worthington took 46th and 47th with respective times of 26:13.3 and 26:23.3 to round out the top runners for the Lady Hubs.

Senior Luis Hernandez and sophomore Declan McGee led the Hubs in the varsity race, with Hernandez finishing 22nd at 17:48.8 while McGee took 23rd with a time of 17:50.1. Sophomore Elijah Mayen and senior Caleb Wyssbrod placed 61st and 62nd out of 105 athletes in the varsity race, clocking in with respective times of 20:10.5 and 20:13.2. Freshman Hadley Losoya took 76th with



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sophomore Annaliese Koziol medaled for the Rochelle Township High School varsity cross country team during Saturday's Freeport Invitational.

a time of 20:51.6 for the Hubs, who finished eighth out of 14 varsity teams in the meet.

Rochelle will hit the

road again for the Sterling Invitational at Hoover Park on Saturday, Oct. 7 before racing at the Interstate 8 meet on Saturday, Oct. 14.

RTHS Football



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Sophomore Ryder Stombaugh makes a tackle during the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football game against the Marengo Indians on Friday evening.

Fresh-Soph Hubs shut out Marengo to reach 5-0

Rochelle cruises over Indians 48-0 Friday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team continued its perfect season on Friday evening, with the purple and white dominating Marengo for a 48-0 victory. Rochelle (5-0, 3-0 Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue) will face Sandwich on the road this coming Friday.

Sophomore quarter-

back Van Gerber tossed two touchdown passes including a 65-yard strike to freshman Keegan Cathina and a 45-yard throw to freshman Warren Schweitzer. Cathina added a 5-yard touchdown, while sophomores Freddie Hernandez and Tony Milburn each rushed for touchdowns in the win. Freshman Tyler Gensler rushed for a 6-yard touchdown and sophomore Ryder Stombaugh finished with

four tackles and one sack to lead the Rochelle Hub defense.

Sophomore Andrew Johnson recovered a fumble and sophomore Frank Nasca blocked a punt to assist the Hubs in their shutout win over the Indians. Sophomore Parker Slattengren finished with five tackles and two tackles for loss, while freshman Connor Lewis completed a pass for a 2-point conversion.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Tommy Tourdot looks to make a tackle during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against the Marengo Indians on Friday evening.

HUBS: Rochelle bounces back with victory against Marengo

From page 1

"We've been putting the work in during practice and it's a good feeling to win with a shutout, but we have to stay humble and continue to do what we've been doing," Harley said. "We had to bounce back after Sycamore and we had a great week of practice. There are a few things we can improve on, but I thought we came out here and played how we should have played. We play together and we all trust each other. We're on the same page and we attack the football."

A sequence of three in-

complete passes and a run stop by junior linebacker Ethan Goodwin forced Marengo's second turnover on downs late in the second quarter. Rochelle once again turned its defense into offense, with freshman Dylan Manning running left for a 7-yard score and Gensler adding the 2-point conversion to put the Hubs ahead 34-0, which stood at halftime.

Manning finished with 87 yards on 11 carries for the Hubs, who sealed their third straight conference win with two second-half touchdowns including a 23-yard run from Manning in the third quarter and a

38-yard run from senior Brandt Waters late in the fourth quarter. Marengo had a chance to avoid the shutout late in the second quarter, but the Hubs held their ground, with Morris notching a 5-yard tackle-for-loss to stop the Indians near the edge of the red zone.

Junior linebacker Brandyn Metzger led the Rochelle defense with nine tackles, while senior linebacker Brock Metzger followed with seven tackles and two sacks. Rochelle will continue its conference schedule with a road contest against the Sandwich Indians next Friday at 7 p.m.

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*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 VISA Gift Card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 10/31/23. LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of DC in Maryland under registration number MNC License #116693.