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Vol. 103 • No. 42

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20, 2023

\$1.25

## Students found after being reported missing

**ROCHELLE** — Two kindergarten students at Lincoln Elementary School were found safe and released to the care of their parents shortly after being missing Friday afternoon upon not returning to their assigned classrooms after lunch recess, a Rochelle Elementary School District 231 release to parents said Friday.

"Immediately, the Lincoln School administration and staff initiated our protocol for missing children," the release said. "As part of this process, the Rochelle Police Department, Rochelle Fire Department, and first responders were called to the school to assist in locating the two missing children. An additional step taken was to place Lincoln School on a hold which called for students to continue to learn within their classrooms. After an internal and external search of the building, both students were located together and reunited with their family."

Responding organizations also included the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District and the City of Rochelle Street Department, an RPD press release said.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Two kindergarten students at Lincoln Elementary School were found safe and released to the care of their parents shortly after being missing Friday afternoon upon not returning to their assigned classrooms after lunch recess, a Rochelle Elementary School District 231 release to parents said Friday.**

In the D231 press release, District Superintendent Jason Harper said the district takes every student's safety seriously and as a result of the Friday incident the district will review and improve upon its internal procedures when students are transitioning between classes, lunch and recess.

In a separate and unrelated release sent to parents Friday morning, Harper notified parents after the district was made aware of a suspicious vehicle that was seen around other Ogle County districts including Kings

and Creston on Thursday.

"In working with law enforcement officials, a more complete description of the vehicle became available," Harper said. "Please be on the look-out for a Black Audi sedan with silver wheels and a partial license plate of FLB. The person in the car was allegedly taking pictures with a telescopic lens. Please be particularly vigilant this morning and remind children to stay alert, travel in groups, to not approach strangers, and to report any suspicious incidents. Additionally, the more

students stay off of their phones and stay alert, the more likely they are to see potential danger."

The Rochelle Police Department and Ogle County Sheriff's Office upped patrols around area schools on Friday.

"As you saw in my communication earlier today, we live in a dangerous time and we recognize the need to continue to stay focused on student and staff safety," Harper's Friday afternoon release said. "As you feel comfortable with your child(ren), please continue to promote how best to stay safe."



## RTHS board approves fiscal year budget

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Monday evening, the Rochelle Township High School Board of Education held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its 2023-2024 budget.

Board President Tom Huddleston said this year's budget is "typical of budgets in the past" as far as expenditures are concerned and is "fairly conservative" as it has been in years past. He said upcoming projects in the future include work on the district's maintenance building to allow for consolidation with the elementary district's maintenance operations, along with parking lot work and water detention work.

See RTHS page 5

## Grant application submitted for Helms Park changes

### Successful years seen at Skare Park Driving Range, Spring Lake

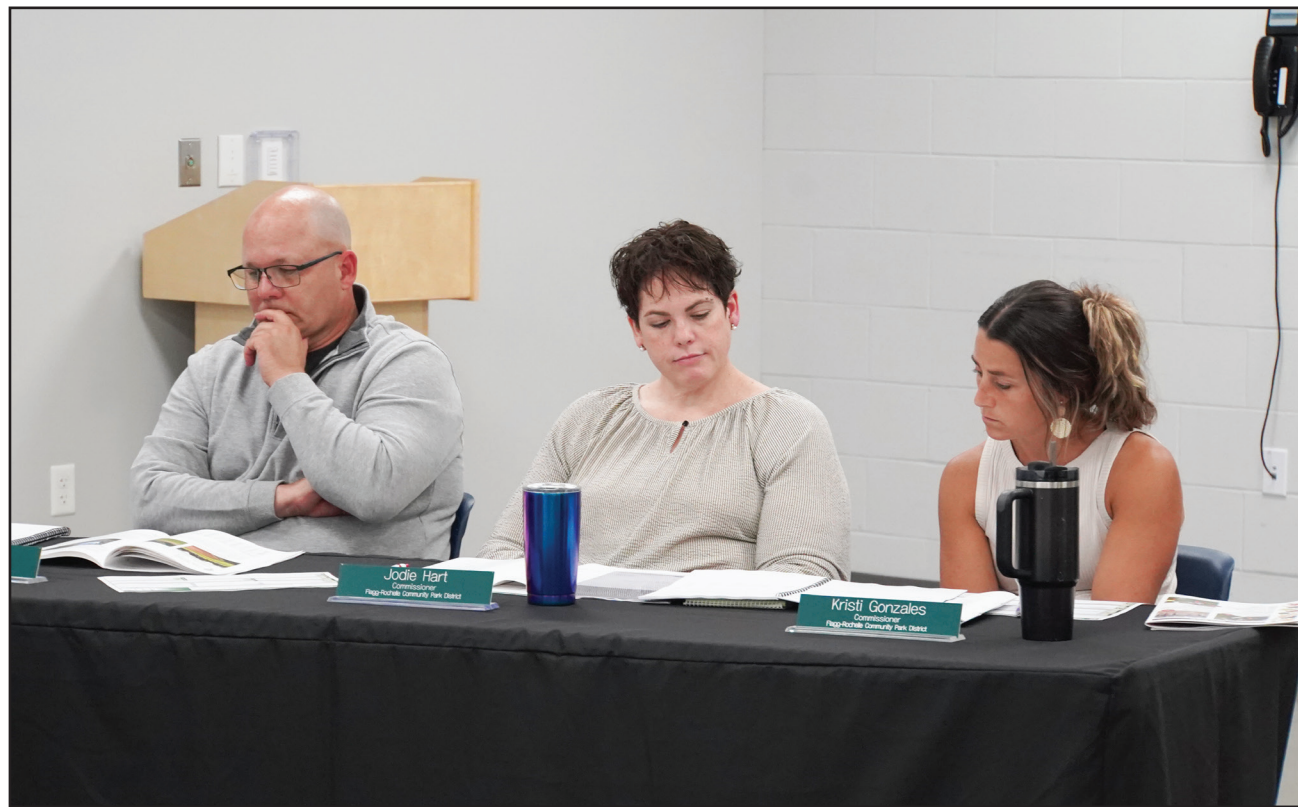
BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger's monthly updates on a number of different issues in the district.

Ohlinger said work on a reimagined Helms Park is still ongoing and the park district recently submitted an Open Space Lands Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant application for the project for matching funds of \$600,000. The grant application process will take 6-8 months.

"That would marry well with our design process," Ohlinger said. "We're hopeful that we'll see some matching dollars from that grant application."

Over the last year, the park district has discussed the different possibilities for Helms Park changes and circulated a survey locally on what the com-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners heard Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger's monthly updates on a number of different issues in the district.**

munity would like to see at the site. Results included interest in a public restroom, shelter space, walking paths, additional parking areas, play spaces, sports fields, pickleball, a skate park, fitness, tennis, basketball, batting cages,

natural green space and a family recreational space for games.

"I've been speaking with some businesses that work on designs and we've given them the survey results and the feedback from our capital

committee and hopefully we'll have some more information soon," Ohlinger said.

The board heard feedback from a resident at the meeting about the future of the tennis courts at Helms Park and their im-

portance to those that play tennis in the community due to their proximity to homes and the often-unavailable tennis courts at Rochelle Township High School.

See PARK page 2

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## KNOW IT TODAY



## Cote celebrates 102nd birthday

Rochelle resident Bert Cote celebrated his 102nd birthday on Friday, Sept. 8. **Page 7**

## WEATHER

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
|           |          |
| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
| HIGH LOW  | HIGH LOW |
| 81 59     | 81 59    |
|           |          |
| FRIDAY    | SATURDAY |
| HIGH LOW  | HIGH LOW |
| 85 59     | 82 59    |

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## OBITUARIES

• JAMES R. 'JIM' PHIPPS  
• CHERYL LYNN (SMITH) SIMPSON

See page 4

## INSERTS

NONE

## INSIDE

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# LOCAL NEWS

## PARK: Board discusses plans for future of Helms Park

From page 1

Board President Tim Hayden said the process of determining the future of Helms Park has just started and the facility will continue to transition to a park from a school facility, as it was originally utilized for. "There's going to be recreation there and we're going to please as many groups as we can," Hayden said. "I would be surprised if tennis isn't some part of it. But like any other sport, we have a lot of groups to please and we're going to try to involve as many priorities as possible and have that offering."

The park district started installation of its new inclusive playground equipment at Memorial Park on Friday. Ohlinger said major installation will be completed this week and onsite restoration and inspections will follow in the next week. She hopes for a grand opening early in October. The project was partly funded by a grant and a donation from the Fat Cat Slots golf outing in honor of the late Beau Sullivan.

"It worked out perfectly for us to be able to bring this to Rochelle and it will be our first fully-adaptive piece of equipment," Ohlinger said. "It's going to be an incredible piece and we're really thankful for Grant Manning and his work with the Fat Cat Slots golf outing for their donation in memory of Beau."

Ohlinger said the driving range at Skare Park met revenue expectations for the season and expenses were down. Spring Lake Pool public swim and season passes were higher than last year's numbers, she said.

"Our expenses from Spring Lake are still rolling in," Ohlinger said. "We're still going through the winterizing process down there, but I'm really pleased with it so far. Spring Lake is expensive to maintain, staff and operate and the success is mostly dependent on weather. We had a good year this year. We never intend to break even or turn a profit. We'll always be in a deficit there, but Spring Lake Pool and the splash



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Board President Tim Hayden (middle) said the process of determining the future of Helms Park has just started and the facility will continue to transition to a park from a school facility, as it was originally utilized for.

pad are valuable services to the community."

The Little League project at Tilton Park project has begun, Ohlinger said, which has included leveling of an area of one field and reseeding. Infield

leveling has been done as well. Park district maintenance employees are also working on winterizing Spring Lake. The splash pad was just recently closed.

The district is looking

at around a \$10,000 expenditure to send QR code magnets to residents in the area that will give them access to updated activities that are available at the park district.

Drop-in user numbers

have increased at The REC Center this year, Ohlinger said.

"Our mid-September numbers meet the same number as we hit as a total in August," Ohlinger said. "We see that growing."

**RTHS Theater Company presents**

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## Eagle's Nest Art Group Show is Oct. 7

**OREGON** — Eagle's Nest Art Group will host a one-day art show in its studio at Conover Square Mall, on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during Autumn on Parade.

The group of over 85 local artists will have a variety of original art work on display, including oil, watercolor and acrylic paintings; photography; drawings; calligraphy; glass work; ceramics, as well as other three-dimensional art. Also, a wide selection of artist-created prints and cards are available for sale. Come and browse and meet some

of our local artists. The studio is on the second floor of Conover Square Mall, 201 N. Third St. in Oregon. For more information, call (815) 732-7783. Or drop in on Saturday, Oct. 7 and pick up a program schedule of events and shows.

## Rep. Fritts hosts local officials roundtable

**DIXON** — On Sept. 8, State Rep. Bradley Fritts

(R-Dixon) hosted a local officials roundtable event at

his district office in Dixon.

"As elected officials in rural Illinois, it's long past due for us to work together," Rep. Fritts said. "Our communities are all unique, but we often face the same challenges. Deteriorating infrastructure, limited access to grocery stores, neglected property, and economic development are consistent problems for the entire region. I hosted this event so that local officials could share ideas with one another about what solutions have worked for them, as well as a way for them to inform me on what issues I need to address in Springfield."

Local officials, such as mayors or city council members, were present from the following municipalities: Amboy, Dixon, Hillcrest, Lee, Morrison, Paw Paw, Rock Falls, Shabbona, Sterling and Waterman.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.

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**SEP. 23 TULSA**  
**OCT. 14 OHIO**  
**OCT. 21 EASTERN MICHIGAN**  
**NOV. 7 BALL STATE**  
**NOV. 14 WESTERN MICHIGAN**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Ribbon cutting held for Barrio Agave on Friday

'We put all of our experiences together and we're happy to share it with you all'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Friday, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Barrio Agave, a new Mexican restaurant at 1310 N. 7th St. The restaurant officially opened Friday and is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Barrio Agave Owner Jennifer Gonzalez said Friday that she and her family are from Rochelle and they have been working for the past year to open the restaurant's doors.

"I'd like to thank our friends and family who have been helping us along the way," Gonzalez said. "We've been working extremely hard for the past year. There have been a lot of challenges, but we worked through it and collaborated together. I'm happy we're here."

Gonzalez thanked the City of Rochelle as well for its support over the past year.

"I think it's just a reflection of what a great community Rochelle is: Supportive, encouraging, motivating and loving," Gonzalez said. "I could say so much more. We grew up here in Rochelle and after high school we moved to Arizona and got to explore different types of food which is something we're incorporating here today in our menu. Growing up we moved around a lot. We lived in California and I lived in Chicago for a time for school. We put all of our experiences together and we're happy to share it with you all. I hope you enjoy it. I hope you all love it."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Friday, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Barrio Agave, a new Mexican restaurant at 1310 N. 7th St. The restaurant officially opened Friday and is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.**

The ribbon cutting was hosted by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rochelle. Speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera, Mayor John Bearrows and State Rep. Bradley Fritts. Herrera welcomed the family to the chamber and business community and thanked them for choosing Rochelle to open their restaurant.

"We love celebrating with new members," Herrera said. "We love

new businesses. We love to celebrate their enthusiasm and ideas and seeing the culmination of a dream. We have been very fortunate to be involved with this for some time. They got the location and came and sat down with us and wanted to get started. We're very proud to be involved since the beginning of this idea with you guys. You guys have been wonderful. The community is really ready for this. They're very excited about this. When

you open a business, you can put it anywhere. And we are always grateful that you choose our location. Congratulations and thank you for choosing Rochelle."

Bearrows welcomed Barrio Agave on behalf of the city and said small businesses are "the backbone of the community."

"We take great pride in the fact that we got through the COVID-19 pandemic and didn't lose any small businesses," Bearrows said. "We worked with

them as a partnership to keep them open. We're thankful you're here offering yet another variety of ethnic foods for our community, which has a wide variety of ethnic folks that love to come out and enjoy and learn cultures. We're just very thankful to have you here. Welcome to Rochelle."

Gonzalez said that getting the business ready to open over the past year was a family affair.

"I'm super excited and proud of my family,"

Gonzalez said. "My dad did all of the remodeling for us and did an awesome job. My sister has worked with me since day one on this. Our employees are already great and we appreciate them so much. Thank you all so much for being here. This is a huge accomplishment for us. It's something we always wanted. As kids growing up we used to tell my mom that we needed our own restaurant and that one day we were going to do it. And here we are."

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### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Carol Shempert**, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, will celebrate her 100th Birthday on October 1st. She lived in or around Rochelle for

over 80 years before recently moving to Texas to live with her son and family. Since she would like to hear from her many friends she has made over the years, it would mean a lot to her if you sent a birthday card or note to:

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### James R. 'Jim' Phipps

**ROCHELLE** — James R. "Jim" Phipps passed away unexpectedly Sept. 9, 2023 at his home in Rochelle. Jim was born on Sept. 26, 1956 to Richard S. and Beatrice "Peggy" Phipps in Rochelle, Illinois. Jim attended Rochelle schools and graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1974. From there, he attended Kishwaukee College earning an Associate Degree in Biology.

Jim liked tinkering with his cars and always kept them in great running condition. He used his skills to work in maintenance for a rental company in DeKalb supplying dorm rooms with washers, dry-

ers, fridges etc. His present occupation was head of maintenance at the Holiday Inn in Rochelle. In his younger days, Jim enjoyed shooting pool with friends. He was a Green Bay Packer fan and took a lot of ribbing for it.

Jim is survived by sisters: Marcia Forlenza of Waukegan, Pamela (Gayle) Phipps of Loves Park, Paula Phipps of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Ellen Brown of Lexington, Kentucky; brother, Jerry (Janet) Phipps of Gainesville Florida; nieces: Jennifer Forlenza of Waukegan, Aimee (PJ) Joanos of Tallahassee, Florida; nephew, Alex (Grace) Phipps of San Diego;

several great nieces and nephews, great great nieces and numerous cousins. Jim was predeceased by his parents, and brothers-in-law: Dan Forlenza and Chris Brown.

There will be no service, but a visitation from 1 to 3 P.M., Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 at Unger-Horner Funeral Home 400 N. 6th St Rochelle, IL. We are asking that people please dress comfortably as Jim would. Wear your blue jeans as a tribute to Jim. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Internment to be held at a later date. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Cheryl Lynn (Smith) Simpson

**SHABBONA**—Cheryl Lynn (Smith) Simpson, 58, of Shabbona, passed away Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, at home, having courageously battled pancreatic cancer since her diagnosis in July.

Born April 25, 1965, in Freeport, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George William "Bill" Smith and Leona Mae (Winterton) Smith. A lifelong resident of Shabbona, first on the family farm north of town and later at Indian Oaks subdivision, she considered herself quite fortunate to have grown up surrounded by a loving family and extended neighborhood-community. Her most frequent high school memories involved her participation in band as a clarinet player and as a member of the pom pom squad. She also held a lifelong high regard for her favorite teacher, Mr. Russ Heck, whose colorful and vivid descriptions of history and current events she never forgot.

After graduating from Shabbona High School in 1983, she went on to earn an Associate's Degree from Kishwaukee College, Bachelor's Degree in K-8 Education from Northern Illinois University and a Master's Degree in K-12 Counseling, also from NIU. In 1989 she met another new teacher, Steven Simpson, who had recently moved to Shabbona. Their relationship immediately blossomed, and they were married at First Lutheran Church in Lee, on Nov. 23, 1990, beginning their more than 32 ½ years of wedded devotion. They began their blessings of parenthood six years later with the birth of their first son, Winston, in 1996, followed by a second son, Olin, in 1999, and a daughter, Bethany, in 2003. She loved and cherished each of them dearly.

Throughout her professional career she served students and their families in Shabbona, (later Indian Creek), Waterman, Malta,

Kirkland-Hiawatha, and Earlville. Additionally, having obtained her CDL and bus driver certification, she enjoyed transporting many area students on field trips and extra-curricular activities throughout northern Illinois and even southern Wisconsin. In 2007, as her father's health failed, she added managing the family farm to her list of many responsibilities. Other talents included her love of baking, crocheting, and a never-ending appetite for do-it-yourself home improvement projects. She was an animal lover, especially dogs, and had made certain that the family pets over the last 20 years had all been adopted from shelters.

For Cheryl, her role as wife and mother were at the top of her priority list. She made each birthday and holiday a special occasion—carefully planning, decorating and cooking with devoted love and care. Although she suffered from motion sickness, her love of driving was the perfect antidote, and she gladly served as the official family chauffeur for many memorable road trips. Nicknaming their 1998 Ford conversion van "Big Red," which they owned for 18 years, she logged nearly 200,000 miles behind that wheel, taking the family everywhere from Niagara Falls and Gettysburg, to Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center, to many trips throughout the American West, including, among others, Little Bighorn Battlefield, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and, eventually, all the way to California's Giant Redwood Forest. Her favorite "road trip picnic food" to pack was what her mother had made for her during her fondly-remembered childhood vacations: baloney and American cheeses sandwiches on white bread with yellow mustard, accompanied by Bugles chips (which she discovered in adulthood no longer fit over the ends of her fingers like they did as a child).

Cheryl was perhaps best characterized by her willingness to help others through uplifting their spirits and striving to make them feel appreciated. Longtime friend, relative, recent acquaintance or total stranger—it mattered not — Cheryl's goal in her interpersonal communication was to leave people feeling better about themselves than they had been before their interaction. These traits continued to be notably present during her frequent stays in Kishwaukee Hospital over the last few weeks as her health problems grew in intensity. As various hospital staff, nurses and physicians visited her room at all hours

of the day and night, often with unpleasant lab results or uncomfortable medical tasks to perform, she never failed to thank them before they exited—even when she was suffering from intense pain. Such core values were also expressed repeatedly in her personal and professional life whether she was serving as neighbor, counselor, friend, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, wife or mother. Throughout her life she often shared that her favorite song was the 1972 Donna Fargo hit, *Happiest Girl in the Whole USA*. She lived her life trying to contribute some form of happiness and caring toward the lives of others.

She is survived by her immediate family including: husband, Steven of Shabbona, and their three children: Winston William (26) of Manassas, Virginia.; Olin Wesley (24) of Shabbona; Bethany Leona (20) currently of Elmhurst University in Elmhurst; and her faithful dog, Piper, as well as many supportive relatives including: one aunt, many cousins, in-laws, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother (2000), father (2007) and her only sibling—a brother, Randy (2015).

Family and friends may share their respects and condolences at the First Lutheran Church of Lee, on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, during a visitation from 10 AM- 1 PM, followed immediately by a memorial service at 1 PM and burial at First Lutheran Cemetery in rural Lee. Those wishing for extended fellowship are invited back to First Lutheran to enjoy a light luncheon after the burial.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Cheryl's name may do so by contributing to the First Lutheran Church of Lee Cemetery Fund, First Lutheran Church of Lee General Fund, Shabbona Community Church (formerly the Shabbona United Church of Christ), Shabbona Volunteer Fire Department or the American Cancer Society.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for all of the prayers and support that have been shared in-person, digitally and for those who followed Cheryl's cancer journey on her Caring Bridge website. Sincere thanks are also extended for the loving and thoughtful care she received from the staff and medical professionals at Kishwaukee Hospital and the Cancer Center, especially the Oncology and Palliative Care Departments.

Arrangements and burial services are being provided by Jacobson-Torman Funeral Home of Shabbona.

## Rochelle Police Department

### Officers make arrests

**ROCHELLE** — On Sept. 13, Cortney J. Vronch, 22, of Rockford was arrested for driving under the influence and driving under the influence greater than .08 and cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Sept. 13, Asia M.A. Bright, 27, of Chicago was arrested on an outstanding Lake County warrant and transferred.

On Sept. 13, Gustavo Santos, 38, of Rochelle was arrested for criminal trespass to residence. He was given an Oct. 13 Ogle County court date.

On Sept. 13, Yuisa Regalado Lopez, 25, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for suspended registration and failure to yield turning left. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 14, Iris D. Calvillo, 20, of Rochelle was cited for improper overtaking on right. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 20 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Kiwanis Peanut Day set for Sept. 22-23

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K is asking the community for its support during its upcoming annual Peanut Days.

This year's Peanut Days will take place on Friday, Sept. 22 and Saturday, Sept. 23 at the post office downtown and Walmart. Golden K representatives will be set up taking any amount of donations from community members in exchange for a bag of Planters peanuts.

"We would be glad to give a bag of peanuts to anybody that is around," Chet Olson, Peanut Day chair, said. "Even if they cannot afford to donate, we would still be glad to give them a bag of peanuts."

Golden K has been

hosting Peanut Days since its origin in 1951, when two Golden K members were enjoying peanuts at a Cubs game together. While eating, the two members thought to themselves that they could buy bags of peanuts and sell them as a fundraiser.

Since then, Peanut Day has become an annual fundraising event for many Golden K organizations throughout the country. The motto of Golden K is helping the children of the world, specifically within its own community.

The Rochelle Golden K helps by awarding scholarships and funding many local children's organizations including Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Focus House and

HOPE of Ogle County to just name a few. All of the funds earned throughout Peanut Day will be donated to these organizations.

"A couple of our big fundraising events had to be cancelled in the past few years due to COVID-19," Olson said. "So, we are depending on this to tide us over and help us to continue the support of those organizations."

The Golden K is also planning more Hot Dog Days in the near future and more information and dates will be released when finalized. Anybody that would like to donate to the Golden K other than through its Peanut Days can do so by mail at Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K, P.O. Box 644, Rochelle, IL 61068.

speed and unlawful possession of cannabis. Yocum was transported to Swedish American and released on an individual bond with a future court date given.

On Sept. 12 at approximately 1:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at West South and Center Street in Creston.

See **SHERIFF** page 5

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# LOCAL NEWS

## RTHS: Homecoming plans discussed during Monday meeting

**From page 1**

The RTHS district would add on to its maintenance building and bring in the elementary district's equipment and staff so it could more easily share equipment, staff and services.

"For that, in this budget there are some of the preliminary monies that are needed to do some engineering and some site control to make sure that that's feasible," Huddleston said. "I think next year we'll probably build that building unless we decide to do it early."

Huddleston said the high school district has also had testing done on all of its parking lots and will likely initiate a phased project to reconstruct and modify parking throughout the high school site.

"There's a little bit of engineering involved with that," Huddleston said. "In the next several months we're going to have a meeting with the building committee to actually walk all these parking lots and try to put together a budget for that."

Detention work involves creek erosion that has been seen at the school's detention pond that has made it start to fail.

"It's also the age of the pond and there's a lot of vegetation that has grown up, so we're going to have to do some work on that detention pond as well," Huddleston said. "So with capital projects, there's several of them and we have strong money in reserve to look at those. As a board, we need to look at all of these and make decisions on which ones we want to participate in and how we might want to phase those."

**New teachers**

Assistant Principal David Perrin made a presentation on the district's seven new teachers this year. They include Jonathan Gehm (social studies and head girls basketball coach), Kevin Hunt (social studies, assistant girls basketball coach), Sarai Orozco (special education), Colfay Pointer (counselor and head girls track coach), Scott Stevens (special education, Focus House), Meagan Stoops (English) and Edna Vazquez (Spanish).

Thirty five percent of the district's teachers are non-tenured (less than four years), Perrin said.

"We've been really fortunate over the last 4-5 years to attract and retain some quality young teachers," Perrin said.

The district offers a number of support systems for new teachers including orientation and mentor programs, professional learning communities within departments, a teacher resource classroom page, and an open-door teaching program,

**Homecoming**

During Monday evening's board meeting, Perrin detailed RTHS's homecoming week plans for the week of Sept. 25-30. On Sept. 28, the parade will be held and will start downtown at 6 p.m. and end around Tilton Elementary School.

The pep rally will begin outdoors on the football field shortly afterwards and the powderpuff football game will follow at 8 p.m. The homecoming game on Sept. 29 will be against Marengo. The Sept. 30 homecoming dance will take place in the RTHS commons.

## RTHS Theater performing magical comedy 'Puffs' from Sept. 21-23

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Township High School Theater Company will present "Puffs" or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic by Matt Cox on from Sept. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m. each night. The cost is \$5 at the door for entrants and students and educators cost \$2 to get in. The magical comedy is recommended for all. Performances will take place at RTHS at 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068.

## Rochelle VFW to host free breakfast for veterans Saturday

**ROCHELLE** — Floyd J. Tilton VFW Post 3878 in Rochelle at 318 4<sup>th</sup> St. will be hosting a free breakfast for Ogle County veterans and a guest on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8-11 a.m. The event will also be a meet and greet. The Veterans Assistance Com-

mission of Ogle County (VACOC) and its staff is assisting with the event.

Bring your DD214 form if you haven't already done so and chat with VACOC Superintendent/VSO Luz Maria Gilkey. Humana will have a representative present to answer

any questions about VA Healthcare, Medicare or Medicaid. Other vendors attending: Ogle County Clerk's Office, Ogle County Health Department, Serenity House, CASTOR Nursing Home, info on Goodwill Services for Veterans and others.

## SHERIFF: Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident

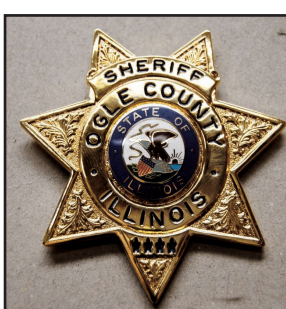
**From page 4**

After an investigation, deputies arrested Theresa Mullis, 43, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Mullis was given an I-bond for her citation and released from the scene. Mullis's passenger, Gene Gunn, 40, of Calumet City, was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of DeKalb County. Gunn was given a notice to appear and was released from the scene.

On Sept. 13 at approximately 11:45 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Mud Creek Road and Leaf River Road. It was determined that a black Toyota Tacoma being driven by Seth M. Todd, 31, of Columbus Junction, Iowa was southbound on

Leaf River Road. Todd failed to yield the right of way to a black Ford F-350 that was eastbound on Mud Creek Road. The Ford was being driven by John B. Wells, 38, of Mt. Morris and his passenger Cody M. Snyder, 23, of Forreston. Todd pulled his Tacoma into the intersection and was struck by the Ford being driven by Wells. Wells was transported to Mercy Health by Life Line Helicopter for life-threatening injuries and Snyder was taken to KSB for serious injuries. Todd was transported to OSF St. Anthony for serious injuries. The accident is still under investigation.

On Sept. 14 the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received reports from both the Creston School District and Kings School District of a suspicious



person taking pictures from the roadway in front of the schools. The subject was reportedly driving a black Audi. The same vehicle was also observed at a school in a neighboring county. Investigators from the Sheriff's Office have identified the vehicle, a black four-door Audi with Indiana registration, and are actively seeking to speak with the driver. This investigation is ongoing.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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

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

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  - In 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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# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## Make farm safety a top priority this harvest season

CLIMBING into the combine seat and hitting the fields each September always fills me with a sense of excitement and anticipation. Even after 48 years, there is no better feeling than looking out over a field of matured corn or soybeans. But, year after year I hear of yet another tragic loss of life due to a preventable work-related injury on the farm during harvest.

The agricultural sector is one of the most dangerous in America with 453 fatalities each year according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent data. Fall harvest, which typically kicks off in mid-September, is one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for agriculture workers.

For that reason, America has recognized the third week of September as National Farm Safety and Health since 1944. This year I challenge every Illinois farmer to make safety a top priority throughout the months of September and October.

Remember: There is no healthy farm without a healthy farmer heading the operation.

While farming is a highly rewarding occupation, it is a simple fact that there are certain safety measures that must take place to prevent injury or loss of life. A simple checklist can be used when operating heavy machinery to keep yourself and others on the farm safe.

Many farm families work well into the evenings to harvest their

crops and transport them to local storage facilities. Working all hours of the day, often in isolation, takes a toll on one's body. It's just as important to be mindful of your mental state as it is to ensure your physical safety.

Take note of how your body reacts to stress and look out for signs of fatigue such as drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, vision impairments and poor concentration. Finding 5-10 minutes to relax and recharge can provide that mental refresher needed before hitting the fields.

Fall harvest ultimately means more farm equipment on the road. If you've never been in the seat of

a combine or a tractor, you may not realize how difficult it is for farmers to see other vehicles while driving between fields. It is important for everyone — farmers and motorists — to stay diligent and keep one another safe during this busy season.

When operating large machinery and other equipment, it is good practice to keep slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs and lights clean. Dirt or debris covering critical safety features can lower equipment visibility and potentially deposit illegal and dangerous obstacles on the road.

Consider also traveling in farm vehicles during less busy times of day when fewer motorists are

on the road. No matter what, however, make sure you are aware and attentive when driving.

Motorists play a role in harvest safety, too. With so many people traveling on rural roads this season, it is up to all of us to drive responsibly.

When driving behind slow-moving vehicles, drivers can stay safe with a few tips:

When driving behind large equipment, immediately slow down and remain several car lengths behind.

Before passing remember to look for a clear signal from the person in the cab of the combine or tractor and pass only when it is safe and legal to do so.

Be prepared to encounter slow-moving vehicles at all times of the day and

night. Farmers won't be the only ones hitting the roads this fall. Truck drivers also play a critical role in the supply chain, transporting the food, fuel and fiber that each of us depends on.

Harvest is a time for celebration after a lengthy, often challenging growing season. It is my hope that my fellow farmers remain diligent during these long days and nights as we head into another bountiful harvest in Illinois.

*Richard Guebert Jr. is the president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*



Richard Guebert Jr.

## Court actors must implement SAFE-T Act for crime survivors

IN mid-September, Illinois will move one step further in the pursuit of justice by exchanging risk for wealth as a determinant of safety when making pretrial release decisions. As someone with 25 years of experience as an advocate for survivors, most spent working in our federal criminal legal system that has long operated without money bail, I know risk-based decision making can keep survivors of gender-based violence and the public safe.

Since the Pretrial Fairness Act was passed in 2021, opponents have used fearmongering and misinformation to derail its success. Over recent months, it has become clear that some public officials are still not ready for this new system, nor are they doing enough to prepare for these changes.

We routinely saw survivors used as pawns during the political debate over this bill, and sadly that continues. Misinformation continues to come from state's attorneys themselves or their allies in law enforcement who oppose the law. In a recent story published by WGLT, McLean County State's Attorney Erika Reynolds falsely claimed that some people charged with domestic violence couldn't be jailed under the new law. In fact, all people charged with domestic violence, both as a misdemeanor or felony, can be held in jail pretrial when there are public safety concerns. No one charged with an offense of domestic violence will be released without a hearing. Notice to survivors, along with an offer to petition for a domestic violence order of protection, is required

before an initial hearing. These are all powers given to states' attorneys to keep survivors safe and informed of all their options at each stage of their case.

The Pretrial Fairness Act will be implemented Sept. 18 after years of advocacy by organizations combatting gender-based violence. Our community specifically drafted provisions in the law to require notice from states' attorneys' offices to victims ahead of the initial hearings, when that hearing was previously exempted from the list of hearings requiring victim notification by states attorneys. We also drafted language to ensure offenses like sex crimes, trafficking and domestic violence are on the list

of offenses that require police, prosecutors and judges to take extra time with these cases. With more time, survivor safety will be at the forefront of every decision, rather than having cases moved as quickly as possible. We also worked to ensure that all states' attorneys must file a petition to detain

a defendant for any violation of protective order, knowing the potential lethality and safety issues at play when a protective order is violated. These are the critical provisions that, coupled with the end of wealth-based incarceration, will create a more survivor-centered pretrial system.

The time has come to ensure our court actors understand the law and

will fully implement this law to protect survivors. Any failure to implement — including notice to survivors of initial hearings, provision of a protective order when requested, or completion of a risk assessment when needed — will put individual survivors and communities at greater risk for repeated harm. By reducing pretrial jailing for most offenses, court actors can finally turn their attention to where it should be: on higher level offenses like domestic violence and sexual assault that affect public safety and survivors.

When our elected officials and law enforcement perpetuate misinformation about the law, they put survivors at risk by misstating their rights under this new system. Survivors deserve to know how exactly their county

state's attorney and local law enforcement will enforce the new law, and ensure it upholds public safety for all people. It is imperative we set aside political differences and implement the law correctly so all survivors across Illinois can get the rights and opportunities afforded to them under the SAFE-T Act.

Illinois should be proud to be the first state in the country to abolish money bail, and center survivor-centered practices into its pretrial system. We call on states' attorneys and law enforcement to join us to prepare our communities and survivors for this new and improved system.

*Amanda Pyron is executive director of The Network, an anti-gender-based-violence organization in Chicago that helped draft and pass the Pretrial Fairness Act.*



Amanda Pyron

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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,

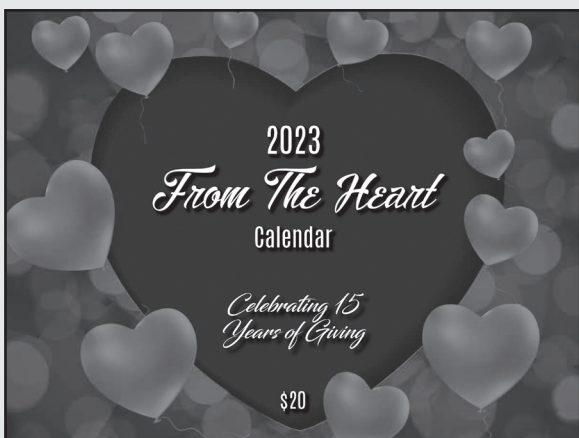
however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed ([news@rochellenews-leader.com](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com).) The News-Leader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



## A photograph of two men sitting at a round wooden table in a breakroom. The man on the left is wearing a red and black plaid shirt, glasses, and a black beanie with a gold emblem. He is holding a white cup and has his hand near his face. The man on the right is wearing a brown and white plaid shirt and khaki pants, and is smiling. On the table are a white cup, a silver thermos, and some papers. In the background, there is a counter with a menu board, a door labeled 'EMPLOYEES ONLY', and a large black vending machine filled with various drinks.

**On Friday, Sept. 8, Rochelle resident Bert Cote celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday with friends and family with a breakfast at Rochelle Pharmacy. The World War II veteran has lived in Rochelle for 99 years. Cote served in Germany under General Patton. He was among the first American troops that went into Berlin. He's also a Gold Star family member.**

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



Aug. 25 - City of Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 26 - Cahoy Pump, \$25

Aug. 27 - Karen Marsh, Stillman Valley, \$50

Aug. 28 - Terry Hatfield, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 29 - Steve Barron, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 30 - Debbi Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 31 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

Sept. 1 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation,

Sept. 2 - Emily Lopez-Perez, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 3 - Mandi Morris, Rochelle, \$50

Sept. 4 - Brittany Olszewski, Rochelle, \$1,000

Sept. 5 - Ben Heck, Chana, \$25

Sept. 6 - Mariah Wyrobek, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 7 - Linda Schreiber, Leaf River, \$25

Sept. 8 - Jason Burdin, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 9 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25

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Sept. 11 - Alexis Barbosa, Newark, \$25

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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



# King Crossword

|                                 |                            |                              |                           |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 29 Aussie greet-<br>ing         | cloud                      | 9 Porches                    | 31 QB's gains             |
|                                 | 54 Honor                   | 10 Ireland                   | 33 Shaft of light         |
| 32 Chekhov play,<br>with "The"  | 55 With unifor-<br>mity    | 11 Plane reserva-<br>tion    | 34 201, in old<br>Rome    |
| 35 Nickelode-<br>on's Explorer" | 56 Vestibules              | 12 ER workers                | 39 Bygone anes-<br>thetic |
| 36 Outlet letters               | 57 Valleys                 | 18 Former<br>Chrysler CEO    | 41 Prestigious<br>prize   |
| 37 Venus, to                    | <b>DOWN</b>                | 21 USPS delivery             | 42 Coral forma-<br>tion   |
| Serena                          | 1 Repast                   | 23 "Yecch!"                  | 43 To boot                |
| 38 CBS logo                     | 2 Visitor to<br>Siam       | 24 PC screen<br>type         | 45 Easter entrees         |
| 40 Abel's brother               | 3 Bob Marley<br>fan, often | 25 Discoverer's<br>call      | 47 Melody                 |
| 42 Campaigned                   | 4 — -mo                    | 26 Peace                     | 48 Misfortunes            |
| 44 Bangkok cui-<br>sine         | 5 Nepal's —<br>Mountains   | 28 Admitted to<br>the clergy | 49 Utter                  |
| 46 Elevator<br>name             | 6 Hideaway                 | 30 "Entourage"<br>role       | 51 Observe                |
| 50 Biblical<br>prophet          | 7 Plant firmly             |                              | 53 Actress<br>Longoria    |
| 52 Outer-space                  | 8 Gorilla                  |                              |                           |

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

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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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: **M** equals T

MQYM EKGTYRJ AHVV BSVHXS  
 AKKB KL DMKRS OLYNGSRMD  
 XSLJ OYDM. MQSJ SXSR BK  
 KXSLRHNQM EQHTTHRN.

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# Cryptologic

— Weekly SUDOKU —

— KING CROSSWORD —



# ASHTON NEWS



**AFC students participate in Cup Castle Fitness**  
Ashton-Franklin Center High School physical education classes participated in "Cup Castle Fitness" for this a recent week's fitness day.

## Missing West Brooklyn man found deceased

**WEST BROOKLYN** — A West Brooklyn man that was recently reported missing was found deceased Sept. 13 near his home, a Lee County Sheriff's Office press release said.

Michael Widolff, 64, was last seen at his residence in rural West Brooklyn on Aug. 14 before he was found deceased Sept. 13. The investigation is ongoing, and there is no threat to the public, the press re-

lease said.

Widolff was known to travel the area and was an outdoorsman with a pilot's license.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted in the investigation by the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation, Illinois Conservation Police, Amboy Police Department, Amboy Fire Department, Christian Aid Ministries Search



& Rescue, Lee County Volunteer Corps Search & Rescue, Salvation Army, Lee Center Township and Richardson Wildlife Foundation.



### AFC names first three Raiders of the Week

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently released its first three Raider of the Week winners. They included Brianna Gonnerman (volleyball), Noah Danielson (football) and Ashley Lewis (swimming). "These individuals were selected by their coaches or teachers for displaying what it means to be a Raider both on and off the court," a district Facebook post said. "Congratulations Bri, Noah, and Ashley!"

## AFC volleyball team defeats Amboy

**ASHTON** — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team conceded a 14-25, 25-27 loss against Polo on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Kaelynn Larson had five kills, seven digs and one block, while Brianna Gonnerman totaled seven assists, six digs and three blocks. Audree Dorn compiled 19 digs and five assists, with Mallory Coffman recording nine digs, three kills and two aces.

The Ashton-Franklin

Center varsity volleyball team recorded a 25-22, 25-15 win over Amboy on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Mallory Coffman finished with eight kills, two aces and two digs, while Kaelynn Larson added six kills and seven digs. Brianna Gonnerman totaled 13 assists and nine digs, with Audree Dorn compiling five assists, nine digs and four kills to aid the Lady Raiders in the win. Taylor Jahn ended the match with

three kills, seven digs and three aces for AFC.

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team fell against Forrester on Thursday, Sept. 14, losing 21-25, 12-25. Taylor Jahn had five kills, while Mallory Coffman totaled four aces and two blocks. Audree Dorn compiled eight digs and seven assists, with Brianna Gonnerman and Kaelynn Larson each finishing with six digs.

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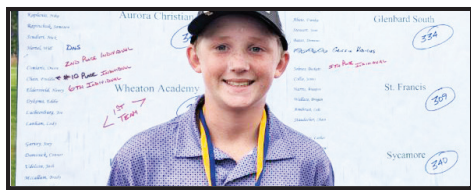
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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



**A MEDAL FOR METZGER**

RTHS sophomore Ian Metzger medaled in third at the ACC Charger Invitational.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

## Hubs SWAT DOWN Hornets

Rochelle dominates all three phases in 49-6 win over Harvard on Friday night

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**HARVARD** — Junior quarterback Carson Lewis had a chance to showcase his improved arm strength when the Rochelle Hub varsity football team traveled for an Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference Blue Division showdown against the winless Harvard Hornets on Friday.

One week after the Hubs rushed for over 400 yards and dominated Johnsbury 48-0 without throwing a single pass, Lewis aired the football out against the Hornets, completing 6-of-9 passes for 83 yards and two touchdowns with no turnovers as Rochelle cruised over Harvard 49-6.

It was the second two-touchdown passing game of the season for Lewis, who has grown more confident under center in his first season as the starting quarterback for the Hubs.

“It makes me feel good and I know that I have a good offensive line to protect me,” Lewis said. “I have wide receivers I can trust and my offensive linemen are good at blocking.”



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

A host of Rochelle Hub defenders including sophomore Brode Metzger (left) as well as juniors Jack Pavlak (bottom), Ryan Senne (top) and Brandyn Metzger (right) combine for a tackle during the team’s varsity football game against Harvard on Friday evening.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Volleyball

(COURTESY PHOTO)



### Sophomore Lady Hubs finish 3-0 over three matches to win Oregon Invitational on Saturday

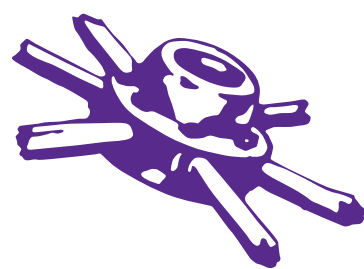
The Rochelle Lady Hub sophomore volleyball team went 3-0 over three matches to claim the first-place trophy at the Oregon Invitational on Saturday. Rochelle started the tournament with a 11-25, 25-15, 15-10 win over Hall Township before defeating Milledgeville 25-21, 25-20 and North Boone 25-23, 25-8 to take the title. Pictured above from left to right are Kyler Dickson, Jaicee Ramos, Rylin Tabor, Rylie Thomas, Katie Toczylowski (front row), coach Lindsay Suess, Keirra Clark, Meredith Bruns, Jaydin Dickey, Briel Metzger, Emori Mickley, Ava Horner and Kyrie Cragin (back row).





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## WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

# HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Sophomore Ian Metzger fired an 18-hole round of 72 to take third overall at the Aurora Central Catholic Charger Invitational on Saturday afternoon.**

# Metzger medals in third at ACC Charger Invitational

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**AURORA** — Sophomore standout Ian Metzger feels that he's rounding into form as the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team continues its push through the second half of the 2023 season.

Metzger was accurate from the tee box on Saturday, when the Hubs competed in the annual ACC Charger Invitational at Phillips Park Golf Course. The sophomore went 14-for-16 on fairways in regulation and took advantage of his strong wedge play, shooting a 1-over-par 72 to medal in third place at the tournament. Metzger carded five birdies during his 18-hole round.

"I haven't played very well over my last few events, so it was nice to have a good score going into a few of our bigger events including the conference meet and regionals," Metzger said. "I'm trying to qualify for state this season and shooting a good score definitely feels good... I didn't miss many fairways and when I did miss, I left myself in a good spot and gave myself a lot of close wedges into the hole. My wedge game was on and I gave myself a lot of close putts."

Metzger led the Hubs (1-9, 0-4 Interstate 8) to a 12th-place performance as a

team, with Rochelle firing 360 to tie with Aurora Central Catholic while outpacing Westmont and IMSA. Freshman Alex Dyer followed with an 18-hole round of 89 for the Hubs, while senior Chandler Cunningham scored a 98 and freshman Owen Carmichael notched a 101. For Metzger, course management was another factor that played into his successful third-place round on Saturday.

“It was a pretty tight course, but I left myself in great spots and I didn’t give myself any bad positions where I had to lose shots,” Metzger said. “I’ve been losing shots at our home course recently because I’ve had to punch out on a few holes and I’ve wound up shooting in the 40s. I didn’t let the course control me and I thought I played a really smart round of golf on Saturday.”

Senior Owen Messer added a 104 and junior Chris Hickey recorded a 127 to round out the varsity lineup for the Hubs on Saturday. After not meeting his expectations score wise over his last few rounds, Metzger said his 1-over-par 72 is a significant step in the right direction.

"I think I've had a few good events, but I think I could've shot some lower scores after starting the season off with a 36," Metzger said. "I'm hoping to keep building on that 72."

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# SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity football team defeated Harvard 49-6 on the road Friday evening. At left, junior Alex Pemberton tackles Harvard's Edward Rosales. At right, junior Xavier Villalobos brings down quarterback Adam Cooke.

## HUBS: Rochelle dominates Harvard for second straight victory

From page 1

"We wanted to score as many points as possible as quickly as possible tonight. We were humbled after our second game of the season and we've pushed ourselves over these last two games."

Rochelle (3-1, 2-0 Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue) opened the game with a special teams highlight, with junior lineman Ryan Senne blocking a Harvard punt to give the Hubs tremendous field position early in the first quarter. Rochelle capitalized on the play, scoring on a 16-yard touchdown run from freshman wingback Dylan Manning, who had 80 rushing yards on only six carries. With Harvard slowing the game down, Rochelle held a 7-0 lead after one quarter. The Hornets used 10 plays to advance the ball 28 yards on their opening drive, melting away nearly nine minutes of clock, but the Hubs forced an incomplete pass on fourth-and-3

to retake possession near midfield. Rochelle's defensive stand set up another scoring drive capped off by a 15-yard touchdown pass from Lewis to junior wide receiver Elijah Harley, who broke free near the back of the end zone for his first touchdown reception of the season and his varsity career.

"I felt like my arm strength wasn't very good last year, but I've built a lot of muscle over the last year," Lewis said. "I've improved my reads from watching film and I think I've become a smarter football player... We need to play our best game up front next week when we play Sycamore."

A three-and-out on Harvard's next possession enabled the Hubs to extend their lead early in the second quarter, where a 10-yard pass to Harley and long runs from Manning and junior tailback Grant Gensler highlighted a nine-play, 64-yard drive that culminated

in a 9-yard touchdown run from sophomore fullback Roman Villalobos. Gensler led the Rochelle offense on the ground, rushing for 95 yards on 12 carries while Villalobos added 51 rushing yards on 10 carries.

Harvard struggled to move the football against a stout Rochelle defense, which held the Hornets to only 98 total yards and just five first downs in the game. After once again forcing a three-and-out late in the second quarter, Manning broke loose for a 27-yard gain and Gensler found the end zone on a 35-yard scamper off the right side to help give the Hubs a 28-0 lead.

"We had to play perfectly on defense tonight," senior linebacker Brock Metzger said. "We messed some things up on that first drive and I thought there were some things that we could've done better. We're playing hard, we're playing fast and we're being physical on defense. We need to come back and do even

better against Sycamore because we know they're tough."

The Hubs forced their first turnover of the night late in the second quarter, with senior corner Tommy Tourdot intercepting a deflected pass from Harvard quarterback Adam Cooke and giving Rochelle possession deep inside Hornet territory. Tourdot's defensive gem led to a fourth second-quarter touchdown for the Hubs, who scored on a fourth-and-10 down where Lewis fired a 27-yard pass to senior receiver Cayden Moore, who hauled in his first touchdown of the year.

Rochelle deployed its traditional smashmouth football to start the third quarter, utilizing 14 plays and almost seven minutes of clock to move the ball 80 yards and score on a 14-yard rushing touchdown from Gensler. Leading 42-0, Rochelle iced the road win midway through the fourth quarter, where senior wingback Riley Damask ran for

a 15-yard touchdown and Lewis, who handles kicking duties as well, made the extra point to finish 7-for-7 on point-after attempts.

Harvard avoided the shutout in the final seconds, scoring on a 39-yard touchdown pass from Cooke to Edward Rosales with Rochelle's reserves taking over on defense. The Hubs, who totaled 396 yards in the win, will travel for an Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference crossover matchup against Sycamore next week. The Spartans are currently 4-0 on the year.

"We struggled against Morton in Week 2 and I was upset after that loss," Metzger said. "But we came back the next week and practiced hard. We've kicked some butt over our last two games and we're getting the job done. We have to be absolutely perfect against Sycamore next week."

soph football team continued its perfect season on Monday with a 46-0 win over Harvard. Rochelle is now 4-0 and 2-0 in the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue Division.

Sophomore Brenden Voight rushed for a 3-yard touchdown and a 4-yard touchdown, while sophomore Reece Harris ran for a 7-yard touchdown and sophomore Andrew Johnson had a 3-yard touchdown run. Freshman Angel Hernandez rushed for a 26-yard touchdown and freshman Warren Schweitzer caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback Van Gerber.

Sophomore Riley Vondergathen and freshman Cooper Holmgren each had sacks, with Holmgren forcing a fumble. Freshmen Tyler Gensler and John Chadwick each had interceptions, while sophomore Jorge Martinez finished with five tackles. Vondergathen chipped in three tackles on defense.

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**HEADING**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL R. REES, Deceased.  
No. 2023-PR-50  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of PAUL R. REES, of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 31, 2023, to SPENCER S. REES, whose address is 2311 North Shore Dr., Delavan, WI 53115, 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 March 7, 2023, 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 SPENCER S. REES, Executor of the Estate of PAUL R. REES, deceased  
No. 0908  
(Sept. 6, 13 and 20, 2023)

**NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE  
CITY OF ROCHELLE, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff,  
v.  
PEDRO A. PASQUA and GLORIA C. PASQUA, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants  
Court No: 2021 MR 44  
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale heretofore entered in the above entitled cause on July 17, 2023, Brian E. VanVickle, the Sheriff of Ogle County, Illinois, will on October 13, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 A.M. at the Ogle County Sheriff's office, located at 202 S. 1st Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described premises:  
LOTS 1 AND 2 IN BLOCK 19 IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF LANO, AND NOW CALLED THE CITY OF ROCHELLE, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
Permanent Index Number: 24-24-383-003  
Commonly known as: 300 Cherry Avenue, Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois 61068  
The real estate is not currently improved.  
The terms of sale: Ten percent (10%) due by cash or certified funds at the time of the sale and balance is due within 24 hours of the sale plus interest at the statutory judgment rate on any unpaid portion of the sale price from the date of sale to the date of payment. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The Plaintiff makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, by virtue of this

sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.  
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.  
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information, examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Dominick Lanzito, PETERSON, JOHNSON & MURRAY, LLC, 200 W. Adams St., Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 724-8035.  
Dominick L. Lanzito  
Peterson, Johnson & Murray, LLC  
200 West Adams, Suite 2125  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
312-724-8035  
dlanzito@pjmlaw.com  
No. 0915  
(Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 2023)

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## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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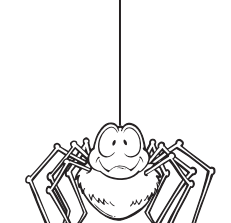
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## 203 HELP WANTED

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

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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.

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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.**



# SPORTS

## RTHS Volleyball

(COURTESY PHOTO)



### Freshman Lady Hubs win two matches to take second at Oregon Invitational on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Lady Hub freshman volleyball team went 2-1 over three matches to earn the second-place trophy at the Oregon Invitational on Saturday. Rochelle started the tournament with a 25-15, 25-17 win over Genoa-Kingston before defeating Hinckley-Big Rock 22-25, 25-11, 15-8 in three sets. The Lady Hubs fell 19-24, 20-24 to Hall Township in the finals. Pictured above from left to right are Amy Lopez, Emma Heller, Ella Thompson, Aiyana Mashaw, Elyse Manning (front row), Grace Montes, Aeriss Williams, Reese Kissack and Camryn Metzger (back row).

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Soccer

# Rochelle falls in offensive battle with Belvidere

### Casillas scores three goals as Hubs concede 7-5 loss against Bucs on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**BELVIDERE** — Steady rain showers fell from start to finish as the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team faced off against Belvidere in a high-scoring nonconference match Saturday morning.

Junior forward Alberto Casillas finished with three goals for the Hubs, who went back and forth with the Bucs throughout the match before Belvidere took a late lead on a pair of second-half goals. The Rochelle offense managed to answer the Bucs for most of the contest, but the late hole was too deep for a comeback rally from the Hubs, who ultimately conceded a 7-5 loss.

“We’ve been working well together on offense and we’ve been moving the ball,” head coach Brad Male said. “Our communication is picking up and that’s been a difference for us. It was unfortunate that we conceded two goals in the last few minutes, but I’m happy with where we’re at on offense and we’re looking for our team to keep communicating and moving the ball.”

Senior Diego Salazar and sophomore Kevin Orozco each scored goals for the

Hubs (3-6-2, 1-3 Interstate 8), who took a 1-0 lead after Casillas converted a penalty kick during the ninth minute. Rochelle didn’t hold the advantage for long, as Belvidere capitalized on a series of through balls during the first half.

The Bucs tied the match in the 14th minute before scoring goals in the 21st and 33rd minutes to command a 3-1 lead. Belvidere compiled a staggering 55 shots and 45 shots on goal in the match, but the Bucs drew 14 offside calls that stalled their momentum.

“Alberto’s an aggressive player and he puts himself in the right positions,” Male said. “He’s in there all of the time and I continue stressing for him to be aggressive and move to the ball. I think that if he can communicate with his teammates a little more, he’ll score even more.”

Casillas brought Belvidere within one goal near the end of the first half, sending a long shot into the air and into the back of the net during the 38th minute. Rochelle found an equalizer early in the second half, with Casillas assisting Orozco during the 51st minute to tie the score at 3-3. An immediate answer from the Bucs sparked a seesaw battle throughout



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Sophomore Heilly Zepeda battles with Belvidere’s Angel Garcia during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against the Bucs on Saturday morning.**

the second half, with the Bucs scoring in the 52nd minute and Salazar answering for the Hubs during the 64th minute.

Both teams exchanged goals as the second half wound down, with the Bucs regaining the lead in the 68th minute and Casillas completing his hat trick for the Hubs during the 73rd minute. A controversial call resulted in a red card for sophomore goalkeeper Antonio Hueramo, who had 19 saves in the match, during the 76th minute. With Hueramo sidelined, Belvidere went on the attack, clinching the win with back-to-back unanswered goals in the 76th and 79th minutes.

“We’re dealing with a few injuries and we had a red card come from the match today,” Male said. “I think we’re a strong team when we’re healthy, but we’re having to move some players around right now.”

## RTHS Cross Country

# Rochelle runners race at Eddington Invitational

### Koziol wins open race for girls, Hernandez runs season-best time for boys

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**MAPLE PARK** — The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams competed in the annual Larry Eddington Invitational at Kaneland High School on Saturday afternoon. Hubs senior Luis Hernandez ran the fastest time for the RTHS runners, clocking in with a time of 16:58.20 to finish 71st out of 156 athletes in the varsity race. Rochelle will travel for the Byron Invitational on Wednesday afternoon before hitting the road for the annual Rock River Run in Sterling.

Four Hubs compete in the open race on Saturday, with sophomore Declan McGee taking 10th out of 80 runners to lead the Rochelle group. McGee finished with a time of 17:48.60, while sophomore Levi Waddle took 40th with a time of 20:13.50. Juniors Cash

Budde and Christopher Beckman finished 70th and 71st with respective times of 23:04.60 and 24:22.50 for the Hubs.

The Lady Hubs placed third out of 11 competing schools in the open race. Sophomore Annaliese Koziol led the Rochelle group, finishing first out of 122 runners with a time of 20:41.40 while sophomore Rose Luxton finished 25th with a time of 24:49.60. Sophomore Mary Chadwick and junior Brisa Zepeda took 32nd and 35th with respective times of 25:07.30 and 25:15.80 for the Lady Hubs.

Other notable finishers for the Lady Hubs include freshman Vivian Worthington (46th in 25:55.80), junior Bridgett Ramirez (71st in 27:15.30), sophomore Bella Biggs (100th in 29:39.60) and freshman Magaly Belmonte (121st in 37:11.70).



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Sophomores Elijah Mayen (left) and Bella Biggs (right) race to the finish during the Larry Eddington Invitational at Kaneland High School on Saturday afternoon.**



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