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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6, 2023

\$1.25

Rochelle Recovery Center now open

‘This hopefully is a place where people can... become comfortable’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Aug. 22, Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery announced the opening of the Rochelle Recovery Center at 242 May Mart Drive in Rochelle.

Those recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction can call 779-707-0151 for information about meetings at the location and in the area. A new Narcotics Anonymous meeting will be held at the location on Mondays at 7 p.m. A Big Book study will be held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the location. The Big Book Compendium is a recovery program.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery is a recovery community based out of Dixon. For the past three years, it has covered Lee, Whiteside and Ogle counties and recently started coverage of addiction needs in DeKalb County.

“Our organization believes that a big component of recovery is reconnecting with a positive community,” SVVOR Executive Director Gerald Lott said. “We do a lot of taking people to treatment.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Aug. 22, Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery announced the opening of the Rochelle Recovery Center at 242 May Mart Drive in Rochelle.

And then when those people come back, their problems are still there. Three years ago we set out to build a connection with that community. Every month we do a newsletter to let people in the community know what other people in recovery are doing in the area. We do monthly social events that are free of charge. We’ve taken people bowling and ax throwing and hiking. We’ve had sober dances. We support getting meet-

ings going. Our goal is to not support any one path to recovery. It’s not AA or NA or Celebrate Recovery or yoga. We want to lift the entire harbor of recovery. In doing so, all boats rise.”

Upon the start of a new funding cycle in July, SVVOR was tasked with setting up two recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) councils for Lee-Whiteside counties and Ogle/DeKalb counties. Rochelle native Daniel Stewart will have

an office at the Rochelle Recovery Center and will serve as the Ogle/DeKalb ROSC coordinator.

Stewart’s goal will be to get together a coalition of local stakeholders from hospitals, police departments, businesses and more to look at the area and its addiction needs to try to get it moving in a positive direction.

“This center is the outgrowth of that,” Lott said.

See RECOVERY p. 2



RITC work nearing completion

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, Aug. 16, City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson said that concrete, asphalt and gravel work has been completed at the Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center at 1851 S. Steward Road.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new intermodal container yard in the heart of Rochelle’s industrial park last fall. The project will return intermodal services to the city after the Union Pacific Railroad’s decision to close the intermodal ramp at Global III in Rochelle in May 2019.

See RITC page 3

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Showmanship awards presented

The Ogle County 4-H Fair saw several youth given awards including for showmanship. **Page 4**

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LOCAL NEWS

RECOVERY: New addiction center opens doors in the Hub City

From page 1

“Part of our grant allowed for Daniel to have an office. We could’ve had a small office, but we chose a place with a big room attached to it where people could have meetings. Hence, the Rochelle Recovery Center. We’ve heard from a ton of people and stakeholders in this community that it could use more people to get together to recover and try to find hope. I’ve been sober for 15 years. Daniel has been sober for about two years. This is stuff that we’ve lived.”

Stewart attended Rochelle Township High School. He’s a product of SVVOR, and Lott was the one who drove him to get

treatment in Aurora. Upon completing treatment, he moved into a healthy living space and got involved in the 12-Step program, which he’s still doing today. He got in touch with Lott again during his recovery and got involved with SVVOR.

“Long story short, here we are,” Stewart said. “I’m really excited. We’ve had really good success in DeKalb meeting with stakeholders. I’ll be meeting with Rochelle’s stakeholders. Every time we meet somebody and tell them what we’re doing for this ROSC council, they pave the way for other people to get involved. There’s not a lot of places to recover here in Rochelle. We’re not

fighting the war on drugs, but we are fighting stigma. Everything that comes with being someone with substance use disorder. I’ve been to a lot of really good AA meetings in Plano and Aurora. I haven’t been to a whole lot here, but I plan to. It’s more than just us doing this. It’s a statewide initiative. The entire state is building a ROSC council and so are surrounding states.”

SVVOR has a Safe Passage program to get those in need transported to treatment that has helped over 350 people in the past two years. The closest treatment center to the area is about 45 minutes away for people with Medicaid and uninsured, which is generally what SVVOR works with. The organization has put 36,000 miles on cars in the past year driving people to and from treatment. Stewart called it “extremely meaningful” to be back in his hometown helping people with substance use disorders like him.

“I really hope to plant some seeds and help people recover,” Stewart said. “And not be ashamed to recover. In the rural area with substance use disorders, there’s a lot of shame, guilt and remorse. This hopefully is a place where people can come and become comfortable.”

Lott said the Rochelle Recovery Center space is available to anybody in the community who wants to start a meeting. A new Rochelle location for those recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction will fill a void in the area for those in need.

“The biggest problem is transportation,” Lott



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

A new Narcotics Anonymous meeting will be held at the location on Mondays at 7 p.m. A Big Book study will be held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the location. The Big Book Compendium is a recovery program.

said. “If you have a good car and nothing but money, you can go to 100 meetings a week traveling the four surrounding counties. If you live 5-6 blocks from here and only have a bicycle, that’s a different game. And it gets cold. We hope that this base can be a meeting house, and one of many, for hundreds if not thousands of people. We want people to see that we are having good meetings here and other places in the community want to have meetings. Recovering out loud is what we do, so people can see that it doesn’t tear down the neighborhood.”

SVVOR offers a number of group activities for those in recovery to come together in a positive environment including basketball, bicycle riding, running and art.

It will also host Northern Illinois Recover-Con 2023 on Saturday, Oct. 7 at Northern Illinois University’s Barsema Alumni

and Visitors Center. The event is free and celebrates recovery. It will feature esteemed thought leaders and partners passionate about recovery from substance use disorder. Visit recover-con.com or call 779-707-0151 for details.

Lott and Stewart said the COVID-19 pandemic compounded alcoholism and drug addiction issues. In 2021, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) documented about 110,000 people dying of overdoses.

“A lot of issues came together to just make this entire field explode,” Lott said. “We went from about eight calls a week prior to COVID-19 to help somebody get into treatment to upwards of 20 calls a week. The numbers have definitely increased. If you follow the logic that addiction flows from a lack of connection and look at us being told for 18 months to stay in the

house and away from each other, there’s a conclusion to draw. People now have an excuse to stay home behind the computer screen and do whatever they’re doing and nobody knows.”

Lott said the expectation is that SVVOR’s grant funding will go on for a considerable amount of time to provide recovery services and to build the recovery-oriented system in the community. When SVVOR started its Safe Passage program, the number of places people could go to and ask for and receive help increased. The Rochelle community now has one more place like that.

“It’s potential for the entire community,” Lott said. “When someone asks for help, is it going to be available? I want people to know that if they can get here to our new center and ask for help, somebody is going to help them.”

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center will be served by the City of Rochelle Railroad, a city-owned short-line railroad that connects businesses and industries to both the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) main line Railroads. City officials aim for the facility to give local and regional industries a cost-effective alternative to moving freight through Chicago.

RITC: Transload center bringing intermodal services back to Rochelle

From page 1

The RITC will be served by the City of Rochelle Railroad, a city-owned short-line railroad that connects businesses and industries to both the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) main line Railroads. City officials aim for the facility to give local and regional industries a cost-effective alternative to moving freight through Chicago.

Anderson said he anticipates construction on the current phase of the RITC will be completed by mid-to-late September. Light poles need to be installed and Rochelle Municipal Utilities power needs to be pulled into the yard. A gate and fencing need to be put in place as well. Once there is power, the whole facility can be lighted and the operation could potentially run 24 hours a day.

The first phase of the startup for intermodal service has begun, Anderson said. Containers can be seen in the yard on chassis. Currently, CHS Rochelle is bringing the containers across the street for the purpose of having them contained for the purpose of fumigating grain. Trucks come and get the containers and take them to Joliet.

Anderson said the second phase will start later this fall, where a whole

trainload of containers will come in empty and be offloaded and stacked. Those containers will later be loaded and put on another train later in the week, which will bring more empty containers. That process will likely start sometime in October, Anderson said.

“We expect there to be a train a week to start with,” Anderson said. “One train a week is 110 rail cars or 220 containers. That’s 220 containers in and 220 containers out per week. With that, it’ll start to generate a significant amount of revenue.”

Developing the yard’s operations has brought about “a lot of complexities,” Anderson said. Customers have come about wanting to import into Rochelle due to the fact that they don’t want to take containers into the larger yard in Chicago. Those customers have a desire to bring loaded containers into the RITC and put them on a truck and ship them to destinations in Wisconsin, Iowa or Southern Illinois.

That demand coming about has added a level of complexity to planning, but could bring added revenue, Anderson said.

“This has now kind of complicated things because we were originally set up to be just an export terminal,” Anderson said. “Now we’re working with multiple freight lines and

railroads to talk about import and export. The great opportunity there is that the revenue that the city generates through this process is based on loaded containers. If you have loaded containers coming in, you get paid for that. And if you have loaded containers going out, you get paid for that. So even though the process is taking longer to get the whole thing put together, it looks as though we’re going to be in a much better position on revenue if we can handle both the import and the export.”

The City of Rochelle has had discussions about its own intermodal yard for almost 15 years, Anderson said. The RITC site already has a transloading operation there, which involves freight going from one form of transportation to another. Current items transloaded at the facility include sunflower seed oil and grain.

The City of Rochelle Railroad has equal access to the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads.

“I don’t know how many transloading facilities or intermodal facilities are actually served by two class-one railroads,” Anderson said. “We may be the only one, I don’t know. I think it’s interesting that we now have the flexibility to provide service to a lot of customers that otherwise didn’t have service.”

The Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDC) purchased 10 acres next to the transload center 10 years ago with the hopes that intermodal service could be established. Anderson said most of the project has come together as anticipated, but there have been challenges in understanding the complexities of how intermodal services are actually provided.

“All of the entities have to work in concert with each other,” Anderson said. “It’s been pretty exciting to see it come together. But everyone is trying to figure out what their role is. I think it’s going to take us a good 18-24 months to really get this thing off the ground. I think we’re going to see some real success in it. It’s getting all the players

to work together.”

The city has been awarded multiple grants for the RITC. One was received this past winter to expand it east to city-owned land, and the \$7 million project will go forward in 2025 after design and study work next year.

In the city’s long-range plan, the current phase of the RITC is the first of three. The first phase will have capacity up to two trains a week, with potential for the railroad to generate \$1.5-2 million per year. If expanded to the next phase due to demand, Anderson said that could add another \$1 million to yearly revenues. The third phase would expand to a 50-100 acre opportunity, which could yield “somewhere in excess” of \$4 million per year, Anderson said.

“Mayor Bearrows

made the statement in 2019 when Global III closed how difficult this was going to be on certain industries who basically depended on having local intermodal service,” Anderson said. “And now that we’re going to reestablish that, at a smaller scale than what Global III was, it’s very, very rewarding. It’s very rewarding to feel that not only are we helping local businesses and industries to lower their logistics costs by having local intermodal service, but it’s also going to be a tremendous amount of revenue to the city itself. That’s kind of what the whole idea behind the city’s enterprises are, to basically create opportunities that really help support the quality of life, help support businesses, and help to bring new revenue into the community.”

Property tax second installment due Sept. 8

OREGON — Ogle County Collector Tiffany O’Brien, wants to remind property owners that the second installment of their property tax bill is due Friday, Sept. 8. Payment methods include cash or check (payable to Ogle County Collector).

In-person payments can be made at the treasurer’s office located in the “old” courthouse at 105 S. 5th St., Suite 114, Oregon or at any bank in Ogle County. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday excluding holidays.

Their mailing address is Ogle County Collector, P.O. Box 40, Oregon, IL 61061. Mailed payments must be postmarked by the due date to be considered timely. Late payments will incur a fee of 1.5 percent per month or part of a month after the due date and must be remitted by mail or at the collector’s office.

Collector O’Brien’s office is also offering the option of online credit card payments. You may get to

this site by going to www.oglecountyil.gov and then selecting the Treasurer’s department. Choose the *Online Tax Payments* link and click the *Pay Now* button. Fill in the information

as prompted. Be sure to receive a payment confirmation for your records. Please note that this service carries a fee; review the convenience fees prior to making payment.

To the loving family and many friends of Joanne Rogde, we wish to extend our sincere gratitude for your love, prayers, kindnesses and support that we have received during our time of grief.

Bob, Barb, Bonnie & Brenda



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LOCAL NEWS

Sheep department awards given at 2023 Ogle County 4-H Fair

OREGON — Sheep department awards were given to 4-H youth at the 2023 Ogle County 4-H Fair. Winners were as follows:

Breeding classes

Champion Suffolk Junior Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve Champion Suffolk Junior Ewe Lamb: Nolan Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Suffolk Yearling Ewe: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Suffolk Ram Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Pair of Suffolk Lambs: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve Champion Pair of Suffolk Lambs: Nolan Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Other Purebred Junior Ewe Lamb – Meat Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Other Purebred Yearling Ewe – Meat Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Other Purebred Ram Lamb – Meat Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Pair of Other Purebred Lambs – Meat Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Other Purebred Junior Ewe Lamb – Wool Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Other Purebred Ram Lamb – Wool Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Pair of Other Purebred Lambs – Wool Breed: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Grand Champion Ewe Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sheep department awards were given to 4-H youth at the 2023 Ogle County 4-H Fair. Above is Ogle County 4-H member, Tyler Hall.

Grand Champion Ewe Lamb: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Grand Champion Yearling Ewe: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Reserve Grand Champion Yearling Ewe: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Grand Champion Ram Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve Grand Champion Ram Lamb: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Grand Champion Pair of Lambs: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Lambs: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Grand Champion Overall Female: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Reserve

Grand Champion Overall Female: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction

Combined classes

Champion Black-Face Breeds Young Flock: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Grand Champion Young Flock: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley.

Commercial classes

Champion Commercial Junior Ewe Lamb: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Champion Commercial Yearling Ewe: Delaney Byers, Forreton. Grand

Champion Commercial Ewe: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Ewe: Delaney Byers, Forreton.

Market lamb classes

Champion Light Weight Southdown Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley. Champion Suffolk Market Lamb: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Hampshire Market Lamb: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Reserve Champion Hampshire Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley. Champion Any

Other Meat Breed Market Lamb: Gwen Hall, Monroe Center. Champion White-face Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley. Champion Black-face Market Lamb: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Reserve Champion Blackface Market Lamb: Ty Horn, Rochelle. Champion Light Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Ty Horn, Rochelle. Reserve Champion Light Weight Crossbred Market Lamb: Ty Horn, Rochelle. Grand Champion Overall Market Lamb: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Reserve Grand Champion Overall Market Lamb: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley. Champion Pair

of Black-Face Market Lambs: Ty Horn, Rochelle. Reserve Champion Pair of Black-Face Market Lambs: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley. Grand Champion Pair of Market Lambs: Ty Horn, Rochelle. Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Market Lambs: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley.

Showmanship

Champion Junior Showmanship: Kaitlyn Adams, Stillman Valley. Champion Intermediate Showmanship: Aubrey Janoski, Davis Junction. Champion Senior Showmanship: Blakelynn Swanson, Stillman Valley.

CEREMONY: Beautification efforts being made off Route 251

From page 1

Along with trees, perennials were planted as well in the interest of helping pollinators.

“If you look around, there’s just grass yards around us,” Sedig said. “Grass doesn’t really provide food in general for pollinators, especially when it’s mowed. So pollinators have to fly quite a ways to find food. A little pocket of what we’re planting creates a little stopping spot for food and nectar. One of the plants going in is hearty hibiscus. Some butterflies use that for host plants.”

Sedig said beautification can help build residents’ pride in the community and that the plantings Friday will make for a friendlier and cooler corner. She also thanked those that came out to help with the work.

“It’s wonderful to have people take the time to help us do this,” Sedig said. “It shows the buy-in and the community’s commitment and pride and the desire to build community and make it something beautiful and a place that they want to live and future generations want to live. I’m just very excited and very happy for this opportunity. It’s awesome.”

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Ron Kern: Consumer food trends have shifted

WE seem to hear plenty about how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed people's lives as we try to migrate more towards normal. One thing is for certain, in the past two years consumer trends have shifted. That is also evident in consumer food trends as we examine a report issued by the American Farm Bureau.

U S D A - E c o n o m - i c Research Service's (ERS) tracks the value of the U.S. food system by reporting on total food and beverage spending. This spending data is categorized as food consumed at home or food consumed away from home, such as at restaurants or hotels.

Between 1997 and 2022 total nominal spending on food at home increased from \$376 billion across the nation to \$1.047 trillion, a 178 percent increase and an average annual increase of four percent. During the same timeframe, food away from home increased from \$336 billion to \$1.343 trillion, an almost 300-percent increase and an average annual increase of six percent. Between 1997 and 2022, the consumer price index for food increased 95 percent, meaning inflation explains much of the increase in food spending across both categories, though there are other factors. Total food away from home spending has surpassed food at home spending since 2007.

Since 2015, food away from home spending has exceeded food at home spending by over \$100 billion, except during 2020 when COVID-19 lockdowns prevented many consumers from consuming food in public settings. Between 2019 and 2020 food at home spending increased eight percent while food away from home spending dropped 13 percent, the largest drop in the data series. The reopening of many food service outlets in 2021 and 2022 rebounded food away from home spending 25 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Before 2010, food away from home spending increased five percent annually compared to four percent for food at home. After 2010, food away from home spending increased seven percent annually compared to four percent for food at home. Removing the 2020 COVID-19-linked outlier pushes average annual food away from home spending increases to nine percent.

These trends are not surprising to many of us as restaurants and quick service options have played an increasing role in U.S. consumption culture. As convenience and time savings drive purchasing behavior, many of us prefer to grab a bite at a restaurant or through takeout options than to cook for ourselves. While the cost of many restaurant meals exceeds that of home-cooked reci-

pes, the growth in low-cost, quick-service options has lowered the cost barrier for consumers.

For food consumed at home, grocery stores have consistently captured the largest market share, though this share has decreased significantly. In 1997, grocery stores accounted for 72 percent of food-at-home expenditures. This dropped to 65 percent five years later in 2002 and to under 60 percent in 2007. In 2022, grocery stores took up 54.2 percent of at-home food spending. The only time grocery stores' market share has increased since 1997 is between 2019 and 2020, a likely result of people returning to grocery outlets amid lockdowns. Much of the decline in grocery store market share for at home spending has been the growth of warehouse clubs and supercenters and home delivery. Including popular bulk shopping centers like Costco and Sam's Club, this category increased its market share from eight percent in 1997 to 25.5 percent in 2012. Bulk shopping centers' over-a-quarter-of-the-market capture was then reduced by the entry of popular home delivery options between 2012 and 2017. In 2012, home delivery spending made up only 2.7 percent of at-home food spending; by 2017 that share had risen to 6.1 percent. In 2022 warehouses and supercenters claimed 22.4 percent of

food-at-home expenditures and mail order and home delivery claimed 8.8 percent.

These trends are further revealed in dollar value increases. Between 1997 and 2022 food expenditures at grocery stores increased from \$270 billion to \$567 billion, a 109-percent increase. During the same period, spending at warehouse clubs and supercenters grew from \$30 billion to \$234 billion, a 679-percent increase. Similarly, spending on food delivery increased 684 percent from \$11 billion in 1997 to \$91 billion in 2022. In a consumer environment where convenience is king, it is likely delivery food expenditures will only increase.

For food consumed away from home, limited-service restaurants and full-service restaurants have fought for the top market share spot in terms of spending. Both outlet types had an average market share of 34 percent of food spent away from home between 1997 and 2022. The largest difference in these two categories occurred between 2019 and 2020 when limited-service restaurants claimed 38 percent of food away from home spending and full-service 29 percent, again linked to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Food purchased and consumed at retail outlets or through vending machines has had the largest increase in market share. Making up only four percent of away-

from-home expenditures in 1997, this category hit its peak in 2020 at 14 percent and made up 11 percent of away-from-home spending in 2022. Many retail outlets historically specializing in just merchandise sales have attempted to diversify income streams by offering in-store food consumption or take-away options.

In dollar terms, between 1997 and 2022 food expenditures have increased from \$120 billion to \$462 billion at full-service restaurants (a 283-percent increase). Limited-service restaurant spending has increased from \$112 billion to \$468 billion (a 317-percent increase). During the same period, spending at retail stores and vending has increased from \$11 billion to \$154 billion, a 1,114-percent increase.

Food spending behavior also varies by state and region. Much of the at home spending distribution by state appears to be to a combination of average food prices in a state and a cultural preference for eating at home. Maine and New Hampshire, for instance, have high rural populations and high food prices, likely contributing to a higher percentage of people eating at home at a higher cost. Likewise, New York and Hawaii have high comparative food costs but show up in the bottom 10 states for food at home spending, likely linked to a cultural preference for

eating away from home in more urbanized and tourist-heavy economies.

Each state's and region's characteristics contribute to how food is marketed and transported and requires producers to adjust business strategies accordingly.

How and where shoppers purchase food impacts the way in which food is transported, stored, packaged, prepared and ultimately consumed. Shifts in these conditions linked to local and global economic conditions, as well as preference changes, introduce uncertainty for those attempting to establish marketing strategies. Recent spending trends reveal a continued desire for convenience in eating experiences, favoring options that save time and money. Future higher cash access for consumers may shift food consumption toward immersive full-service away-from-home experiences. This would contrast with the COVID-19 contact-sensitive environment that demanded fewer contact points between the public. A future with lower cash access and negative economic indicators would lead to a continued trend demanding low-cost and low time-intensive options.

"Part of the secret of a success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside." -Mark Twain

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

Roberts: Electric vehicles (EVs) - An update

MANY of us have noticed the bombardment of advice by government officials and environmentalists that we should get an electric vehicle (EV) to save the planet. It is worthwhile to take a look at the status and economics of EV technology. The average EV costs about \$10,000 more than the equivalent gas vehicle. The government provides a nonrefundable tax credit of about \$7,500. If you don't pay taxes, you don't get the credit. Insurance costs are higher because the price is higher. Figure an additional cost of around \$2,000 for a 220-volt hook up in your home to charge the vehicle in a reasonable amount of time.

EV maintenance costs are about 20 percent less than gas-powered vehi-

cles over a drive distance of 45,000 miles. Battery replacement costs are not included in this estimate. It should be noted that battery capacity drops over time, reducing the range of the EV. Manufacturers warrant the battery for most EVs to last 100,000 miles. This assumes you get a free replacement if the battery capacity drops to 70 percent or less during the warranty period. New batteries cost from \$4,000 to \$20,000. It is interesting to note that very few cost analyses consider the cost of new batteries if the vehicle is to be used after the warranty expires.

Fuel costs about 50 percent less for an EV than for gas-powered vehicles, based on 45,000 miles driven and current electricity costs. The savings depend on vehicle efficiency and gas pricing. If the next administration

is energy-friendly, then gas prices will drop, and the savings will be less.

Charging stations are becoming available in cities, but they are scarce in the country. Long trips must be planned with waypoints that contain charging stations. It costs more to charge an EV on the road than at home. At this time, it is unclear if the electric grid will be able to handle a large population of EVs. Recently, in California, EV drivers were asked to avoid charging their vehicles during peak regional electricity consumption periods.

EVs are about 30 percent heavier than their counterpart gas-powered models. The heavier vehicle has the advantage in a vehicle/vehicle accident since the occupants in a heavier vehicle have a better chance of surviving a collision than

those in the lighter one. This has been a concern at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding the safety of drivers of gas-powered vehicles. There is also a concern among building designers that as EVs become more common, parking garages will not be able to support the additional weight of EVs.

Media coverage suggests that electric vehicles are prone to catch fire. Actually, the percentage of EV fires is slightly less than that of gas-powered vehicles. What makes headlines is the severity of an electric vehicle fire that is very difficult to extinguish. Gas-powered car fire temperatures are about 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit. EV fire temperatures are around 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Some parking garages ban EVs because

of this difficulty in extinguishing the fire, which could destroy several other vehicles, resulting in an expensive insurance claim against the garage. There are other concerns if you are involved in an accident where a fire develops in your EV. Fire departments will attempt to cool the occupant compartment you occupy in the hope of extracting you after first verifying there is no shock hazard from the high voltage system. The burning batteries will continue to burn even after having been deluged with water. During the last Florida hurricane, EVs were still burning while flooded. The most recent fire department procedure to handle an EV fire (with no occupant) is to throw a chain around the EV, drag it out of the garage, and let it burn itself out.

There are other envi-

ronmental issues related to electric vehicles. Like any other electrical equipment, EVs emit ozone, especially during charging. Mining of lithium for batteries devastates the environment of countries providing lithium. Charging from an electric grid connected to a fossil-fueled power plant just transfers the pollution to another source. It is not clear how to properly dispose of used EV batteries as they contain various poisonous chemicals that are harmful to the environment.

As discussed above, if you plan to purchase an EV, there are pros and cons. Keep these in mind when talking to EV salesperson. An internet search may be helpful but may also be biased in favor of EVs because of the left-leaning influence of some search engines. Best of luck with your EV!

How to contact government officials

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(202) 225-6201

IL Sen. Win Stoller
Stratton Office Bldg
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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

New Channel seedsman comes to Ogle County

OREGON — A new Channel® brand seed business has been opened by Tara Hendricks. Located in Ogle County, Spruce Lane Agronomy will work with local farmers to help them find ways to enhance the yield potential of their farms and fields.

Tara has more than 15 years of experience in the field after graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She has experience working in agronomy, retail ag and seed sales. Tara will operate with the business name of Spruce Lane Agronomy and cover Ogle County. Currently, Tara is working hands-on with area farm-

ers to help them enhance yield potential through the Channel brand experience of providing expert advice, customized service and elite seed products.

"We're excited to have Tara join the Channel brand team," Channel FSR Chris Norberg said. "Her knowledge and expertise will be a great fit for farmers in our area looking for the services and support a Channel Seedsman can provide."

One of Tara's primary responsibilities will be implementing the Field Check Up Series with local farmers during the four primary crop growth stages: seedling, vegetative, reproductive and

maturity. Field evaluations begin with placing the right products for specific field conditions, continue throughout the season with regular visits to monitor crop development, and culminate with planning for the next year based on current results. Seedsman observe and monitor crop development and note their in-depth findings in a Custom Crop Report. The information collected throughout the year leads to personalized management decisions based on local growing conditions, the needs of individual fields and farm management practices.

Channel Seedsman

work with a trusted team of advisers — including local agronomists, field sales representatives and product managers — to help farmers with expert advice about product placement and crop management to enhance yield potential for every field and farm.

Contact Tara Hendricks at 815-298-4563 or sprucelaneagronomy@channelseedsman.com. Her Channel brand seed business is located at 1010 N. Daysville Road, Oregon. For more information about the Channel brand and Seedsmanship, visit www.cropsience.bayer.us/brands/channel/seedsmanship-at-work.



- Aug. 11 - Matthew Browder, Waterman, \$25
- Aug. 12 - Zekelman Employee, \$25
- Aug. 13 - Benjamin O'Rorke, Rochelle, \$50
- Aug. 14 - Lucas Dobson, Davis Junction, \$25
- Aug. 15 - Rebecca Berkeley, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 16 - Joan Bakken, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 17 - James Ptucha, Dix Hills, \$25
- Aug. 18 - Ed Messenger, Oregon, \$25
- Aug. 19 - Roberto Olazagasti, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 20 - Judy Erickson, Rochelle, \$50
- Aug. 21 - Brandon and Julia Nalley, Dubuque, \$25
- Aug. 22 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Aug. 23 - Genevieve Stoll, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 24 - FTH Event Auction, \$25
- 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

Village of Progress annual banquet is Oct. 18

OREGON — The Village of Progress' Annual Awards Banquet is coming soon.

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of those who attend the

village and the many volunteers who donate their time and talent.

It's a great evening to spotlight our Ogle County men and women with developmental disabilities.

They value your support, and so do we.

The annual dinner will be held at St. Mary's Leaning Center, Oregon, on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Dinner begins at 6 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 815-732-2126.

The cost to attend the event is \$15 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for those who are age 4 and under.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 6 Greg & Liz Danekas (anniversary) Melissa Villalobos	Sept. 15 Robert Lee	Sept. 20 Jon & Carolyn Bieck (anniversary)
Sept. 7 Kyleigh-Ann McPherson	Sept. 17 David Jones Jenny Rosenbach Richard & Beverly Herrmann (anniversary)	Sept. 22 Krew Sullivan
Sept. 9 Georgia Rogers	Sept. 18 Amie Eggenburg Terry & Teresa Dodillet (anniversary)	Sept. 23 Chris Doering John Worley Jeff & Diana Dickey (anniversary)
Sept. 11 Sam Oymaian Melinda Pourchot Wyatt Sexton	Sept. 19 Leland & Lucy Hazlip (anniversary) Madison Wooten	Sept. 28 Ashley Bunger
Sept. 12 Ianna Smith		Sept. 29 Josh Walker Sarah Kulwicki Lyndsey O'Brien
Sept. 14 Alivia Law Blakely Avila		

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



Coffee Break

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Martial art
 - 5 Smack a baseball
 - 9 Romance
 - 12 Abbr. on a phone
 - 13 Sunscreen additive
 - 14 "Big Blue"
 - 15 Royal with a golden touch
 - 17 Actress Vardalos
 - 18 Naval rank
 - 19 Avid
 - 21 Hosp. triage area
 - 22 Parsley and sage
 - 24 Stately trees
 - 27 Candle dripping
 - 28 Incite
 - 31 Luau souvenir
 - 32 Glamorous Gardner
 - 33 Santa — winds
 - 34 Ward (off)
 - 36 Tiara sparkler
 - 37 Winter blanket
 - 38 Accepted fact
 - 40 "I see"
 - 41 Flood protection
 - 43 Clothe
 - 47 Coach Parseghian
 - 48 Cell phone

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
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18								19	20			
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41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- DOWN**
- 1 Gag
 - 2 — arms
 - 3 Lairs
 - 4 Wild parties
 - 5 Whirl
 - 6 Bankroll
 - 7 Lawyers' org.
 - 8 Shocking weapon
 - 9 Airplane meal
 - 10 Theater award
 - 11 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
 - 16 Ball club VIP
 - 20 Six-pack muscles
 - 22 Refuge
 - 23 Pre-diploma hurdle
 - 24 Sprite
 - 25 Grant's foe
 - 26 Prized
 - Chinese vessel
 - 27 Carry on
 - 29 Popular card game
 - 30 Cold and damp
 - 35 Conk out
 - 37 Hide from view
 - 39 Action words
 - 40 Busy insect
 - 41 Young fellows
 - 42 New York canal
 - 43 Early birds?
 - 44 Formerly
 - 45 Phone inventor
 - 46 Actor Morales
 - 49 401(k) alternative
 - 50 Aye canceler

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9					8		2	
		7	3				8	6
	8			2		1		
	6			4			5	
4			8			7		
		2		3				1
	1				5		3	
5			2		4	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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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: O equals P

BD XSW EOOJX E FCERBMT OEQ
RS EM ENFC DSG E ZGBCD
OCGBSQ, BR NSWJQ ZC E RHS -
ABMWRC HEGABMT.

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Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

Answers

ON THE FARM

Fall harvest fruits and vegetables

FOOD is a big part of fall, and farms play a significant role in seasonal celebrations. Each fall, families plan apple picking excursions with their eyes on baking homemade apple pies. And while Halloween is made even more fun when carving jack-o'-lanterns, savvy celebrants know that carving sessions are not complete without some roasted pumpkin seeds.

The fall harvest is a great time to indulge in some freshly picked healthy foods. While the picking season may vary depending on where you live, and specifically the climate in your region, the following are some fruits and vegetables that might be ripe for the picking this fall.

- **Apples:** Apple-picking season typically begins in late summer and extends into fall. Many farms offer a variety of apples, which may be harvested at different times. For example, in the northeastern United States, Gala apples tend to be harvested in late summer, while Granny Smith apples may be best picked in early October.

- **Beets:** The Spruce Eats notes that beets may be in season in temperate climates from fall through spring.

- **Broccoli:** Fresh broccoli makes a healthy addition to any dinner table, and Pickyourown.org notes that broccoli can have a lengthy harvesting season. Early harvesting may begin in May in some regions, though it's still possible



to pick fresh broccoli in late October. If you want to pick fresh broccoli, The Old Farmer's Almanac recommends doing so in the morning when the buds of the head are firm and tight.

- **Cabbage:** If you're looking to do some late fall picking, cabbage might be for you. The

online resource Harvest to Table notes that cabbage can survive under snow without being harmed, making it an ideal late fall vegetable. Spoiled outer leaves can be pulled away after harvesting without affecting the quality of the remaining cabbage.

- **Peaches:** People who can't wait to whip up a

peach cobbler may need to do so before fall even begins. According to Pickyourown.org, peaches can be ready for picking as early as July in the northeastern United States, and the picking season generally ends around mid-September. The season is even earlier in places like Georgia, a

state known for its peaches where the picking season can begin in mid-May and extend through early August depending on the variety.

- **Pumpkins:** Thanks in part to Halloween decor and the popularity of pumpkin pie as a Thanksgiving dessert, pumpkins are synonymous with

the fall harvest. And pumpkin picking season aligns perfectly with each of these holidays, typically beginning in early or mid-September and extending deep into October.

Fall is a great time of year to pick fresh fruits and vegetables at a local farm.

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SPORTS



TOURNAMENT TIPS OFF

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team hosted a tournament Saturday.

See page 7 for more details

RTHS Football

Morton outlasts Rochelle

Lewis tosses two touchdown passes as Hubs fall to Potters 27-26 on Friday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity football team scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns as the purple and white attempted to rally from a second-half deficit against Morton on Friday night.

Junior tailback Grant Gensler reached the end zone on a 1-yard plunge and junior quarterback Carson Lewis fired a 17-yard touchdown strike to senior receiver Tommy Tourdot as the Hubs sought to avoid their first loss of the season. While Rochelle managed to stop the Potters late in the fourth quarter, a deep ball on the ensuing Hub drive resulted in an interception that allowed Morton to seal a 27-26 win. Rochelle (1-1, 0-0 I-8/KRC Blue) will host Johnsburg next Friday.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for our kids to learn and grow,” head coach Kyle Kissack said. “I’m confident that our kids will come back ready to go on Monday... I thought Carson made for some nice plays and I think he’s one of many who still needs opportunities to grow and get better. We had some situations tonight that I think he and

a lot of our kids will grow from. Football’s a great game because it requires 11 guys on every snap for us to have a successful play. This will be a long weekend for our kids and we have to learn from games like this.”

The Hubs took the ball to start the game and moved down the field despite losing junior full-back Erich Metzger to an injury during the opening drive. Sophomore Roman Villalobos stepped up to lead the backfield, taking the ball for an 11-yard touchdown run midway through the first quarter to give Rochelle a 6-0 lead. Villalobos rushed 16 times for a team-high 111 yards in the game.

Rochelle held Morton to a three-and-out on its opening drive, but the Potters (2-0) answered with a defensive stand of their own, notching a third-and-15 sack that forced a Hub punt early in the second quarter. Morton capitalized on the first play of its ensuing drive, with quarterback Jude Hart hitting wide receiver Julian Alexander on a screen pass for a 57-yard touchdown.

The Potters held a 7-6 lead after the extra point, but Morton would not score for the remainder of the first half, as the Hubs



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Brode Metzger runs behind teammate Jack Carmichael during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Morton on Friday. The Potters edged Rochelle 27-26 to hand the Hubs their first loss of 2023.

eventually regained the lead on a 28-yard touchdown throw from Lewis to junior wingback Ethan Goodwin. A 44-yard run up the middle from Villalobos led to the touchdown pass from Lewis, who completed 8-of-15 passes for 141 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions.

Rochelle forced a fumble on Morton’s next drive to retake possession.

“I thought the eye discipline of our kids during the first half was great,” Kissack said. “We had some pressure put on us in the second half and we started to react instead of responding to what was

going on in front of us. It comes down to our kids finding ways to stay dialed in on each snap, no matter what down it is or what the circumstances are. We need to make sure our eyes are in the right spot and that we’re reading our keys and playing the right technique.”

Rochelle led the Potters 12-7 at halftime, but Morton scored on its opening possession of the third quarter, surging ahead after running back Bret Michel capped off a five-play, 65-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown run.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Girls Tennis

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs win Harlem Varsity Invitational on Saturday

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team traveled to Machesney Park on Saturday and finished first in the Harlem Varsity Invitational. Senior Kara Martinez won the No. 2 singles competition with a 5-0 record, while senior Elin Zheng took third in the No. 1 singles bracket with a 3-2 record. Seniors Ada Betancourt and Allie Dickey took second in the No. 3 doubles bracket with a 4-1 record, with juniors Riley Doyle and Kitty Williams taking second in the No. 1 doubles bracket with a 3-2 record. Juniors Kendyl Darby and Erin Murphy took second in the No. 4 doubles bracket with a 2-1 record, while seniors Macenzie Glosser and Annaleigh McKinney placed third in the No. 2 doubles bracket with a 3-2 record.



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Adam

Cobos

Year: Freshman

Sport: Football

Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?

A: Eight years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy the environment and it clears my stress.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: Biology because I love to do the labs.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: Probably Khalil Mack.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My dad because he pushes me to do a lot of stuff.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: Probably to play in the NFL.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Vera Cruz, Mexico because my grandmother lives there.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?

A: Definitely just playing and being an RTHS athlete because the coaches are great and it's very exciting.

Tyler

Etes

Year: Freshman

Sport: Football



Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?

A: Since the summer of 2014 so nine years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: Being a part of the team and getting to hit people.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: Math because I'm pretty decent at it and it's pretty enjoyable.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: Aaron Donald because he's the best defensive player and he's won many Defensive Player of the Year awards as a lineman.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My old wrestling coach because he taught me what type of person I want to be and he pushed me pretty hard.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: If I'm not playing a sport then it would be an aerospace engineer because I think it would be cool to work on rockets or jets.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: The Caribbean because it's really warm and it looks like a lot of fun.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?

A: It's a lot of fun and you get to meet some pretty cool people.

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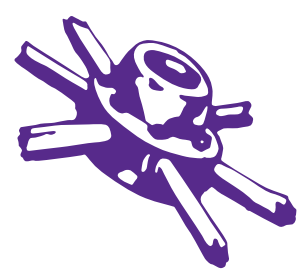


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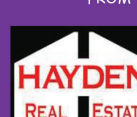
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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity football team hosted Morton for a nonconference game on Friday, falling 27-26 to move to 1-1 on the season. At left, junior Carson Lewis rolls out for a pass attempt. At right, sophomore Roman Villalobos carries the ball up the middle of the field.

HUBS: Fresh-soph team wins over Morton to reach 2-0

From page 1

A fourth-down stop by the Potters led to an 80-yard touchdown rush from running back Seandon Buffington, who led all players with 181 rushing yards.

Trailing 20-12 midway through the third quarter, Rochelle manufactured its lengthiest drive of the evening, moving the ball 76 yards on 14 plays and eating over nine minutes

of game clock before scoring on Gensler's 1-yard touchdown run. The Hubs were unable to convert the 2-point play and finished the game 1-for-4 on 2-point conversion attempts. With Rochelle unable to tie the game, Morton responded immediately, scoring on a 58-yard touchdown run from Buffington.

Down 27-18 and needing yards quickly, Rochelle attacked the Potter defense through the air, with Lewis

completing multiple passes including a 15-yarder to senior receiver Cayden Moore and a 10-yarder to Tourdot on fourth down. After Lewis and Tourdot connected for the 17-yard touchdown in the back corner of the end zone, senior tight end Brock Metzger made a big-time reception for the 2-point conversion, diving for a catch near the back line of the end zone.

The Hubs had one final chance to take the lead

late in the fourth quarter, but a deep pass for junior receiver Elijah Harley was intercepted by Michel to clinch the victory for the Potters. Gensler finished with 88 rushing yards on 14 carries for the Rochelle offense, while Metzger totaled a team-leading seven tackles and added a 41-yard reception early in the game.

Fresh/Soph
The Rochelle Hub

fresh-soph football team turned in another dominant performance on Friday, cruising over Morton 48-6 to move to 2-0 on the season. Freshman Dylan Manning shined for the Hubs in the win, rushing for four touchdowns with scores on 2-yard, 10-yard, 45-yard and 42-yard carries.

Sophomore Brenden Voight rushed for two touchdowns, scoring on a 12-yard carry and an 8-yard carry. Sophomore

Mark Green and freshman Tyler Gensler each recorded interceptions on defense, while sophomores Martiese Pogue and Reece Harris each notched sacks. Martiese Pogue also blocked a punt and sophomore Markell Pogue tackled a Morton player for a safety in the win.

Sophomore Wyatt Worthington had a tackle-for-loss for the Hubs, who will host Johnsbury on Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.

RTHS Boys Soccer

Rochelle settles for road draw against Sterling

Casillas, Salazar score two goals as Hubs tie Golden Warriors 4-4 on Thursday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — Junior Alberto Casillas and senior Diego Salazar each scored twice during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team's nonconference road match against Sterling on

Thursday evening. While the Golden Warriors commanded a serious offensive advantage, outshooting the Hubs 40-16 and 33-10 in shots on goal, Rochelle managed a 4-4 draw to snap a two-game losing streak.

Sophomore Antonio Hueramo recorded 16 saves

for the Hubs (2-4-1, 0-2 Interstate 8), while junior Fernando Diaz had two assists and Salazar contributed one assist. Sterling struck first with a goal during the fourth minute, but the Hubs found an equalizer during the 17th minute, when Diaz connected with Casillas for

a goal to tie the score at 1-1. Diaz distributed an assist to Salazar one minute later to push Rochelle ahead of the Golden Warriors, who eventually tied the score again with a goal during the 44th minute. The seesaw battle continued throughout the second half, where Casillas

booted in his second goal off a pass from Salazar during the 60th minute and Sterling immediately answered with a goal to even the match at 3-3.

Salazar's unassisted score in the 62nd minute enabled Rochelle to hold a brief lead, which held until

the Golden Warriors once again tied the match with a goal in the 68th minute. Salazar led the offense with eight shots and five shots on goal, while Casillas had three shots and two shots on goal. Freshman Alexis Nava had two shots and one shot on goal in the match.

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No. 2023-PR-50
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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)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Program Comment for Positive Train Control and Infrastructure. Union Pacific Railroad proposes to construct a 60' monopole (65' in overall height) communications pole with associated equipment at the following approximate locations in Ogle County, Illinois within the existing railroad right-of-way:
• Coordinates: 41.899604, -89.126705; Mile Post #78.39, Rochelle.
We respectfully request that parties interested in providing comment on the proposed undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103, within 30 days of the date of this publication (GSS W23065-IL-6).
No. 0910
(Sept. 6, 2023)

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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Sophomore Meredith Bruns sets the ball up in the air during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team's home tournament on Saturday. Bruns finished with 29 assists over five matches in the tournament.

Girls finish fourth in Lady Hub Invitational

Rochelle notches victories over AFC and Freeport

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team hosted the annual Lady Hub Invitational at RTHS on Saturday, finishing fourth place with a 2-3 record over five matches. Rochelle (9-5, 0-0 Interstate 8) will host a non-conference match against North Boone on Tuesday

The Lady Hubs started the tournament on a high note, going 2-1 over three matches during the round-robin portion of the schedule. Rochelle defeated Ashton-Franklin Center 25-13, 25-19 before beating Freeport 25-11, 25-13. The Lady Hubs faced McHenry for the No. 1 seed in Pool B but fell short in a 11-25, 12-25 loss to enter the double-elimination bracket format

as the No. 2 seed.

Rochelle bowed out of the tournament with a 12-25, 19-25 loss against Ottawa and a three-set loss against Earlville in the third-place match, falling 25-13, 23-25, 22-25 to end in fourth place. Junior Dempsey Atkinson led the Rochelle defense with 38 digs in the tournament, while junior Emma Kennay added 25 digs. Sophomores

Jaydin Dickey and Meredith Bruns combined for 61 assists, with Dickey totaling 32 while Bruns followed with 29.

Junior Taelynn Rodeghero spearheaded the offensive charge with 47 kills, while senior Kennedy Adamski totaled 22 kills and junior Lauren Dyer had 20 kills. Atkinson had 10 aces, with senior Alivia Henkel recording seven aces.

RTHS Golf

(COURTESY PHOTO)



RTHS alum Wilkinson records sixth career hole-in-one

Congratulations to former Rochelle Township High School golf standout Andy Wilkinson, who recorded the sixth hole-in-one of his career and his second ace over the last four days on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Wilkinson's ace came on the fourth hole of the Codrington Course at The Players Golf Club in Bristol, England. It was during the first round of the four-round DP World Tour Qualifying School. Wilkinson recorded back-to-back 18-hole rounds of 79 and 68 on the par-70 course. Extremely tough weather conditions have resulted in very high scores, with only six players out of 100 shooting under-par totals after the first two rounds of play. Wilkinson will play in one more tournament overseas before returning to his home in Florida.

Rochelle Junior Tackle

Junior Hubs travel for road contests at Sterling

Eighth-graders remain unbeaten and seventh-graders secure lopsided victory

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — The Rochelle Junior Tackle teams faced Sterling on the road Saturday, finishing 2-1-1 over four games. Rochelle will take on Dixon next weekend at Helms Park.

The eighth-graders won 38-6 to remain undefeated at 4-0 on the season, while the seventh-graders won 38-6 to improve to 3-0-1. The sixth-graders dropped

to 2-2 with a 14-0 loss and the fifth-graders moved to 2-1-1 with a 14-14 tie.

8th Grade

Caiden Redlarczyk scored five touchdowns for the Rochelle offense in the win, rushing for scores on 27-yard, 20-yard, 52-yard and 3-yard carries while catching a 8-yard touchdown pass from Cohen Haedt. Redlarczyk rushed for 111 yards on seven carries, while Luke

Chadwick added 42 yards on six carries and Zach Johnson totaled 39 yards on two carries.

Andrew Eyster recorded a team-high seven tackles on defense, with Chadwick adding four tackles and Holden Liebhaber notching three tackles.

7th Grade

Riley Smith rushed for a 6-yard touchdown and Mikey Chadwick rushed for a 8-yard touchdown

to ignite the Rochelle offense. Smith followed with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Vinny Tornabene and Braxton Bruns added a 15-yard touchdown rush.

Nolan Zick and Kayl True each intercepted passes for the Junior Hub defense in the win. Kyler Rowe capped off the victory with a 35-yard touchdown rush. Tornabene totaled two receptions for 40 yards and Chadwick rushed for 42 yards in the

win.

6th Grade

Quentin Ansteth rushed for 24 yards on six carries, while Vaughn Manning added 19 rushing yards and Eli Underwood had 14 rushing yards. Underwood led the defense with six tackles and Roger Navarro followed with four tackles including three for loss.

5th Grade

Landon Johnson rushed

for a 10-yard touchdown and Dominic Escatel followed with a 1-yard touchdown rush to lead the Rochelle offense. Johnson rushed for 86 yards on 14 carries, while Noah Hayden added 62 rushing yards on seven carries and Escatel compiled 59 rushing yards on 18 carries.

Gavin Smith totaled a team-high three tackles, while Brayson Bouldand Braxton Rosenthal each had two tackles.

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ASHTON NEWS

AFC volleyball and football teams kick off 2023 season

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team opened the 2023 season with a 2-1 win over Indian Creek on Tuesday, Aug. 22. The Lady Raiders took the match with set scores of 25-19, 24-26, 25-20. Mallory Coffman totaled seven kills and three aces, while Brianna Gonnerman recorded 10 assists and Audree Dorn added five aces. Taylor Jahn

compiled four kills and Kaelynn Larson finished with three aces and one block in the win.

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team improved to 2-0 with a 2-1 win against South Beloit on Monday, Aug. 28. The Lady Raiders took the match with set scores of 25-16, 17-25, 25-17. Taylor Jahn recorded five kills, seven aces and nine digs in the win, while

Brianna Gonnerman had nine aces, two kills and two digs. Reilly Schafer compiled four kills and Audree Dorn totaled eight digs, four kills and one block. Elena Refatllari had five digs.

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team moved to 3-0 on the season with a 2-0 sweep over Leland on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Mallory Coffman led the Lady

Raiders with nine kills and four digs, while Audree Dorn totaled five kills, four digs and seven assists. Brianna Gonnerman finished with 10 assists and five digs, while Taylor Jahn had four kills and 10 digs on the defensive end. Kaelynn Larson led the AFC defense with 15 digs in the victory.

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity volleyball team went 0-3 at

the Rochelle Lady Hub Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 2. AFC conceded a 13-25, 19-25 loss against Rochelle along with a 15-25, 13-25 loss against McHenry and a 21-25, 25-13, 14-16 loss against Freeport.

Football

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity football team kicked off the season with a 46-12 loss against

Orangeville on Saturday, Aug. 26. The Raiders scored touchdowns in both the first and fourth quarters but the team conceded 30 second-quarter points and 16 third-quarter points.

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity football team edged Alden-Hebron for a 34-33 victory on Saturday, Sept. 2. The Raiders improved to 1-1 on the season with the win.

Lee County 4-H Kids with Heart Exhibition scheduled for October

DIXON — 4-H, America's largest youth development organization, empowers young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. Leaders in Lee County's 4-H Visual Arts project area were selected to display their efforts on

Oct. 20-27 during the Lee County 4-H Kids with Heart exhibition at the Next Picture Show in Dixon.

Projects include chalk/carbon/pigment, clay, fiber, food decorating, heritage arts, leather, nature, scrapbooking and wood. Come

out during this week in October to see all the beautiful projects the 4-H youth in Lee County have on exhibit. To learn more about Lee County 4-H, visit extension.illinois.edu/clw or contact Katie Baker at 815-857-3525.

Brain health classes offered at Thomson, Mt. Carroll, Sterling and Dixon this fall

DIXON — Engage in interactive activities designed to enhance cognitive function and memory in Wits Fitness Brain Exercises offered by University of Illinois Extension. The monthly classes are being held in four communities this fall.

Thursdays at the York Township Public Library, 1005 W. Main St., Thomson, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Class dates for 2023 are Sept. 7, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. Registration is not required but is appreciated by calling 815-259-2480.

Mondays at KSB Town Square Centre - The Edward Murphy Room, 101 W. Second St., Dixon, from

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Class dates for 2023 are Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. No registration is needed.

Mondays at the Whiteside County Extension Office, 12923 Lawrence Road, Sterling, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Class dates for 2023 are Oct. 16, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. Registration is not required but is appreciated online at go.illinois.edu/witsfitness

Thursdays at the Mount Carroll Public Library, 208 N. Main St., Mount Carroll, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Class dates for 2023 are Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. Registration is not required but is appreciated by calling 815-244-1751.

Current research indicates that challenging the brain is one of several things you can do to improve your brain health as you age. Join Extension Educator Kara Schweitzer for brain challenges to train your brain and keep your wits fit!

Each monthly class is free and open to the public! Participants are welcome to join the class at any time. For more information, contact the Illinois Extension office at 815-632-3611. To stay current with all University of Illinois Extension program offerings, "like" Extension on Facebook at U of I Extension Carroll-Lee-Whiteside Unit.

U of I Extension events set

LEE COUNTY — The local University of Illinois Extension Offices recently released upcoming event schedules:

Wits Fitness, Monthly Workshop, Sept. 11 | 1-2:30 p.m., KSB Town Square Center, Dixon

Join University of Illinois Extension Educator Kara Schweitzer each month as she leads participants through interactive activities designed to exercise the brain to maintain and enhance cognitive function and memory. We will be offering this program at the Edward Murphy Room at KSB Town Square, 101 W. Second St.; new participants are welcome to join at any time.

Master Gardener Training, Tuesdays Sept. 12-Nov. 28 | 9 a.m.-noon, online or county office

options

Take your love for gardening to the next level by joining the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties. Training begins Sept. 12! Find complete details and how to register by Sept. 1 at go.illinois.edu/CLWmgttraining. For questions, contact Bruce Black at 815-632-3611.

Lee 4-H Kids in the Kitchen, Sept. 12 | 4-6 p.m. - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dixon

Youth ages 8 and up will be able to learn from the Lee County Master Gardeners how to cook produce grown in the garden. This club will meet from the second Tuesday of September to April at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon from 4-6 p.m. Class size will be limited for this special interest club, so reg-

ister soon at go.illinois.edu/Lee4HKitchen. For more information, contact Katie at 815-857-3525.

Lee County 4-H Fall Fest, Oct. 28 | 2-5 p.m. - Lee County Fairgrounds, Amboy

Come out and enjoy the 2023 Fall Fest hosted at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Amboy and presented by Lee County 4-H and Federation on Oct. 28 from 2-5 p.m. Come enjoy a costume contest, pumpkin hunt, and carnival games. There will be popcorn, hot chocolate, and treats for everyone. Seventh grade and up are invited to join the federation for a bonfire and s'mores from 6-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public of all ages. For more information, contact the Lee County Extension Office at 815-857-3525.

Autumn on the Prairie is Sept. 16

FRANKLIN GROVE — The Nature Conservancy's Nachusa Grasslands Preserve presents its annual AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE festival on Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event features a wild bison herd, which roams across 1,500 acres. The nature preserve is also home to turtles and many other uncommon animals and plants found in Illinois tall grass prairies.

There is fun at the

festival for the whole family! The day's activities include wagon rides through the prairie to look for bison, prairie plant exploration hikes, and 12 steward-guided tours that feature scenic photo locations, autumn wildflowers, preserve hideaways, grassland birds, small mammals, sandstone rock formations, dragonflies and more. Additional attractions include a Discovery Tent and a live birds of prey display.

This event is open to the public and held whether rain or shine. The only fee is \$5 for parking. Headons Fine Meat food truck will be on site with food and beverages for purchase.

The preserve is located three miles northwest of Franklin Grove, at 2075 Lowden Road. Directional signs will be posted. Franklin Grove is two hours west of Chicago.

To learn more visit www.nachusagrasslands.org/autumn-on-the-prairie



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ogle County 4-H Fair 2023 swine department winners were recently named at the Ogle County Fair from Aug. 2-6. Above is Ogle County 4-H member, Robbie Thurow.

Ogle County 4-H Fair 2023 swine department winners named

OREGON — Ogle County 4-H Fair 2023 swine department winners were recently named at the Ogle County Fair from Aug. 2-6. The winners were as follows:

Champion Junior Showmanship: Grady Poliska, Davis Junction. Champion Intermediate Showmanship: Ayden Alderks, Monroe Center. Champion Senior Showmanship: Gwen Hall, Monroe Center. Grand Champion Breeding Gilt: Tyler Hall, Monroe Center. Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Gilt: Grady Poliska, Davis Junction. 3rd

Place Breeding Gilt: Cooper Alderks, Chana. 4th Place Breeding Gilt: Gwen Hall, Monroe Center. 5th Place Breeding Gilt: Cooper Alderks, Chana. Grand Champion Market Swine: Blake Frisbie, Esmond. Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine: Gwen Hall, Monroe Center. 3rd Place Market Swine: Grady Poliska, Davis Junction. 4th Place Market Swine: Blake Frisbie, Esmond. 5th Place Market Swine: Robbie Thurow, Davis Junction. Grand Champion Pair of Barrows: Blake Frisbie, Esmond. Reserve Grand

Champion Pair of Barrows: Levi Eden, Oregon. Grand Champion Pair of Gilts: Cooper Alderks, Chana. Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Gilts: Levi Eden, Oregon. Grand Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Gilt: Grady Poliska, Davis Junction. Reserve Grand Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Gilt: Cooper Alderks, Chana. Grand Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Barrow: Blake Frisbie, Esmond. Reserve Grand Champion Ogle County Born & Raised Barrow: Robbie Thurow, Davis Junction.

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