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Vol. 103 • No. 40

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, 2023

\$1.25

## Council discusses bonds for TIF improvements Allocation of ARPA funds for public safety approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday evening, the Rochelle City Council discussed the option of issuing alternate revenue bonds not to exceed \$2.5 million for the purpose of paying the cost of improvements to the city's downtown tax-increment financing (TIF) district and resolved to move forward and look into the issue further.

City staff has identified numerous infrastructure projects needed in the area such as site redevelopment, installation of parking lots and sidewalks, moving electric infrastructure underground, street reconstruction and other improvements. Those projects are usually funded by saving funds year over year.

Staff has recommended taking advantage of "the potential of a low interest rate environment" and issuing bonds. TIF districts grow funds through development in the area that generates increment. The debt service payments would be paid out of downtown TIF through the life of the TIF district and this



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation making Sept. 10-16 Chamber of Commerce Week in the city and presented it to Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera.**

will not require property tax rate increase.

The city will now vote on an ordinance formally allowing staff and bond counsel to determine if the option is feasible for the city. The city's financial advisors anticipate rates in the five percent range and the debt service will run 15-20 years to coincide with the remaining life of the TIF. The anticipated annual debt service payments will be approximately \$90,000-\$150,000 annually.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh recommended a 15-year debt service option.

"That will ensure that the TIF generates enough revenue to service the debt and that we also have revenue left over to fund projects that we had previously committed to and year-to-year projects that the council wants to fund," Fiegenschuh said. "And we want to make sure the debt service is paid off when the TIF becomes obsolete

so we're not using general property tax to pay it."

Infrastructure projects have seen large price increases in recent years and those prices are expected to continue to rise in the coming years. City officials look to balance projects that improve public infrastructure and projects that work with developers for improvements to properties within the TIF that add increment.

See COUNCIL page 3

## Minor injuries after Saturday morning fire \$80,000 in estimated damage to two-story home on South Ninth Street

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Residents suffered minor injuries due to a fire at a home on South 9th Street on Saturday morning, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

Fire crews were called at 11:56 a.m. to 128 S. 9th St. for a report of heavy smoke in a two-story, single-family home. First responders noticed heavy black smoke upon arrival and utilized the box alarm protocol to call the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District stations of Hillcrest, Flagg Center, Steward and Creston and fire crews from Stillman Valley, DeKalb and Lynn-Scott-Rock. The home was occupied by a husband and wife and their three kids, Sawlsville said.

"The family was home at the time of the fire," Sawlsville said. "The fire started in an upstairs bedroom and spread to another adjoining bedroom. When I got there fire was shooting out of three windows upstairs and the left half of the upstairs was fully involved. We hit the fire



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Residents suffered minor injuries due to a fire at a home on South 9th Street on Saturday morning, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.**

with water from the yard outside through the window to knock it down and then transitioned to fighting it from the inside, and that process was effective. DeKalb got on scene with five people and Stillman Valley arrived with four

and they relieved our initial companies, who were pretty tired by that time." The cause of the fire is still undetermined, Sawlsville said. The fire did not spread to the attic or first story, which Sawlsville said prevented the home

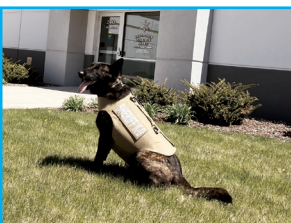
from being a total loss. He estimated the "extensive" damage from the blaze to be about \$80,000. The family was displaced from the home and The Red Cross was notified and provided temporary housing for the family.

The father of the family suffered minor burns from trying to put the fire out and the mother and two children suffered smoke inhalation, Sawlsville said. The family was transported to the hospital for treatment.

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### LCSO K9 awarded healthcare grant

Lee County Sheriff's Office K9 Nemo was awarded with a healthcare grant.  
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### WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
71 48	75 46
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
78 49	77 55

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### OBITUARIES

• ALICE R. SANDERS  
• MARTHA JANE BLEY  
• KATHY M. JUMP  
• CHARLES (CHUCK)  
KOGLIN

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• FARM & FLEET

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# LOCAL NEWS

## RCH Foundation golf outing braves the rain in 23rd year 'You can't have a community hospital without the support of your community'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Monday, the 23rd Annual Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation Golf Outing was held at Fairways Golf Course in Rochelle. 92 golfers braved rainy conditions in support of the hospital's foundation, RCH Marketing, Foundation & Organizational Development Manager Michelle LaPage said.

Rain hit the area Sunday evening and continued through Monday, but the outing went on as planned. Last year's RCH outing had to be rescheduled due to the golf course being too wet.

"I'm really happy with how many people showed up and are golfing today," LaPage said. "I would say we maybe had one or two teams that pulled out and that's it. It shows the support of our foundation and the hospital. This year's funds are going towards the Back to School kickoff that we did in August, so we'd like to continue to support the community that way."

The Back to School kickoff event supplies the community with giveaways and health activities and was held for the second year in 2023.

RCH CEO Karen Tracy called the annual golf outing "incredibly important" for working relationships with the hospital's vendors and it allows for a more personal relationship with them with interaction that takes place outside of the office setting. Working on and playing in the outing



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

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also helps with team building for the RCH employees that participate, she said.

"You can't have a community hospital without the support of your community," Tracy said. "The fact that these vendors not only support us with the different products that they provide us, but they come and support this

kind of an event, that just shows the relationships that we have with them and a community hospital is all about relationships. I hope everyone enjoys themselves in spite of the fact that it's probably not the best day for golf."

LaPage said putting on the outing requires about a month of preparation

by herself, RCH staff and the foundation's volunteer committee.

"We started it 23 years ago and I think it's had some peaks and some valleys and we're back at a plateau again," LaPage said. "Which is really good. There's still really good support from not only businesses in the commu-

nity, but the vendors of our hospital. That's really nice to still have that support. We're also very excited to have a new Titanium sponsor in Spartan Truck Center. They're local and brought eight guys to golf, so that was exciting too."

Tracy called the RCH Foundation "a very important piece" of the hos-

pital's business.

"Internally we're working on operations and things like keeping the lights on and departments functioning," Tracy said. "But the foundation can choose special projects, so I think that makes it really meaningful for the hospital to have them work for a dedicated purpose."

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

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**In Dixon at:** Shining Star  
**In Mendota at:** The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office

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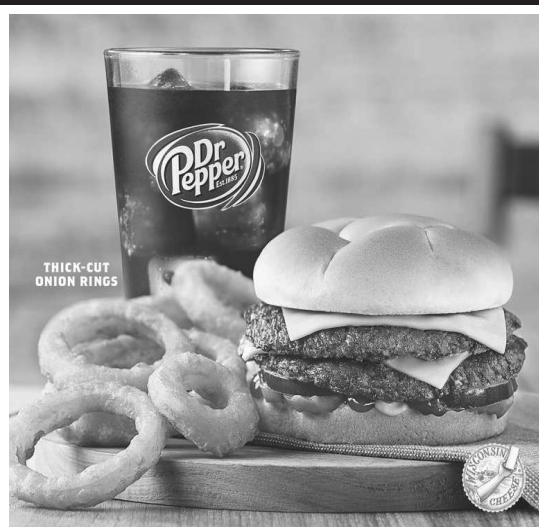
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# LOCAL NEWS

## COUNCIL: Mayor issues proclamations during Monday night meeting

From page 1

“The only way the TIF is successful is if we increase the increment,” Fiegen-schuh said. “Increment is added revenue. What this does is it ties up future TIF revenues on current projects, and will force us to ensure that in the future as we fund projects, they really need to add increment, otherwise it defeats the purpose of the TIF.”

### ARPA

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for public safety purposes for the Rochelle Police and Fire Departments.

The city received approximately \$1,230,566 in two installments from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. To date, funds have been utilized for water and sewer projects and updates to Railfan Park as the funds were appropriated for infrastructure and tourism projects.

Approximately \$100,000 remains and will be transferred to the ambulance fund to further fund public safety projects including building upgrades at the police and fire departments.

“It makes better sense to use the funds for public safety projects,” Fiegen-schuh said. “Because we have a lot of public safety projects right now such as the fire training facility and in next year’s budget you’ll see significant dollars allocated towards the police department for some upgrades down in the locker room and things like that. This is just a better use of the funds.”



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation making Sept. 17-23 Constitution Week in the city and presented it to Lydia Roberts of the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.**

### Skid loader

The council unanimously approved the \$71,936 purchase of a Kubota S-Series skid loader for the Rochelle Municipal Utilities electric department from Johnson Tractor. The department’s current machine is a 2008 model, which will be kept. The new machine will be used for

tasks including lifting transformers and foundations in backyards.

### Proclamations

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation making Sept. 10-16 Chamber of Commerce Week in the city and presented it to Rochelle Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera.

“Thank you to the city council,” Herrera said. “It does make my job easier to have such a supportive city council, city manager and mayor. We’ve grown a lot in the last few years at the chamber of commerce and I see a lot of growth in the future.”

Bearrows also read a proclamation making Sept.

17-23 Constitution Week in the city and presented it to Lydia Roberts of the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

“On behalf of the DAR, I’m privileged to receive this proclamation,” Roberts said. “The purpose of the observation of Constitution Week is to encourage the

study of historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787 to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life and to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution.”

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Alice R. Sanders

**ROCHELLE** — Alice R. Sanders, 63, left this earth too soon on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023 at her home in Rochelle. Alice was born on March 24, 1960 to Jack and Wanda (Baker) Tipton in Rockford. Alice was tiny but fierce, in her beliefs, in her values, and in her love and devotion to her family.

She wasn't afraid of anyone or anything. She stood strong and spoke out for the things that she believed in and the people that she loved. You could always hear her telling stories about raising her kids, proud to have had a firm but loving and guiding hand and looking back in fondness at the joy and laughter that they all gave to her as their mother. Alice embraced the role as grandmother with as much enthusiasm, love, and warmth that defined her as a mom.

Her grandchildren were the light of her life and can be seen in most of the photos stored on her phone because she really could never get enough of them and they all knew that Gammy could never say no. Alice's nurturing spirit and gentle nature didn't just extend to her own family but to friends and acquaintances, as well as

animals. She was willing to help anyone in need and provided loving care to many fur babies over the years that needed a home.

In addition to being a wonderful mother, sister, aunt, Gammy, and friend, she was also a shining example of a woman with a strong work ethic and truly enjoyed her position within the Sycamore education system for many years. She spoke often of how much she missed her job and the co-workers there that became friends. As her loved ones remember her, we will all reflect on the profound impact that Alice had on all of us.

Her kindness, her thoughtfulness, her smile, and her unwavering support brightened lives and provided a safe place to fall. She never missed an opportunity to tell her family that she loved them and we all pray that she knows how much she was loved too. She will be deeply missed but may she rest in peace knowing that her legacy of love and devotion lives on in the heart of her children, grandchildren, and everyone who had the privilege of loving her and being loved by her.

Alice is survived by her three children: Brandy (Ryan) Williams of Ro-



chelle, BJ Sanders (Terri Maynard) of Rochelle, Brent Sanders (Natalie Fransen) of Rochelle. Four siblings: Maria Sullivan of Batesville, Arkansas, Jacque Schairer of Sycamore, Jack Tipton, Jr. of Rochelle, Tammy Byrns of Polo. and ten incredibly adored grandchildren: Alexandra, Rowan, Drew, Madigan, Holden, Preslee, Bennett, Islee, Ingram, and Naomi.

Alice was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Rex Corson. Please help us celebrate Alice's life Saturday Sept. 16, 2023 at 4 pm at Skare Park in Rochelle where we will gather to hear a few words from Pastor Joy and share our fondest memories of our beloved mom, sister, aunt, Gammy, and friend. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle.

Visit [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Charles (Chuck) Koglin

**FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz.** — It is with great sadness that I share the passing of Chuck Koglin on early Sunday morning, August 13, 2023 in Fountain Hills, Arizona. He had an enormous heart and a great sense of humor.

He was born on July 20, 1946 to Charles H. and Joan Koglin in Chicago. He is survived by his wife,

Jennene and his brother, Craig (Mary). Also his godchild/nephew, Trevor Koglin plus two step children and seven step grandchildren.

Chuck was a 27 yr. veteran of the Rochelle Fire Department and had many memories of the calls he went on including the old Vagabond Inn. He closed his Fire Dept. retirement



party with two quotes that still are true today. A line from Bob Hope: "Thanks for the Memories" and one from Red Skelton: "Good Night and God Bless."

He will be buried at a later date in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Any memorial donations can be sent to the Rochelle Fire Dept, 401 5th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068.



### Kathy M. Jump

**ROCHELLE** — Kathy M. Jump, age 67 of Rochelle passed away at her home with her husband by her side. She was born on July 6, 1956 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the daughter of John and Versie (Jaggers) Duvall. Kathy married Dale Jump on May 11, 1993.

She owned and operated Large Car Rebuilders, Inc. with her husband. Kathy loved spending time with her husband and their dogs, especially

Tegan, Abbey and Zoe.

She enjoyed ancestral research, quite evenings at home with her dog, fishing, and making people laugh.

She is preceded in death by her father.

Survived by her husband, Dale Jump; mother, Verse Duvall; and brother, Gary (Pam) Duvall.

Visitation will be from 5 - 7 P.M. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023 at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N 6th ST., Rochelle.



Graveside service will be held at 11 A.M. on Friday at the Loretto Memorial Gardens in Loretto, Tennessee.

Guest book at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com)

### Martha Jane Bley

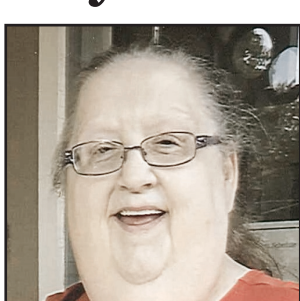
**DIXON** — Martha Jane Bley, 63, of Dixon, passed away Monday, Sep. 11, 2023, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She was born April 26, 1960 in Rochelle, the daughter of Melvin and Donna (Card) Thomas. She married David Bley on Oct. 13, 2000.

Martha worked at the Motel 8 in Dixon for 23 years, eventually ending up as the night manager. She was a member of T.O.P.S. in Dixon for many years. Martha lived with her dear

friend, Madlyn Parks, for the past 4 months. This living arrangement gave each of them an opportunity to strengthen their bond as friends, something each of them was deeply grateful for. Madlyn spoke fondly of Martha, describing her as a fun loving and caring person.

Martha is survived by her husband, David Bley; her aunt Marilyn and her children; and her dear friend, Madlyn Parks.

In addition to her parents, Martha is preceded in



death by a brother, Donald Thomas.

Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Ogle County Sheriff's Department Deputies respond to motorcycle accident

**OREGON** — On Sept. 8 at approximately 9:28 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of North Illinois Route 251 on a vehicle for driving with a suspended Illinois registration. After a brief investigation the driver, Christopher A. Joseph, 22, from Streamwood was placed under arrest for possession of cannabis (over 100 grams) and possession of cannabis with intent to deliver. Joseph was also issued citations for driving while driver's license suspended and driving while registration suspended. The passenger of the vehicle, Anasia L. Bullock, 22, from Rockford, was placed under arrest for aggravated unlawful use of weapons. Both Joseph and Bullock were taken to the Ogle County Jail and held

in lieu of bond.

On Sept. 9 at approximately 8:07 p.m. deputies responded to the 2,000 block of East Illinois Route 72 in response to a motorcycle accident. Upon investigation, it was learned that a Harley-Davidson motorcycle driven by David W. Anderson, 43, of Genoa, was driving eastbound when it struck a deer on the roadway. The motorcycle then turned onto its side before coming to rest. Anderson and a female passenger, Emily Nicholson, 39, of Genoa, were transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Byron Fire Department and Byron Police Department.

On Sept. 9 at 11:37 p.m. deputies and Lynn Scott Rock Fire Department responded to a two-vehicle accident at Illinois Route 251 and Big Mound Road. After a brief investigation, it was determined a black Lexus Rx350 driven by a 16-year-old female from Winnebago was traveling north and struck the rear of a Jeep Wrangler, driven by Robin Mattison, 50, of Davis Junction, that was turning west onto Big Mound Road. The 16-year-old female was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. The 16-year-old

female and an occupant of the Jeep were transported to area hospitals for non-life threatening injuries. Deputies were assisted by the Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS and Fire Department.

On Sept. 10 at approximately 8:08 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 1,000 block of South Union Road in rural Polo in reference to a disturbance. Upon investigation, Brett Ellinor, 41, of Polo, was placed under arrest for battery. Ellinor was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Deputies were assisted by the Polo Police Department.

On Sept. 11 at 6:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and South Illinois Route 251. After further investigation, the driver, Dennis W. Lackey, 48, of DeKalb was arrested for driving while license revoked. Lackey was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Lackey was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### Rochelle Police Department Officers make arrests

**ROCHELLE** — On Sept. 8 at 11:12 a.m. Pauline I. Mireles, 38, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license revoked. She was released on an I-Bond with an Oct. 20 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 8 at 2:57 p.m. Alyssa R. White, 18, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond.

On Sept. 9 at 6:55 p.m. Cathrine M. Curtis, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond with an Oct. 13 Ogle County court date.

On Sept. 8 at 11:15 p.m. Jordan A. Brake, 28, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. She was released on an I-Bond with an Oct. 13 Ogle County



court date.

On Sept. 10 at 7:19 p.m. Zachary R. Richardson, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Sept. 11 at 2:34 p.m. Dustin A. Parsons, 29, of Rochelle was arrested for failure to register as a sex offender and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Two more Small Business Bingo events will be held Oct. 26 (to benefit Focus House) and Nov. 13 (to benefit The Kitchen Table). All events will be held 5-7 p.m. in the banquet room of Salt 251 at 531 S. 7th St. The event page and more details can be found on the AP Massage Therapy Facebook page.

## BINGO: Small business events helping raise money in the community

From page 1

Two more Small Business Bingo events will be held Oct. 26 (to benefit Focus House) and Nov. 13 (to benefit The Kitchen Table). All events will be held 5-7 p.m. in the banquet room of Salt 251 at 531 S. 7th St. The event page and more details can be found on the AP Massage Therapy Facebook page.

The idea for the fundraiser was conceived by Patrick and she's spent recent months working on putting it on.

"I just really think it's important to have these organizations in our community," Patrick said. "I wanted to be able to do

something to shed light on the services and the people that they can provide services for and bring more awareness to that. There are nonprofits that I'm already involved with and donate to personally, so I wanted to be able to do something on a bigger scale to help spread awareness and support them."

Close to 80 local small businesses have donated gift baskets or merchandise for bingo prizes for the events or have had representatives help run them the day of, Patrick said.

"They were very generous," Patrick said. "I'm so happy to be part of such a generous and giving community. They all were real-

ly receptive to what I was doing and excited about it. I love seeing people get on board when I have these ideas, especially for a good cause to be able to give back to something."

When she first came up with the idea, Patrick's most aspirational goal was to have 100 people attend one of the fundraisers. She was "blown away" to see 150 people attend the first event and hopes each event will build off the one before it.

"It was just such a rewarding and fulfilling feeling to see the idea I had come to fruition and so many people be supportive of what I was trying to do," Patrick said. "Especially having Jim

from Salt 251 match my donation to double the proceeds to give Shining Star, that was such an indescribable feeling. I feel like the event went above and beyond what I had expectations for. I expected to have a good turnout because I knew how many people RSVPed, but the generosity and support of everyone that came and made monetary donations or bought raffle tickets and played bingo was just really awesome to see."

The work to put Small Business Bingo together has been "a huge undertaking, but worth it" for Patrick. She's spent time coordinating with small businesses that have made donations and the ven-

ue. This is her first time organizing a fundraising venture.

The relationships built in Rochelle's small business community have been fruitful for Patrick as she's organized the bingo fundraiser.

"Just knowing that they are reaching out to me and wanting to donate and be part of it shows how much our small businesses are the heart of our community," Patrick said. "They are so giving and they want to get involved. Sometimes maybe they don't have the idea themselves, but they're excited to get on board and be part of it. I think that's so important to have those relationships I've built with the

other businesses in my community."

Patrick hopes that each of the next three events will be bigger than the last and she plans to have room for growth to accommodate more attendees. She's already had more people RSVP for the September event than attended the August event.

"I hope as far as fundraising, my ultimate goal is just to keep them all pretty even," Patrick said. "I hope that I can do all of them justice and have all four events be successful enough that we raise funds that are pretty equal for all four of the organizations. I'd love to see them all have a really great turnout."

## RMU Customer Service office closed Sept. 14-15

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Municipal Utilities Customer Service office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, Sept.

14-15 while staff re-locates to City Hall temporarily.

Beginning Monday, Sept. 18, the customer service team will be tem-

porarily located at City Hall at 420 N. 6th St., while the 333 Lincoln Highway building is under construction. Hours of service will

be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

"We encourage customers to utilize our online

portal at [rmu.net/bill](http://rmu.net/bill) for payment and billing information," a city press release said. "For assistance in creating your online account,

please call us at 562-4155. We appreciate your patience during this project, which we anticipate to last approximately five weeks."

## Important safety information from Nicor Gas

Every day, underground pipelines safely transport natural gas – one of the most efficient, reliable and environmentally friendly fuels – to homes and businesses throughout the country. Nicor Gas operates, secures and maintains the pipelines in our service territories. We adhere to state and federal pipeline safety regulations, perform extensive quality-control checks, educate the public on how to recognize and prevent natural gas leaks, and work closely with officials to develop emergency response plans.

### Call before you dig

Before digging on your property, state law requires you call **811** to have your utility lines professionally marked – for free! You must wait the required amount of time before you begin your project. Pipeline markers indicate the general area of the pipeline, but not its exact location or depth. A pipeline may not always be marked in all areas, so it is important to always "Call Before You Dig." If a pipeline right of way is adjacent to your property, you have a responsibility to ensure no new installations of landscaping or physical structures are placed in the right of way, which interferes with our ability to keep the pipeline safe through routine monitoring and maintenance.

Information about transmission pipelines operating in your community can be accessed online at [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov), courtesy of the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS).

### Water heater safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges all users to lower their water heaters to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

### Carbon monoxide

Incomplete combustion of any fuel produces carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is poisonous and has no odor, taste or color. Carbon monoxide detectors are helpful, but they are no substitute for using equipment safely. This includes having your appliances inspected once a year by a certified contractor.

### Appliance safety

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- It is important that you have your furnace inspected by a qualified specialist.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shut-offs are in proper working condition.
- Keep trash and other combustible materials away from your air, heating and water heating systems.

Pipeline integrity management is a process for assessing and mitigating pipeline risks to reduce both the likelihood and consequences of incidents. We have a comprehensive plan that fully addresses these processes, especially for locations deemed high-consequence areas.

To learn more, visit [nicorgas.com/integritymanagementplan](http://nicorgas.com/integritymanagementplan).

### If you smell gas, act fast!

Although natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, you can help prevent emergencies by knowing the signs of a potential problem. Even though you may not currently be a Nicor Gas customer, you can play an important role in natural gas safety. Below are some tips on how to identify a possible natural gas leak, and what to do in such a situation.

**LOOK** for blowing dirt, discolored vegetation or continued bubbling of standing water.

**LISTEN** for a hissing or roaring noise near a natural gas appliance or line.

**SMELL** for the distinctive, rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas. Natural gas is colorless and odorless, so we add a chemical odorant called mercaptan for easy detection of a suspected natural gas leak. This odorant has a distinctive "rotten egg" type odor. You should act any time you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air.

*Note: Be aware that "odorant fade," while uncommon, can occur. Odorant fade occurs when a physical or chemical process causes the level of odorant in the gas to be reduced. This can happen in both existing gas pipe and new installations. Some individuals may not be able to detect the smell of the natural gas odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell, because the scent is being masked by other odors in the area or because the odorant has diminished so that it is not detectable. Some gas lines, due to their unique function, may not have odor at all.*

If you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air:

**DO NOT** try to identify the source or to stop the leak yourself.

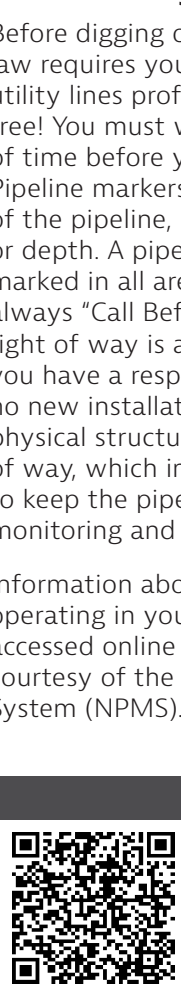
**LEAVE** the area immediately and move a safe distance away from the potential leak, while avoiding any action that may cause sparks.

**AVOID** using any sources of ignition, such as cellphones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines, as natural gas can ignite from a spark or open flame, possibly causing a fire or explosion. Natural gas is nontoxic, lighter than air and displaces oxygen. In severe cases, if not used properly, it can also lead to asphyxiation.

**CALL** Nicor Gas at **888.Nicor4U** (642.6748) or **911** once you are out of the area of the suspected leak and in a safe place. Stay away until Nicor Gas or emergency personnel indicate it is safe to return.

For more information, visit [nicorgas.com/safety](http://nicorgas.com/safety) or call **888.Nicor4U** (642.6748).

Para solicitar una copia de esta información en español, llame al **866.Nicor4U** (642.6748) o visite [nicorgas.com/safetyspanish](http://nicorgas.com/safetyspanish).



### Online Survey

Please take a moment to complete a survey about natural gas safety and you by scanning the QR code or visiting [surveymonkey.com/r/QTT3WNR](http://surveymonkey.com/r/QTT3WNR) to help us make sure we are keeping our communities safe.





## Guest column

**B**EEN busy lately and I forgot to feed the hamster so the ol' noggin' isn't exactly working at peak performance. So I'll let my brain drift this week and just interject some humor.

Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Montana. The Montana Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent.

"Well," replied old John, "There's my ranch hand who's been with me for three years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90 percent of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night."

"That's the guy I want to

Mega Hertz: when you not careful getting the firewood.

The horse replies, "Sure was, man I've got a prob-

The driver, a young man in a fancy suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the rancher, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the farmer and says "You

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



**A**S I walked through the lobby of the University of Illinois' Veterinary School, I looked at the photos of graduates lining the walls. Of course, I was drawn to the images of two people: my father and my wife.

But sandwiched between their classes of 1960 and 2001 was another image that had a nearly magnetic pull. I found myself standing before it and staring into the face of evil. I conjured images that I've tried hard to forget.

Back in 1977, on a day when we were bailing hay on our family farm, a man grabbed me in the barn, held me down, repeatedly kissed me and groped me. I was able to break away before worse things could happen. He was 23. I was 12.

Most folks who know me now think of me as a big man. But back then I was slight — no match for a

She attended the trial of Henry Dinkins, a Davenport Iowa man accused of

Women from across Illinois were wearing their

Somehow it would be

He'd regale youngsters telling about his time in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. He liked to show the scars on his arm where

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for *Illinois Times*, can be reached at [sreeder@illinoistimes.com](mailto:sreeder@illinoistimes.com)

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

## Arreguins win Sept. 1 Chamber Lawn of the Week

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce recently presented its Lawn of the Week award for the week of Sept. 1 to Michael and Shawneen Arreguin. The couple received a sign and a \$25 Rochelle ACE Hardware gift card.

The chamber has partnered with Rochelle Ace Hardware to award gift cards to the winners.

The 2023 Lawn of the Week program has begun for the summer and will run through September. Nominate a neighbor/yard each week by submitting a name and address on the Rochelle chamber's website, <http://therochellechamber.com/lawn-of-the-week>. Submissions can also be made by emailing [rochel-lechamber@gmail.com](mailto:rochel-lechamber@gmail.com).



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chance to showcase the hard work and dedication they put in to making our city look great.”

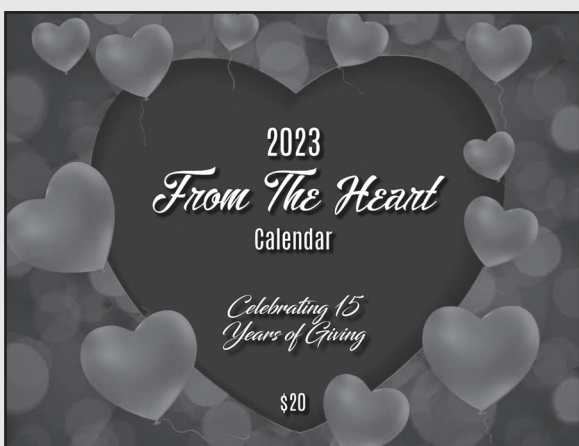
### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

- 7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074  
If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at [volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org](mailto:volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org)
- September 14** – (Thursday) – Spaghetti, Salad, Bosco Sticks  
**September 19** – (Tuesday) – Taco Salad or Taco, Beef with lettuce, tomatoes, onion, jalapenos, cheese, black beans  
**September 21** – (Thursday) – BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Baked Beans,  
**September 26** – (Tuesday) – Chicken Pot Pie – Homemade
- September 28** – (Thursday) – Corned Beef and Cabbage with Carrots and Potatoes, Cornbread  
**October 1** – (Sunday Brunch) – Bacon Egg and Cheese Muffins, Grits,
- KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries
- \*\*All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 [www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)**

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Sept. 14**  
Alivia Law  
Blakely Avila
- Sept. 15**  
Robert Lee
- Sept. 17**  
David Jones  
Jenny Rosenbach  
Richard & Beverly Herrmann (anniversary)
- Sept. 18**  
Amie Eggenburg  
Terry & Teresa Dodillet (anniversary)
- Sept. 19**  
Leland & Lucy Hazlip (anniversary)  
Madison Wooten
- Sept. 20**  
Jon & Carolyn Bieck (anniversary)
- Sept. 22**  
Krew Sullivan
- Sept. 23**  
Chris Doering  
John Worley  
Jeff & Diana Dickey (anniversary)
- Sept. 28**  
Ashley Bunger
- Sept. 29**  
Josh Walker  
Sarah Kulwicki  
Lyndsey O'Brien

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



- 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
- Sept. 7 - Linda Schreiber, Leaf River, \$25
- Sept. 8 - Jason Burdin, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 9 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 10 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
- Sept. 11 - Alexis Barbosa, Newark, \$25
- Sept. 12 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Stetson, e.g.  
4 Big gulp  
8 Miles away  
12 Boxing leg-end  
13 Galileo's birthplace  
14 Tubular pasta  
15 Comedy club razzers  
17 Streetcar  
18 Attack  
19 Poem of praise  
21 Old Ford model  
22 Frenzied  
26 Stupefies  
29 AAA job  
30 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)  
31 Sacred bird of Egypt  
32 Sushi fish  
33 Nile queen, familiarly  
34 Capitol Hill VIP  
35 Passing craze  
36 Sacred song  
37 Browbeat  
39 Indent key  
40 Gallery display  
41 High-flying battle  
45 Rotate  
48 Large land measures  
50 Out of control

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
18							19	20				
			21				22			23	24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49						
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

51 "Star Wars" royal  
52 Sportscaster Cross  
53 New Mexico resort  
54 Bigfoot's cousin  
55 Surpass

**DOWN**  
1 "Funny!"  
2 Hearty quaffs  
3 Twitches  
4 Divides  
5 Brandish  
6 Medit. nation  
7 Hybrid fuel  
8 Ancient

9 Tall tree  
10 — loss  
11 Brink  
16 Curly-leaf cabbages  
20 Morning moisture  
23 Lean to one side  
24 "Got it"  
25 Coagulate  
26 Plate  
27 "... sting like —"  
28 Galvanizing matter  
29 Media mogul  
Turner

32 Terrestrial  
33 Hooded snake  
35 Supporting  
36 Rum cocktail  
38 Armored vehicles  
39 Unspoken  
42 Legal docu-ment  
43 Aviation prefix  
44 Answer an invite  
45 Make lace  
46 Hollywood's Thurman  
47 Aussie hop-per  
49 Shoe width

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **F** equals **W**

F Z M F B A D Z T N U B L H Q T O O L T  
A B U B K L H B N B S D L J W U B S U M  
Q W U H T S B R U T A D B D T ?  
R T J B W A T L D F B A W H K S T A A T K .

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

Answer

P	O	P	I	I	S	O	S			
L	A	V	E	L	E	K	O	M	A	
S	E	C	T	A	R	E	S			
H	A	R	A	I	R					
W	A	R								
T	A	B								
O	M									
E	L									
L	S	E								
C	O	L								
I	C									
A	S	S								
H	E	C								
A	L	L								
A	F	A								

Solution time: 26 mins.  
Answers

Because it was undressed.  
vulnerable state?  
salad in a particularly  
Why was the plain veggie  
answer

King Crossword  
Weekly SUDOKU



# ASHTON NEWS



## Ashton-Franklin Center students visit traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall in Rock Falls

On Friday, Sept. 1, Ashton-Franklin Center School District eighth grade and junior American history students had the opportunity to visit the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall at its stop in Rock Falls. While a three-fifths replica in size, the impact was full scale. The students got to experience the magnitude of the 58,307 service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Students got to shake the hands of Vietnam Veterans and thanked them for their service. Others found the names of family members who have had their names immortalized on the wall in Washington D.C. "Overall, the trip was a wonderful experience, and one that won't soon be forgotten! Thank you to Mr Cissna & Mr Treadwell for organizing such a unique learning opportunity to tie back to your classrooms!" a Facebook post said.



**Now proudly serving 10 states**

## Dinges Fire expands footprint, now services 10 states in the midwest

AMBOY – Dinges Fire Company is thrilled to announce it has expanded its footprint and now services three more states – North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The expansion expands the teams footprint to 10 states in the midwest. Those states include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Dinges Fire Company represents LION

Protective Clothing and Training Products along with more than 200+ manufacturers in the 10 states. Dinges Fire Company, based in Amboy, was founded in 2001 and had a goal of servicing the state of Illinois. Fast forward 22 years later, Dinges Fire Company is now one of the largest fire equipment and apparatus distributors in the Midwest. Out of the 10 states, Dinges Fire Company services more

than 1,000 customers with a team of 120 people. "In 2016 we had a goal to move into 11 states and we can proudly say we almost accomplished that goal," Dinges Fire Company Founder and CEO Nick Dinges said "Sky is the limit, and we continue to evaluate opportunities as they arise as long as we can continue to perform exemplary customer service and attentiveness to our customers' needs."

## Alleluia Quartet coming to Ashton UMC Sept. 16

ASHTON – Mark your calendar and save the date! The Alleluia Quartet will be coming to Ashton United Methodist Church on Saturday, Sept. 16. There will be a light supper at 5 p.m. with an inspiring concert to follow at 6 p.m. Four guys from Beth

Eden United Methodist Church got together in 1985 to share their musical talents in worship. Since that day, God has continued to bless them and their ministry. Alleluia Quartet shares their unique style of four part harmony to witness to the love of God

in their lives. All are invited to attend. A free will offering will be collected. The Ashton United Methodist Church is handicap accessible. The church is located at 906 Richardson Ave. in Ashton. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Lee County Sheriff's Office announces Labor Day impaired driving campaign results

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Sheriff's Office made zero driving under the influence arrests during the recent Labor Day impaired driving campaign. In addition, no seat belt citations were written. Other citations and arrests included 19 vehicle stops consisting of two speeding citations,

one operating an uninsured motor vehicle citation, nine warnings for equipment violations, two warnings for expired registration and four warnings for other moving violations. The Lee County Sheriff's Office joined forces with other law enforcement agencies and highway safe-

ty partners throughout the state for the Illinois Labor Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over/Drive High. Get a DUI" enforcement campaign. The effort was made possible by federal highway safety funds distributed by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## FFA member official dress grants available

AMBOY — The Lee County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee is announcing a grant program for FFA members. The Young Leader Committee will award up to 10 \$75 grants to go

towards the purchase of FFA official dress. Funds will be paid to the FFA chapter to purchase the items for the student. To qualify, students must be a freshman or sophomore student attending a Lee

County school or be a Lee County resident. Applications are due Nov. 1. For more information, contact the Lee County Farm Bureau (815) 857-3531 or leecfb@comcast.net.

## Lee County Sheriff's Office K9 Nemo awarded Healthcare for K9 Heroes grant

DIXON — Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c(3) nationwide charity located in East Taunton, Massachusetts, whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States.

The non-profit is pleased to continue their "Healthcare for K9 Heroes" medical insurance program for 2023 which covers annual policy premiums. Since 2016, the charity has donated over \$335,996 towards medical reimbursement programs for self-funded K9 units. The recipients for 2023 include: Lee County

Sheriff's Office, K9 Nemo. The "Healthcare for K9 Heroes" grant is awarded to departments which have the financial burden of raising funds to support their K9 unit, which have no more than three K9s, and which have previously been awarded a vest through Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Law enforcement dogs ages two through seven are eligible.

The annual medical reimbursement insurance policy, administered by Trupanion, will cover illnesses, injuries—including those sustained in the line of duty—diagnostic testing and therapies. The plan allows the freedom to use

any licensed veterinarian, specialty center, or emergency hospital in the United States. Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs, offers injury and illness coverage for working and service dogs - both on and off duty. For nearly two decades, Trupanion has given pet owners and working dog owners peace of mind so they can focus on their dog's recovery, not financial stress. Trupanion is honored to support these brave K9 heroes and is committed to providing the highest value in medical insurance to help them receive the best veterinary care.

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# SPORTS



## JUNIOR HUBS SWEEP

The Rochelle Junior Tackle football teams swept Dixon at Helms Park on Saturday.

See page 2 for more details

## RTHS Football

# Hubs shut out Skyhawks

Rochelle rumbles for over 400 rushing yards in 48-0 victory over Johnsburg

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE**—Freshman Dylan Manning was rushing for touchdowns on the fresh-soph football team one week ago. When the Rochelle Hub varsity football team hosted Johnsburg on Friday evening, however, Manning earned his chance to showcase his skills at a higher level.

Playing in his first varsity game and receiving his first varsity start at wingback, Manning showed tremendous confidence and vision out of the backfield, rushing for 102 yards on 10 carries and scoring three touchdowns as the Hubs dominated the Skyhawks 48-0 to kick off the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference Blue Division schedule. It's the second shutout in three games for the Hubs (2-1, 1-0 I-8/KRC Blue), who will travel for a road contest at Harvard next Friday.

"I was a little nervous, but I trusted my team and I knew they would block for me," Manning said. "It was really special and I loved the experience... We had some great blocks. I saw giant holes and I ran through them. I'm just trying my hardest and do-

ing what I can to help our team win."

Rochelle rumbled for 404 rushing yards while holding the Skyhawks, who entered with a 2-0 record and 65 points over their first two games, to only 124 total yards. The Hubs took the first-half kickoff and moved right down the field, scoring on a 31-yard touchdown run from junior Grant Gensler, who torched the Johnsburg defense for 204 rushing yards and three scores.

With the offense clicking from the start, Rochelle saw its defense record two fourth-down stops in a row to stall the Skyhawk offense in the opening quarter. The Hubs capitalized on their early defensive success, scoring on a 26-yard touchdown run and a 10-yard touchdown run from the freshman wingback Manning, who helped Rochelle take a 20-0 lead late in the first quarter.

"We've been keying up our defense and I know I have a great player over the top of me," said senior cornerback Tommy Tourdot, who nabbed two of the team's three interceptions in the win. "We really put in the work this week and we played with a different mentality than we had last week. We were humbled



**Freshman Dylan Manning rushes for a touchdown during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Johnsburg on Friday. Manning had 102 rushing yards and three touchdowns in a 48-0 win.**

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

and our coaches got on us about how we thought we'd have an easy win last week. We were punched in the mouth and it's on us to respond and stay locked in."

Tourdot snagged his first interception late in the first quarter, stepping in front of his receiver and grabbing a throw from Johnsburg quarterback AJ Bravieri near the Skyhawk sideline.

Rochelle cashed in on its next drive, with Manning running off the left side for a 5-yard touchdown rush. A three-and-out on Johnsburg's ensuing possession set the Skyhawks

back even further, as the Hubs needed only one play to score again, this time on a 62-yard touchdown run from Gensler.

See HUBS page 6

## RTHS Athletics

# RTHS inducts Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023

Six former student-athletes celebrated during pregame ceremony Friday night

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School honored the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 before Friday evening's varsity football game against the Johnsburg Skyhawks.

Michelle Dobbs, Matt Rosenwinkel, Grant Prusator, Deanne Kester Mittlesteadt, Deb Austin Schabacker and Dawn Schabacker Shaz were each presented with awards and recognized during Friday's ceremony.

## Michelle Dobbs

Michelle Dobbs, a 2013 graduate of RTHS, is the daughter of former RTHS coaches John and Kay Dobbs. During her tenure at RTHS, Michelle was a versatile athlete, competing in Cross Country, Basketball, and Track and Field, earning 11 varsity letters in her four years.

On the track, Michelle left a mark in the record books by setting nine school records, spanning across a range of events from the 800m to the 3200m, both indoors and outdoors. Her talent and dedication earned her three IHSA All-State accolades. In her senior year, Michelle won the



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Rochelle Township High School inducted six new members into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony Friday evening. The honorees include Michelle Dobbs, Matt Rosenwinkel, Grant Prusator, Deanne Kester Mittlesteadt, Dawn Schabacker Shaz and Deb Austin Schabacker.**

state championship title in the 800m, setting a new state record with a time of 2:10.78.

On the basketball court, Michelle was a two-time NIB-12 East player of the year and two-time special mention IBCA all-state. She is scattered throughout the Lady Hubs basketball program, including top 10

in scoring, rebounding and steals.

Michelle's excellence extended beyond athletics. She graduated her class as valedictorian, a National Merit Scholar, and she earned a spot on the IHSA All-State Academic team. After graduating from RTHS, Michelle embarked on her collegiate journey at the University of Chicago.

In college, Michelle set seven school records in track and field and was an eight-time All-American. Her dedication culminated in winning the indoor 800m title in 2015. Michelle revisited her love for basketball during her senior year at UChicago and played for the Maroons in the NCAA tournament. Michelle and her fiancé

Nick now live in Denver, Colorado where she spends her time riding and racing bikes and working as a software engineer.

**Matt Rosenwinkel**  
Matt Rosenwinkel, a 2013 graduate of RTHS, is the son of Mark and Gayle Rosenwinkel. Matt was a

4-year Varsity letter winner in the men's Basketball program from 2010-2013 and a 2-year Varsity letter winner in men's soccer.

While at Rochelle, Matt was part of the 2012 Men's soccer regional championship and 2011-12 men's basketball conference championship.

See RTHS page 3





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

Noah Hayden breaks a tackle during the Rochelle Junior Tackle fifth-grade football game against Dixon on Saturday. The fifth-graders won over Dixon 38-34.

## Rochelle Junior Tackle teams record weekend sweep of Dixon

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Junior Tackle football teams hosted Dixon at Helms Park on Saturday afternoon, sweeping all four contests against the Junior Dukes.

The eighth-graders remained unbeaten, while the seventh-graders earned their second win in a row and both the sixth and fifth-graders bounced back with victories. Rochelle will not play this coming weekend.

### 8th Grade

Dixon held an early lead after a 9-yard touchdown pass during the first quarter. The Junior Hubs (5-0) found their spark in the second quarter, with Cohen Haedt tossing a 23-yard pass to Holden Liebhaber, who hauled in a 25-yard pass later in the drive that set up a 1-yard touchdown run from Andrew Eyster. Rochelle and Dixon remained tied 8-8 at halftime.

Caiden Redlarczyk rushed for a 15-yard gain late in the second quarter. With the game still tied at 8-8 in the fourth quarter, Haedt connected with Liebhaber for a 16-yard gain before Eyster plunged forward for a 5-yard touchdown run to give Rochelle the lead. Eyster's 18-yard run late in the fourth quarter led to a 12-yard touchdown run that helped the Junior Hubs clinch their 24-8 victory over Dixon. Eyster finished with 12 carries for 57 yards for the Rochelle offense.

Redlarczyk rushed for a team-high 67 yards on nine carries, while Haedt completed 6-of-9 passes for 77 yards and rushed for 24 yards on three carries. Redlarczyk and Eli Schweitzer each led the defense with five tackles, while Liebhaber had four tackles on defense as well as three

receptions for 64 yards on offense. Aidan Lopez chipped in three tackles on defense.

### 7th Grade

Riley Smith opened the game with a defensive gem for the Junior Hubs, intercepting a Dixon pass and returning the ball 30 yards for a touchdown. Mikey Chadwick followed with a 1-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter, while Mason Lopez forced a fumble early in the second quarter. After Braxton Bruns rushed for a 25-yard gain, Smith dropped back and found Bruns for a 36-yard touchdown pass that allowed Rochelle to command a 24-0 lead over Dixon.

The Junior Hubs (4-0-1) continued to attack throughout the second quarter, with Bruns rushing for a 5-yard touchdown and Smith finding Vinny Tornabene for a 61-yard touchdown pass that helped Rochelle take a 40-0 lead over Dixon at halftime. The Junior Dukes avoided the shutout with a 41-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, but Rochelle emerged with the 40-8 victory.

Bruns led the rushing offense with 71 yards on five carries, while Nolan Zick carried the ball nine times for 46 yards and Chadwick finished with 23 yards on four carries. Bruns totaled four tackles on defense, with Zick and Xavier Hueramo each recording three tackles in the win.

### 6th Grade

Rochelle (3-2) defeated Dixon 22-8 on Saturday and recorded the first defensive highlight of the afternoon, with Kamden Kessen intercepting a pass and returning the ball for 5 yards during the first quarter. Eli Underwood's 17-yard run near the end of the first quarter set the stage for a 2-yard touchdown run from Quentin Ansteth.

See **JUNIOR TACKLE** page 6

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# SPORTS

## RTHS: Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 honored Friday

From page 1

In basketball, Matt was a 2-time first-team all-conference player, a 2013 season News Gazette honorable mention all-state, an AP honorable mention all-state and an IBCA special mention all-state player.

His career stats place him: 5th in points scored with 1359 points, 2nd in 3-pointers made with 232, 2nd in free throw percentage of 82.3%, 5th in 3-point percentage.

His single season stats include: 1st in season field goal percentage at 87%, 1st in free throw percentage, 3rd in 3-pointers made with 86, 5th in most points scored in a game at 42.

After his time at Rochelle, Matt was a four year member of the Northern Kentucky University Men's basketball team. Highlighting his college career, Matt was a team captain for the 2016-17 season where the Norse won the Horizon League Tournament and made the University's first ever appearance in the Division I NCAA Tournament.

After graduating with an MBA from Xavier University, Matt joined Macys, working in their data & analytics department and currently resides in Rochelle. He has been a member of the Rochelle Men's basketball coaching staff since 2022, winning its first regional championship since 2009.

Matt would like to congratulate the other inductees tonight and thank his family, friends, teammates and coaches for all their support and motivation in making this possible.

### Deanne Kester Mittlesteadt

Deanne Kester Mittlesteadt, a 1987 graduate of RTHS, is the daughter of Truman and Diane Kester. She received six Varsity letters during high school, four in Track and two in Cheerleading.

Deanne was the Sectional Champion and qualified for the Illinois State track

meet her Junior year. Her 37 feet 1 inch shot put toss at the State Track Meet set the RTHS record which she still holds today. During her Senior year, Deanne returned to the Illinois State Track meet, qualifying in discus.

She also still holds the RTHS discus record with a throw of 119 feet 10 inches and achieved the Girls Track High Point Award for earning the most points for the 1987 season. She was a cheerleader for both football and basketball all four years. She was on the Varsity squad her Junior and Senior years and was Captain her Senior year.

Deanne was also a member of the Rochelle Hub Marching Band Flag & Rifle team her Freshman year. That year, the RTHS marching band performed the pregame and halftime show at Soldier Field for the Chicago Bears vs Atlanta Falcons game.

After high school, Deanne received her Associates Degree from Kishwaukee College and worked in accounting. She was active in Rochelle area Volleyball leagues until 1997. She married Douglas Mittlesteadt in 1998 and relocated to Ann Arbor, Michigan where she later was a stay at home mom for their two children.

They relocated to Texas in 2013 where Deanne now plays tennis in four North Houston area competitive leagues. She also enjoys playing pickleball and golf with Doug and seeing her children excel in their college studies.

### Grant Prusator

Grant Prusator, a 2013 graduate of RTHS, is the son of Todd and Janice Prusator. He was a four-year Varsity letter winner in the Boys Basketball program from 2010-2013 under Head Coaches Russ Zick and Tim Thompson.

Grant had great success for the Hubs as a team member and an individual on the hardwood. Coach Tim Thompson would say that, "Grant's work ethic was second to none, and

I am blessed I was able to Coach him for four years."

While playing for the Hubs, Grant was part of the Conference championship team in 2011-12. Grant was a two-time first team all-conference player and two-time IBCA honorable mention all-state. He is scattered throughout the record board in the Hubs Boys Basketball program.

His career stats place him as 3rd in career points with 1543 points, 1st in career 3 point field goals with 282, 3rd in career assists with 317, 3rd in career steals with 138.

His single season records include 1st and 3rd in 3 pt Field goals with 96 and 85, 1st at RTHS 16th in the IHSA with 16 consecutive Free Throws made, 1st with 9 3 point field goals made in one game.

After his high school career, Grant had a successful career playing at Highland Community College, Indiana State, and at Arkansas Tech where they played in the National tournament. Grant and his wife Kelly currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona where Grant is coaching at Boulder Creek HS and running PruHoops Elite Basketball Skills Training.

Grant would like to thank his HS teammates and coaches for providing him with a positive basketball experience and memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

### Deb Austin Schabacker

Deb Austin Schabacker, attended Rochelle Township High School 1973 through 1976. She is the daughter of Luther and Norma Austin.

During her time at Rochelle Deb was very involved with athletics and activities. She played Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Tennis and she ran Track. Along with participating in those sports she also participated in the Concert Band, Varsity Band, Marching Band, Girls Athletic Association, and Rifle Corps.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The RTHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 honorees include Michelle Dobbs, Matt Rosenwinkel, Grant Prusator, Deanne Kester Mittlesteadt, Dawn Schabacker, Shaz and Deb Austin Schabacker.

She earned 10 varsity letters while at RTHS.

While playing tennis for RTHS her doubles team qualified three years in a row for the State Tennis meet. Deb was also selected as Captain of the tennis team. Along with her accomplishments in athletics she was also recognized by her peers as the Most Athletic for her class.

In 1977 she married Terry Schabacker, and they had two boys, Brad and Matt Schabacker, who also both attended RTHS. Deb currently still resides in Chana with her husband Terry where they continue to farm.

### Dawn Schabacker Shaz

Dawn Schabacker Shaz, attended Rochelle Township High School 1975 through 1979. During her time at Rochelle she at-

tained 13 Varsity letters: Two in tennis, three in Basketball, four in volleyball, and four in Softball.

While playing basketball, Dawn was selected captain and earned first team all-conference accolades in her Senior year. She was also the high point scorer and free throw trophy winner that year. Dawn was also selected as captain for the softball team and then went on to be recognized as first team all-conference in softball.

When Dawn wasn't playing a sport, she found time to participate in the Concert Band, Varsity Band and Marching Band. In 1979 Dawn was recognized as the RTHS female athlete of the year, the first female to be so awarded at Rochelle Township High School.

Dawn graduated and went on to play sports at North Central College where she was later inducted into the North Central athletic hall of fame. While

at North Central she was a three-sport athlete where she excelled in volleyball, basketball, and softball. She was a pitcher on the NCC team that finished fourth in the nation and she was also a member of the 1983 NCAA Division III Women's basketball championship team.

After graduating from the College with degrees in health and physical education, Schabacker took her first job at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, where she still teaches and coaches. In 1999 she was selected as Coach of the Year by the Illinois Basketball Association and she coached the ladies' softball team to third and fourth place finishes in the state tournament.

She received her master's degree in public health from Benedictine University in 1993 and a second master's degree in curriculum and development from National-Louis University in 2003.

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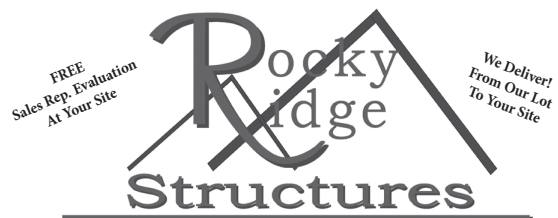


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# SPORTS

RTHS Boys Soccer

## Second-half surge leads to draw against DeKalb

Barbs overcome two-goal deficit as Hubs settles for 3-3 tie Saturday morning

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A fast second-half start on offense allowed the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team to hold an early lead during Saturday morning’s non-conference contest against DeKalb.

Junior Fernando Diaz and sophomore Heilly Zepeda each found the back of the net midway through the second half, allowing Rochelle to break a 1-1 tie and command a two-goal lead over the Barbs with less than 20 minutes remaining in regulation time. But a series of defensive letdowns enabled DeKalb to score back-to-back goals during the 69th minute and even the match once again. After 80 minutes, Rochelle and DeKalb ultimately settled for a 3-3 draw.

“I was very pleased with how we played today,” head coach Brad Male said. “I thought we worked together and we showed better teamwork than we did over our last few matches. We were looking for the open player and moving the ball a lot better than we did in the past.”

The Hubs (3-4-2, 1-2 Interstate 8) struck first early in the opening half, with senior Diego Salazar booting a shot into the DeKalb net during the 11th minute to give Rochelle a 1-0 advantage. The Barbs found their first equalizer near the end of the first half, scoring in the 37th minute to even the match at 1-1,



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Diego Salazar battles for possession during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against DeKalb on Saturday. Salazar scored one goal as the Hubs and Barbs played to a 3-3 draw.**

which stood at halftime and well into the second half. The Hubs broke the tie during the 61st minute, taking a 2-1 lead after Diaz sent an unassisted shot into the goal.

“We’ve been working hard on our offense during practice and we’ve moved some players around,” Male said. “I thought that showed today. We’ve moved some players into

positions they’re not too used to playing, but I think our chemistry is working a lot better right now.”

Zepeda followed with another Rochelle goal during the 67th minute, coming up from the midfield area and finding the back of the DeKalb net to give the Hubs a 3-1 advantage. Looking for its second straight win after defeating Ottawa 5-3 on Wednesday, Rochelle

was unable to hold off the Barbs, who capitalized on consecutive defensive miscues in the 69th minute to score two goals and even the score at 3-3.

The Hubs pressured near the end of the second half, putting multiple shots on goal and earning a trio of corner kicks, but Rochelle couldn’t find the winner. Sophomore Antonio Hueramo finished with six

saves for the Hubs, who will host an Interstate 8 match against LaSalle-Peru at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday before hosting Belvidere for a nonconference match on Saturday at 10 a.m.

“We made a few mistakes, but we’ll learn from today,” Male said. “We played pretty exceptional soccer today and I thought today was a win for us. Overall, I’m more pleased

with where we are at this point in the season. We have our players in the right spots and I think we’ll progress.”

DeKalb ended the match with a slight advantage in shots and shots on goal, outpacing the Hubs 21-20 and 16-11 in each respective category.

Rochelle had 11 corner kicks in the match, while the Barbs were held to only two corner kicks.



## 9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Rochelle First



**Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising.** These community-minded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches – just to name a few. Shouldn’t we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!



**High rate of return.** For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Rochelle, IL.



**Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust.** Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It’s all right here.



**Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns.** You don’t have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.



**No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it’s painless when your agent is your neighbor.** You don’t have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live here. Which do you want when you’ve had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?



**Time is money.** It’s simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!



**Customer service after the sale is invaluable.** Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?



**Keeping it local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle’s diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.



**One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.



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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)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

Experienced Housekeeper Wanted with References. Call 815-561-0021. (09182023)

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

## 305 GARAGE SALES

ROCHELLE - OMG MORE STUFF! 911 N. 8th Street. Saturday 9/16 7 am to 6 pm. Drapery Buckram, (2) Vintage Trolling Motors, Electric Anchor, Bird Feeders, (2) 30" Wrought Iron Window Planters, 50's Green Elger Sink, 25" White Sink, Gun Rack, Portable Sewing Cabinet, 50's Wood Ironing Board, Room Humidifier, 5 Level Corner Shelf, L Shaped Office Desk, Shelving Units, Table Desk, Boat Cover, Marine Battery Charger, Canoe Seat Cushions, Beanie Babies, Queen Sheets, Pillows, Large Women's Tops & Many Miscellaneous Items (09132023RNL)

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

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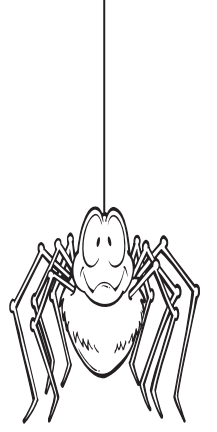
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# Rochelle News-Leader CLASSIFIEDS

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# SPORTS

## HUBS: Rochelle bounces back with shutout win over Johnsburg

From page 1

Trailing 36-0 late in the second quarter, Johnsburg received a brief glimmer of hope, as a three-and-out led to a muffed punt return that enabled the Skyhawks to keep their drive alive. But another errant pass from Bravieri landed in the hands of Tourdot, who once again gained position on his receiver to make the play. Rochelle converted the turnover into points, with Gensler capping off an excellent opening half with a 33-yard touchdown run off the right side.

“On that first interception, I had been getting beat on that play all summer,” Tourdot said. “I knew that play would eventually come out during a game and I just dropped back, took my read steps and made a play on the ball. The second interception, I was keying up the quarterback and I could tell where he wanted to go. I went up and hoped for the best and I made the play again... This was a good win after last week and I think it shows the guys that we can do this.”

Rochelle’s 42-0 halftime lead resulted in a fast final two quarters, where the Hubs iced their win with a third-quarter interception by junior Xavier Villalobos and a fourth-quarter rushing score from senior Riley Damask, who bounced outside of the left tackle for a 2-yard touchdown. Sophomore Brode Metzger led the defense with eight tackles, while senior Brock Metzger had four tackles and junior Kaiden Morris recorded one sack. Sophomores Gavin Neale and Roman Villalobos combined for 68 rushing yards, with Neale adding three tackles on defense.

### Fresh/Soph

The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team remained perfect on the season Friday evening, defeating Johnsburg 28-6. Sophomore Brenden Voight rushed for an 8-yard touchdown and totaled two tackles for loss, while sophomore Reece Harris rushed for a 6-yard touchdown.

Freshman Tyler Gensler added five tackles and a 76-yard run for Rochelle (3-0, 1-0 I-8/KRC Blue). Sophomore Frank Nasca compiled six tackles and sophomore Keagan Albers rushed for a 1-yard touchdown after a 40-yard pass play from sophomore quarterback Van Gerber to sophomore Martiese Pogue.

Junior Grant Gensler runs behind offensive lineman Kaiden Morris during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Johnsburg on Friday night. Gensler rushed for 204 yards and three touchdowns as the Hubs won 48-0 and improved to 2-1 overall this season.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

## JUNIOR TACKLE: Rochelle teams sweep Dixon on Saturday

From page 1

Underwood followed with a 5-yard touchdown run late in the second quarter that enabled the Junior Hubs to take a 16-0 halftime lead over Dixon.

Jaycob Hammer’s 19-yard rush and Mason Picurro’s fumble recovery in the third quarter were two of the midgame highlights from Saturday’s win. Ansteth clinched Rochelle’s win with a 26-yard rush and an 11-yard touchdown rush late in the third quarter. The Junior Dukes avoided the shutout in the fourth quarter, completing a 71-yard touchdown pass and 2-point play.

Ansteth rushed for a team-high 75 yards on 10 carries, while Underwood rushed for 54 yards on five carries and Hammer added 22 yards on two carries. Roger Navarro led the defense with a team-high nine tackles including three tackles for loss and one sack. Kessen had four tackles.

### 5th Grade

A back-and-forth affair saw the Junior Hubs (3-1-1) hold on for a 38-34 win. Three touchdowns were scored in the first quarter, with Dixon scoring on a 30-yard rush and a 32-yard rush while Noah Hayden reached the end zone on a 3-yard rush for the Junior Hubs. Rochelle took a 22-12 lead in the second quarter, where Grange Kissack ran for a 39-yard touchdown and a 1-yard touchdown while Landon Johnson and Brayson Bouland each converted 2-point plays.

After Dixon scored on a 1-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter, Rochelle fired right back after Kissack scampered for a 36-yard touchdown run and Dominic Escatel converted the 2-point play. A 28-yard touchdown pass and a 15-yard touchdown run from the Junior Dukes during the fourth quarter wasn’t enough to overcome the Junior Hubs, who saw Hayden break loose for a 47-yard touchdown run and Bentley Etes convert the 2-point play to ice the win.

Hayden rushed for a team-leading 110 yards on six carries, while Kissack ran for 76 yards on three carries and Johnson recorded 51 yards on eight carries. Etes led the defense with five tackles, while Braxton Rosenthal and Tanner Williams each finished the game with four tackles.

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