



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

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501 N. 6th St.
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Vol. 103 • No. 28

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2, 2023

\$1.25

K9 Comfort Dog Peace visits Rochelle

LCC dogs respond to schools, hospitals, disaster areas

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Last week, Paul Soost of Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dog Ministry brought Peace to Rochelle Community Hospital employees. Soost grew up in Rochelle. He now lives in Orlando and was back in the area for the national LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry Conference in Northbrook, Illinois. Peace, of course, is a 6.5-year-old purebred golden retriever service dog who has worked to bring comfort to those that need it for five years.

“We went to see the staff,” Soost said of the July 25 visit to RCH. “We know that healthcare providers and first responders have very stressful jobs. We wanted to be able to provide some comfort and relief to the staff at RCH. We went from department to department spending time with the staff in each of the areas. Two of the LCC comfort dogs that are more local have visited RCH in the past. We wanted to take the opportunity to bring Peace to them.”

LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry started in 2008.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Last week, Paul Soost of Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dog Ministry brought Peace to Rochelle Community Hospital employees.

It currently has about 130 dogs in 27 states that do what Peace does. The national human care ministry embraces the nature and

skills of golden retrievers.

On a day-to-day basis, Soost and Peace will visit schools, nursing homes, hospitals, fire and police

stations and anywhere else that they're invited to provide comfort.

See PEACE page 3



No injuries after fire on Sixth Avenue

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — No injuries were reported and a camper and detached garage were a total loss after a fire Sunday night near the intersection of 6th Street and 6th Avenue in Rochelle, Rochelle Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Carls said.

RFD received a call at 9:50 p.m. with a report from a neighbor across the street from 601 6th Ave. that saw flames. Upon arrival, fire crews found heavy fire coming from a 24-foot pull-behind camper and a 24-by-24-foot two-car detached garage.

“The first-in companies pulled our primary attack line and started suppression efforts,” Carls said.

See FIRE page 5

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KNOW IT TODAY



Bohn celebrating 100th birthday

Mendota's Betty Lou (Chaon) Bohn will celebrate her 100th birthday on Aug. 26. Page 7

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY HIGH 84 LOW 64

THURSDAY HIGH 87 LOW 64

FRIDAY HIGH 89 LOW 65

SATURDAY HIGH 84 LOW 65

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401 N. Main St.
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OBITUARIES

• JOSEPH FRANK SCHLOSSER
• PATRICIA ELAINE COONS

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• FARM & FLEET

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ROCHELLE — Over the weekend, John Prabhakar competed in the Rochelle Tennis Tournament at 82 years old. He medaled in second in the senior doubles division with his partner, Roy Threlkeld.

Prabhakar is the oldest active player in Rochelle and is nearing 50 years of participating in the tennis community since moving to the city in 1974. For him, that time has yielded a number of trophies from the Rochelle Tennis Tournament and longtime friendships. Over 30 years ago he took on the role of organizing matches to keep the sport alive in town.

“You make a lot of friends playing tennis,” Prabhakar said. “A lot of my long-lasting friends are from tennis. Somewhere along the way, I started arranging tennis matches in town. And we'd go play in other towns too. Nobody else wanted to set them up, so I did it. I enjoy arranging the matches and match-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Over the weekend, John Prabhakar competed in the Rochelle Tennis Tournament at 82 years old. Prabhakar is the oldest active player in Rochelle and is nearing 50 years of participating in the tennis community since moving to the city in 1974.

ing everyone up with someone that will be a challenge. I spend time on it. Even when I don't play, I arrange matches sometimes. I've even done it when I was out of state.”

Prabhakar grew up in India, where the common sports are field hockey and cricket. He had no formal training in tennis there, but still managed to end up playing the sport in college. After moving to

Rochelle, Prabhakar won the 1978 singles championship at the Rochelle Tennis Tournament. He also holds 1985 trophies in doubles, mixed doubles and over-30 singles. He was half of the winning

1988 doubles team. In 2019, his doubles team won first place in the 60-and-over division. In 2021, his doubles team medaled in second.

PRABHAKAR page 8

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

This year's Ogle County 4-H cat show was held at the Ogle County Farm Bureau in Oregon on Monday, June 26. Champion Senior Showmanship winner, Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River. Champion Junior Showmanship winner Andrew Hickman, Byron. Andrew Hickman, Byron, won Champion Cage or Carrier award.

Ogle County 4-H Fair cat award winners named

OREGON — This year's Ogle County 4-H cat show was held at the Ogle County Farm Bureau in Oregon on

Monday, June 26.

Cats are judged on their physical condition, cleanliness and presentation, temperament,

appearance, good health, alertness, and graceful movement. 4-H'ers receive ratings based on their knowledge about

the care and grooming of their entry and the cat itself. Please see below for the results of the show.

Champion Junior

Showmanship- Andrew Hickman, Byron; Champion Senior Showmanship- Kaden Lingbeck, Leaf River;

Champion Feline- Andrew Hickman, Byron and Champion Cage or Carrier- Andrew Hickman, Byron

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OCEC STEP Work Program appreciative of local support

BYRON — The Ogle County Educational Cooperative and the STEP Work Program want to extend appreciation to the area employers, schools and organizations who have supported our student workers throughout the 2022-23 school year. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with these local organizations during the upcoming school year 2023-24. Many local businesses participate by helping train students about building good work habits, communication skills and being a reliable employee in the workforce.

Thank you to those that participated this year: Alfano's Pizzeria - Oregon and Rochelle, Allied-Locke Industries, INC, Amboy Central School, Amboy High School, Ashton-Frank-

lin Center High School, Benny's Corner Market - Rochelle, Blue Beacon Truck Wash - Rochelle, Casey's - Byron, Cass Chiropractic Clinic, Chana Education Center, Changes Counseling, LLC - Rochelle, Classic Cinemas Lindo Theatre, Cornett's Chana Tap, Country School Restaurant, Danlee Wood Products, Double-O Saloon and Grill, Elite Services, European Service at Home, EZ-Drops, Fearer Nye & Chadwick, LLC - Rochelle, Fibbers Bar and Grill, First and Main Makers Market, Fitness Junction, Fritz's Wooden Nickel, Godfather's Pizza Express - Monroe Center, Hardee's - Rochelle, Hidden Timber Gardens, Highland Elementary School, Holiday Inn Express - Rochelle, Hope Chest Thrift Store, Jonamac

Orchard, Julia Hull Library, Ken Nelson Auto Group, Koeller Forrester Hardware, La Vigna Restaurant, Loescher Collision Center, McDonald's - Dixon, Oregon and Rochelle, Meiborg Brothers, INC, Meridian Jr. High School, New Hope Fellowship Church, Ogle County Circuit Clerk Kimberly Stahl's office, Oregon Park District Children's Center Program, Oregon SuperValu, Pinecrest Community, Polo High School, Polo Rehab and Health Care Center, Reign XT, Rochelle Township High School, Royal Blue General Store, Seward Screw, LLC, Stillman Valley Auto Care, Stillman Valley High School, St. Paul Lutheran School - Rochelle, Subway - Forrester, The REC Center-Flagg Rochelle Park

District, The Serenity Shed, The Village Bakery, Tilton Elementary School, Valley Covenant Church, Vince's Pizza, Walgreens-Rochelle, Wendy's - Rochelle and Chana Winterland Excavating.

Employers, schools and organizations work in cooperation with OCEC and the STEP Work Program to help students learn all aspects of employment while gaining valuable work experience. Students may also receive credit and a grade for participating in the STEP Work Program. The program has specific criteria for eligibility as it relates to students with Individual Education Plans.

For more information, contact Toby Luxton, OCEC STEP Work Program coordinator at 815-234-2722 ext. 1011 or tluxton@ocecil.org.

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Over the winter on Feb. 11, the 10th Annual Northern Illinois Belt Sander Drag Races were held with over 20 sanders in the stock class and over 30 in a highly-competitive modified class. With over 350 guests in attendance, they raised over \$11,000 for the Village of Progress.

Northern Illinois Belt Sander Drag Races organization donates to VOP

OREGON — Over the winter on Feb. 11, the 10th Annual Northern Illinois Belt Sander Drag Races were held with over 20 sanders in the stock class and over 30 in a highly-competitive modified class. With over 350 guests in attendance, they

raised over \$11,000 for the Village of Progress and had a lot of fun in the process.

“Wow is about all we can say,” a VOP press release said. “Sometimes ‘stuff’ surprises you and this one surprised us. Jane Hart called the Village and explained her grand-

son, Cameron, attends the Village of Progress via our Attendance Grant Program. Her family wanted to feature the Village of Progress at an annual event that they do and said they hoped to raise some money for The Attendance Grant Program in the process.

When she called a few weeks later to explain they had had a check for \$11,000 - we were needless to say surprised.”

The Northern Illinois Belt Sander Drag Races started in the Rochelle area in 2012 when some friends got together with the idea

that anything can become a competition, including racing power tools.

They started by building a wooden track that would harness all the power of belt sanders. The first year there were approximately 16 sanders that were all in the “stock” class with

around 50 attendees.

The Attendance Grant Program is a unique benefit provided by the Village of Progress. The Attendance Grant Program lets individuals who are on the state’s waiting list attend the Village on a part-time basis — free of charge.

PEACE: Rochelle’s Soost brings K9 comfort dog to the Hub City

From page 1

In times of natural or man-made disasters, Peace and dogs like her are deployed in small groups or as part of a team to provide comfort on a larger scale. Rochelle had comfort dogs that came to town in 2015 after the EF4 tornado hit the area. Peace and Soost has responded to three hurricanes, twice in Florida and once in Elberta, Alabama, to provide comfort to families affected by them. Most recently, they were in Ft. Myers, Florida after Hurricane Ian hit.

In July 2021, the pair were in Surfside, Florida after a condo collapse. Peace was part of a team of dogs there to provide comfort. She and Soost primarily focused on first responders, and met with fire and rescue teams after their 12-hour shifts in recovery efforts.

Peace was also deployed twice to Uvalde, Texas following the school shooting that took place there.

“We deployed last September when the kids were getting ready to go back to school,” Soost said. “We went for one week and were part of a three-week mission to provide comfort to the students as they came back to school for the first time after the shooting. We were just back in Uvalde in May for the one-year remembrance of the school shooting.”

Soost’s church, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Orlando, learned about the LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry after the shootings at Pulse nightclub in Orlando where 49 lives were lost. Soost and his church saw the 12 comfort dogs that came to the city for two

weeks to provide comfort, as they were home based on their campus.

“We saw the dogs and teams in action and were able to talk with and learn from them,” Soost said. “We could truly see the impact that the dogs had with people that were grieving. We wanted to get involved with this ministry. We put in a request to get a dog and Peace came in on July 1, 2018 at 18 months old. I have five members on my team and seven on my ministry team for a total of 12.”

Soost called his and

Peace’s work “a real blessing” and said he enjoys helping to provide a moment of relief for those going through tough times. He said LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry loves developing relationships with communities that have gone through tragedies and the support doesn’t end when dogs and handlers leave.

“At our conference one of our surprise guests was our primary contact from the Uvalde school district,” Soost said. “She had come in to thank the teams that had deployed and just to share a little

bit of the progress and the steps they’ve made in recovering and healing. They’ll never be completely the same, but knowing that we’re a small part of their healing and helping them get through on a day-to-day basis is so meaningful and rewarding.”

Soost believes the work was a calling for him. He recalled a day when he took Peace to a school in Ft. Myers where a student’s father had recently passed away.

“We went into the second grade classroom and the kids were sitting

in a circle in the middle of the room,” Soost said. “Peace kept trying to get into the circle and I kept trying to slow her down. She walked in between two kids and laid down and put her head on one boy’s lap. I saw the teacher had tears in her eyes, and she said that was the student who lost their father. The dogs just have this natural sense of

who needs them. To see that boy smile, knowing the grief and pain that he’d gone through, was so heartwarming and confirms why we do what we do on a day-to-day basis.”

For more information on the LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry, visit online at www.LutheranChurchCharities.org or online at www.K9comfort.org.

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Drawing Sunday, Aug. 27 after the Car Show Proceeds to benefit Community Projects

For more information, check out Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Drawing on Facebook

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Joseph Frank Schlosser

ANOKA, Minn. — Joseph Frank Schlosser, 50, of Anoka, Minnesota, formerly of Rochelle, passed away Saturday, July 15, 2023, at his home. He was born Dec. 10, 1972, in Rochelle, the son of Robert Schlosser and Catherine (Stein) Howle.

Joe was employed at Costa Rio Tex Mex in Anoka, Minnesota, where he was known as family. In his off time, he liked to go fishing, call and talk to family, listen to music and take care of his comfort pet.

Joe is survived by his parents, Robert Schlosser and Catherine Howle both of Rochelle; sister, Linda

(Bill) Rains of Rochelle; grandmother, Mary Stein of DeKalb; nieces: Kristal Tabor of Monroe Center, and Nichole Rains of Toledo, Ohio; nephews: Matthew Tabor of Chicago, and Justin (McKayla) Rains of Polo; several great nephews and nieces and his comfort pet, Miss Kitty.

He is preceded in death by his nephew, Richard "Richie" Tabor Jr.; grandparents: Theodore and Mary Schlosser, and Gorman Stein; Uncle Patrick Stein and several more aunts and uncles.

A memorial service will be held at 3 P.M., Monday,



Aug. 7, 2023, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. Visitation will be from 2 P.M. until the time of service at the funeral home. Private interment will take place at a later date. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to single-vehicle rollover accident

OREGON — On July 29 at 4:19 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Moore Road and Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Nathan Hand, 43, of Chana for driving while license suspended. Hand was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a future court date.

On July 29 at approximately 1:11 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 8,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After an investigation, deputies placed Mykhela A. Cram, 21, of Rockford, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Cram was additionally cited for following too closely and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Cram was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On July 29 at 8:50 p.m. deputies and Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department responded to a single-vehicle rollover in the 19,000 block of East Lindenwood Road. After a brief investigation, it was determined the GMC Envoy operated by a 17-year-old female from DeKalb swerved to miss a deer, lost control and rolled several times. The juvenile was transported to an area hospital for injuries.

On July 29 at 10:54 p.m. deputies were dispatched to Lake Ladonna (1302



S. Harmony Road) for a disturbance. After an investigation, Kayla Thomas, 36, of Rockford was arrested for two counts of domestic battery. Thomas was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On July 29 at approximately 7:36 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. Upon investigation, Suzanne J. Halvorson, 65, of Byron, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked. Halvorson was also cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Halvorson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On July 30 at 11:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on West Illinois Route 64 at Ridge Road for

an equipment violation. After an investigation, Tyler Vegliando, 20, of Oregon, was arrested for no valid driver's license. Vegliando was also issued a citation for no front registration. Vegliando was released from the scene on a signature I-Bond.

On July 30 at approximately 4:56 p.m. deputies responded to an address in the 2,500 block of South Union Road in reference to a disturbance. After an investigation, Raymond Schultheis, 39, of Dixon, was placed under arrest for aggravated assault with a motor vehicle and battery. Schultheis was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Patricia Elaine Coons

ROCHELLE — Patricia Elaine Coons passed away at her home on Sunday, July 30, 2023 at the age of 76. Pat was born on Nov. 26, 1946 in Rochelle to James and Eleanor Watson. Pat was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gary Coons, and brothers David Watson and Larry (Sharon) Watson.

She is survived by her brother James (Cathy) Watson, her daughter San-

dra Coons, granddaughters Abby Martin and Maggie Weber, great grandson Tate Martin, and many nieces and nephews. Pat retired from Eaton Corporation and was a lifetime Moose Club member. She enjoyed spending time with her family, friends, and dog Charlie. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Aug. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Rochelle Moose Club. Arrangements were



entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make arrests

ROCHELLE — On July 28 at 12:26 a.m. a 16-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery.

On July 28 at 11:09 a.m. Angelo Aguinaga, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. He was released

on an I-Bond with a Sept. 1 Ogle County court date.

On July 30 at 1:43 p.m. Maria J. Alejos Salazar, 21, of Orlando, Florida was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond with a Sept. 1 Ogle County court date.

On July 31 at 1:20 p.m. Jose A. Cosme Morales, 43, of Rockford was arrested for no valid driver's license. He will have an Aug. 25 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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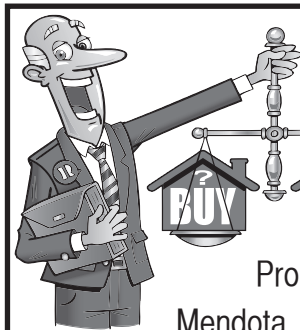
Local Girl Scouts receive \$1,750 grant from RACF

ROCHELLE — Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois received a generous \$1,750 grant from the Rochelle Area Community Foundation on May 1. Funds

from this grant are being used to support programming designed to engage and empower current and future Latina and Hispanic members within the

organization, especially volunteers in the Rochelle area by translating current lesson and activity documents, as well as welcome documents, into Spanish.

GSNI would like to thank RACF for joining in the Girl Scout Mission where our future community leaders have a space all their own.



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Annual Ogle County 4-H Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction set for Aug. 5

OREGON — The annual 4-H Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction has been set for Saturday, Aug. 5. It will be held at the Ogle County Fair at the fairgrounds in Oregon. The 4-H Auction Committee invites the public to support 4-H project work by bidding on a quality 4-H animal.

The auction will start at 3 p.m. in the Beef Arena. It will feature 4-H market hogs, lambs, beef animals, goats, poultry and rabbits as well as the champion and reserve champion beef, swine, lamb and goat carcasses.

Live animals may be purchased and sent to a locker or may be bought and resold at a slaughterhouse. Transportation to processing plants will be provided. A floor price will be set according to the current market trends the day of the auction. A list of current market prices will be available. Champion and

Reserve Champion market animals will be sold first. Pork and lamb carcasses will be sold whole. Beef carcasses will be sold in halves.

Auction order will be: Sheep Carcass, Live Sheep, Live Poultry, Live Rabbits, Dairy Basket, Dairy & Meat Goat Wethers, Swine Carcass, Live Swine, Beef Carcass, Live Beef, Live Swine and Live Beef.

Auction flyers are available in the Ogle County Extension Office and online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/4-h-ogle-county>. Bidding arrangements can be made for interested parties who are unable to attend. For more information or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please call the Ogle County Extension office at (815) 732-2191. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

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REPORT POLICY

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police,

the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

FIRE: Camper and detached garage a total loss after Sunday blaze

A photograph of a severely damaged white motorhome. The vehicle's side and roof are heavily compromised, with large sections missing, exposing a dark, charred interior. Debris, including twisted metal, wood, and unidentifiable fragments, is scattered on the ground in front of the vehicle. The scene suggests a major fire or explosion.


and made sure that the occupant of the residence knew that the building was on fire. We applauded them for being heads up and having some situational awareness.”



Local 4-H youth take home awards at horse show



Award (tie)- Hannah Treme, DeKalb and Lexi Suddeth, DeKalb. Junior Horse Speed Award- Addison Yordy, Ogle. Reserve Junior Horse Speed Award- Tessa Bruns, Ogle. Senior Horse Speed Award- Lexi Suddeth, DeKalb. Reserve Senior Horse Speed Award (tie)- Hannah Treme, DeKalb and Molly Ziegler, Ogle.

Kaiser — 

Malinois lover?? I'm Kaiser, a 4 1/2 year old guy looking for a special forever home. You see I'm a working breed, so I need to live and love an experienced dog owner, one who would like to work with me and that understands Malinois, Shepherd or other working dog types. I'm a great boy who loves belly rubs, ear scratches and people! For fun I like playing, cuddling, and going for walks. I'd love to find an active person or family who will keep my super brain working as well as having good time. I already know a whole lot, in fact a volunteer nicknamed me Kaiser Von Smartipants! I've spent time playing with other dogs here and enjoy a good game of chase! Please come in and meet me...or tell your friends about me! I miss having a family of my own.

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Did you know?

There are over 75 million
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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Kern: How the EPA views renewable fuels

NO doubt that biofuels like soy diesel and ethanol add tremendous value to the crops farmers produce. That is why we keep negotiating with EPA to expand the use of these clean-burning renewable fuels. It has been a struggle mainly because of politics, not facts. With all the hype about moving vehicles towards electric it's no wonder farmers are worried. In the meantime let's look at how the EPA views the renewable fuels industry compliments of American Farm Bureau.

In December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed multi-year rule on renewable fuel requirements for the liquid fuel industry. On June 21, they issued a final version of that rule that establishes RVO targets and percentage standards for 2023 to 2025 and modifies the RFS program. This market intel provides an analysis of the changes to the RFS standards and their potential impacts on farmers.

The RFS program was established in 2005 and expanded under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which specified mandatory volumes of renewable liquid fuel use only through 2022 and required EPA to set levels after that. In this rule EPA is establishing

final Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO) for 2023-2025 – volumes of fuels of various categories that the liquid fuel industry is required to incorporate into their supply to replace petroleum-based fuel for all categories under its authority. When determining RVOs for years after 2022, EPA must consider a variety of factors specified in the statute, including costs, air quality, climate change, implementation of the program to date, energy security, infrastructure issues, commodity prices, water quality and supply.

EPA was required by statute to release its 2023 RVO levels by November 2021. Pushed by legal action by Growth Energy, a national biofuels association, and a under a consent decree agreement reached in federal court between EPA and Growth Energy, the final rule was finally published on June 21.

The final rule increases total renewable fuel volumes to 22.33 billion gallons by 2025, up 1.7 billion gallons, or eight percent, from 2022. This includes an increase of 120 million gallons in 2023, another 600-million-gallon increase in 2024, and a final increase of 790 million gallons in 2025.

Biomass diesel: The final rule increases biomass-based diesel RVOs

(which includes biodiesel, renewable diesel, heating oil and jet fuel) by 60 million gallons to 2.82 billion gallons in 2023, by 220 million gallons to 3.04 billion gallons in 2024, and by 310 million gallons to 3.35 billion gallons in 2025. The RVO is calculated by subtracting total advanced biofuel from total renewable fuel. According to a report by USDA's Economic Research Service, the United States had the capacity to produce over four billion gallons of biodiesel and renewable diesel from 83 plants on Jan. 1, 2022.

Advanced biofuel: The final rule increases the RVO for advanced biofuel (made from qualifying biomass other than cornstarch) by 310 million gallons in 2023, 600 million gallons in 2024, and 790 million gallons in 2025. The majority of growth in total renewable fuel comes from increases in the RVO for advanced biofuel.

Renewable Fuel: refers to biofuel, including ethanol, derived from starch feedstocks. The implied conventional biofuel requirement finalized by EPA is 15.25 billion gallons for 2023, and 15 billion gallons for 2024 and 2025. This was reduced from the proposed rule's 250-million-gallon implied conventional fuel supplement through 2025.

Renewable Identification Number (RINs) are attached to each gallon of renewable fuel produced. This is a measure of energy contained in each gallon of renewable fuel produced relative to the energy contained in one gallon of ethanol. One gallon of biomass-based diesel contains about 150% of the energy contained in one gallon of ethanol, so each gallon produced yields 1.5 RINs. For the final rule, EPA adjusted the conversion factor for biomass-based diesel to 1.6.

The rule proposed by EPA in December 2022 included the addition of a RIN-generating pathway for electricity made from renewable biomass and used as transportation fuel. The system was intended to provide greater beneficial use of landfills and digesters as a source for renewable energy. EPA decided not to move forward with e-RINs in the final rule, citing varied comments from stakeholders as the reason for this decision. EPA further attributes reductions in the cellulosic biofuel RVO to this decision.

On the soybean side, U.S. biomass-based diesel supplies (including imports) were about 3.1 billion gallons in 2021 and about 3.2 billion gallons in 2022. USDA now projects 12.5 billion pounds of

soybean oil will be used to produce biodiesel during the 2023/24 marketing year, up nearly eight percent over 2022. The use of soybean oil for biodiesel production as a percent of total consumption surpassed the use of corn for ethanol production in 2020 and has continued to climb.

EPA's proposed rule sets RVOs for biomass-based diesel at 2.82 billion gallons for 2023, 3.04 billion gallons in 2024, and 3.35 billion gallons in 2025. According to the final rule, the 3.35-billion-gallon RVO for 2025 would be about 7.7 percent above 2022 supply levels and 3.7 percent above projected supplies for 2023/24.

The 5.95-billion-RIN RVO falls far short of the U.S. capacity of 14.3 billion RINs. The RVO is increased significantly compared to the proposed rule, but it promises to lag behind renewable fuel production capacity, so it will limit the RFS' short- and medium-term positive price impact on RINs and biofuels and curb the biomass-based industry's policy-based incentive to grow. In the proposed rule, EPA included a 250-million-gallon supplemental increase over the 15-billion-gallon RVO for implied conventional fuel for 2024 and 2025. EPA did not include these

additional gallons in the final rule, putting implied conventional fuel at 15 billion gallons for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Renewable fuels have provided a significant and steady market for American growers. In the 2023/24 marketing year, 5.3 billion bushels of corn, nearly 37 percent of total U.S. consumption, are projected to be used by ethanol producers. At the same time, 12.5 billion pounds of soybean oil, the oil from over one billion bushels of soybeans, is projected to be used in biodiesel production.

The final volume increases raise the floor for demand in the biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuel sector; but as long as they lag behind capacity, they will not incentivize continued growth in a sector that has made a substantial contribution to corn and soy demand for American farmers, and to the overall sustainability of American energy supplies. The rule further reduces this floor through the removal of the 250-million-gallon supplemental conventional fuel requirement for 2023, 2024 and 2025, leading to lower corn demand and the implications that come with that.

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

Roberts: ChatGPT: The latest rage

THERE has been much discussion and excitement about ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer). ChatGPT has many applications, but this article focuses on using ChatGPT for writing. ChatGPT is a computer program (app) that responds to queries in a conversational or report-type of format.

ChatGPT, using artificial intelligence (AI), understands the context of your inquiry and attempts to generate a relevant response. For instance, if you type "write a birthday greeting for my wife" on your keyboard, ChatGPT

will spit back, "Happy Birthday to the love of my life! Today is a special day to celebrate the incredible person you are. Your presence fills my world with joy, laughter and endless love. Each day spent by your side is a cherished blessing, and I'm grateful for the beautiful moments we share."

I doubt I could have composed anything as wonderful as this, but my wife might not believe it was my own words either. Writers are using ChatGPT to fill in areas of a manuscript that need more words (adding fluff). Students use

ChatGPT to generate reports for classes, which is a problem for teachers as this is akin to plagiarism. There are also issues with copyright infringement.

ChatGPT tends to diminish creativity since a couple of keystrokes do the creativity for you. It assembles words from trillion-word databases around the internet to make something that sounds meaningful, but here is the catch, the result may be in error or not make sense. For instance, I am finishing up a book on the submarine Bluefish (Jim Moorhead's boat). To see what kind of response I would get,

I queried ChatGPT to "give a history of the Bluefish in WWII." The response was generally factual, except for a sentence explaining that the Bluefish rescued a particular person. I had never heard of this person. I reviewed logs, diaries and searched a half dozen search engines but found no data on this person. It was probably a result of a fictitious assemblage of words. Recently in New York, a federal judge sanctioned two lawyers for submitting a legal brief with six fictitious case citations generated by ChatGPT. The lawyers had asked ChatGPT to

generate a legal brief with case citations, which the lawyers did not verify and turned out to be fabricated. ChatGPT gives no references and should not be considered authoritative, or relied on, without verifying the material by other means.

ChatGPT is useful in creative writing by generating story ideas, enhancing character development, and giving information for further development of your work. I find ChatGPT to be useful, especially when having writer's block. I use it to get ideas but always find a reference to verify what

it puts out. There is a bias when using AI programs like this based on the programmer's view of the world. Efforts are being made to minimize bias and the generation of misinformation. ChatGPT's knowledge base utilizes data up until September 2021. Queries relating to more recent history or news are unavailable. ChatGPT utilizes existing data but cannot generate original insights or thoughts. ChatGPT is a useful tool, but caution is advised when relying on what it spits out.

Disclaimer: This article was not written by ChatGPT.

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Flagg Township

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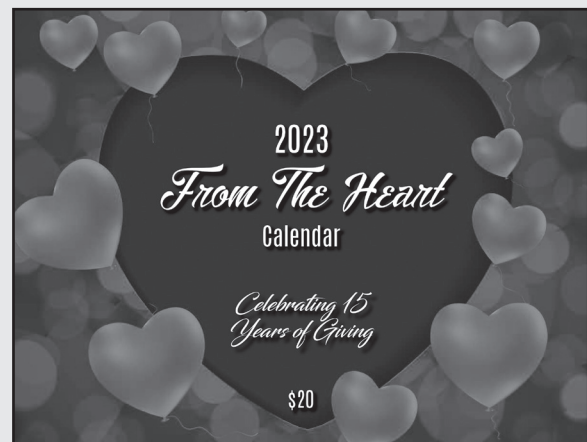
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Why do most cartoon and picture captions seem to be inspired? Because they are underwritten.

— Weekly SUDOKU —

— **NIOMSSORU HUNY** —

Cryptologic
answer

LOCAL NEWS

PRABHAKAR: 82-year-old reflects on lengthy tennis career

From page 1

Prabhakar has spent time playing tennis around the area as well, including indoors during the winters. He's played in tournaments in Chicago and plays during his occasional time in California. When he went abroad on mission trips, he played in Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, Swaziland and England.

"I really enjoy tennis," Prabhakar said. "We've gone on mission trips all over the world. And I've played tennis everywhere. And everywhere has a story. I always took my racket."

Before retirement, Prabhakar was a longtime doctor and surgeon at Rochelle Community Hospital.

"Tennis has been my life," Prabhakar said. "When I was a doctor, the operating room crew gave me a scrub shirt that said, 'I'd rather be playing tennis.' In the early days when I was playing tennis, there were no cell phones or pagers. I was a surgeon in Rochelle and on call 24/7. When I played tennis, the police car would come and say I was needed in the emergency room."

John's wife, Esther, said that tennis has been a good outlet for her husband, especially during his career that could be stressful at times.

"He was dealing with performing serious sur-

geries and taking care of patients," Esthersaid. "And then he was able to just go out and play tennis and be refreshed and rejuvenated. When he was working as a doctor, whenever he went out to play tennis I'd always be thinking that it was increasing his lifespan. I have always been thankful that he has tennis. Because when he comes back, he's a happy man."

Age isn't the only thing that John has overcome to still be playing the sport that he loves. He's had both knees replaced, and both times he was back on the court in three months. He's overcome kidney disease and dialysis to keep playing as well. He had a heart attack in 2020 and had stents put in. After four weeks and cardiac rehab, he was back playing tennis.

"I want to keep playing as long as I can," John said. "I thank God all the time for that. Even when I was doing everything right, I had a heart attack or my kidneys failed. I've always exercised regularly and played tennis. A lot of the people that are my age don't play tennis anymore. The only thing I can say is it's God's grace. I try to be as healthy as I can so I can enjoy tennis."

Tennis has also been passed down in the Prabhakar family. His son, grandson and granddaughters play as well. His grandson



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Prabhakar has spent time playing tennis around the area as well, including indoors during the winters. He's played in tournaments in Chicago and plays during his occasional time in California.

started playing at age 4 or 5 and John taught him how to score.

"When he was young, I'd let him win," John said. "He grew to become a very good player and played in college. Now when he comes here, he's my partner. Because I enjoy tennis so much, I'm glad that they enjoy it."

John has watched his favorite sport's popularity ebb and flow both locally and nationally over the years. He recalls how popular it was when he first

moved to town. He enjoyed seeing Rochelle Township High School tennis send two players to state this past year. He'll sometimes play with the high school's team members and try to encourage them or point out something they can work on.

"I feel really good about the future of Rochelle tennis," John said. "I have seen many young people playing on the courts in town. On Saturdays sometimes we have 24 players, enough to fill six courts.

I think Rochelle tennis is in good hands with Kristy Eckardt, Randy Paisley, John Michael Loggins and Lizzie Cartwright teaching and coaching the younger generation."

Prabhakar only plays doubles now due to his age. In his tennis group, two are in their 80s and another will be 80 next year. John's hope and wish is that many of them will be playing even beyond their 80s. He said the game has opened many doors for him, most notably having the privilege

of making many friends in Rochelle, California and in other countries around the world.

"I think I'm an example that people can play tennis even at my age," Prabhakar said. "I've played with some that are older than me. Tennis is a gentleman's game. And it's good exercise for your body. And you build relationships, which is more important than the other two things. I'm so glad that God has enabled me to play even at this age. I'll keep on doing this."

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JAN 2023

RTHS Tennis

Area netters take the court

RTHS hosts 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament July 28-29

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

(COURTESY PHOTO)

The 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament was held from July 28-29 at the Rochelle Township High School tennis courts. Above are the medalist winners from the Men's Doubles Division, which was one of 13 divisions featured in the two-day tournament.

ROCHELLE — The 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament was held at Rochelle Township High School on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29. The event featured 106 tennis players across 13 divisions from 43 different cities as well as a garage sale of tennis items. All proceeds from the tournament benefited the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub tennis programs.

Ottawa's John and Vadim Cheli finished first in the nine-team Parent & Child Division, while Rockford's Matt and Margaret Trowbridge took second. Dixon's Jamie Brigl and Oregon's Kristy Eckardt won the 11-team Women's Doubles Division, while Naperville's Samantha Hathaway and Sycamore's Lisa Sanderson took second. Sycamore's Patty Poorten and St. Charles' Antoinette Shannon placed third and Rockford's Margaret and Jeanne Trowbridge took fourth.

Rick and Randy Paisley of Gurnee and Rochelle finished first in the 13-team Men's Doubles Division.

Rockford's John McKenzie and Davenport's Chris Voelker took second, while Aurora's Ira Lathan and Oswego's Aaron Kramer placed third and Rochelle's David Wanner and Owen Haas took fourth. Ottawa's Rylan Dorsey and LaSalle's Cali Mickley finished first in the three-team High School Mixed Doubles Division, while Pontiac's Olivia Bonniver and Dylan LeBlanc took second place and Oregon's Sarah and David Eckardt finished in third place.

Ashton's Jim Kohlert and Mendota's Greg Gromann finished first in the two-team Senior Doubles Division, while Rochelle's Roy Threlkeld and John Prabhakar took second. Oregon's Andy and Kristy Eckardt finished first in the 15-team Mixed Doubles Division, while Dixon's Grace Ferguson and Logan Moeller took second. Davenport's Chris Voelker and Bettendorf's Yen Dao placed third and Rockford's Matt and Jeanne Trowbridge finished in fourth place.

Ottawa's Rylee O'Fallon and Emma Cushing finished first in the three-team High School Girls Doubles Division. Streator's Maddie Wahl and Mina James took second, while Rochelle's Allison Dickey and Catherine Williams placed third. Freeport's Auston and Angelina Sala won the three-team 6th-9th Grade Doubles Division, while McHenry's Grace and Claire Betts took second place. Oregon's Danny Chisamore and David Eckardt finished in third.

See TENNIS page 3

Rochelle Rays

Swim team hosts second meet of 2023 season

Rochelle takes on Dixon Dolphins, Catch the Wave South Beloit at Spring Lake

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Rays swim team members Owen Haas, Nolan Johnson, Caleb Johnson and Kaenan McDevitt set a new 200-yard freestyle relay record in the 15-18 Boys Division, clocking in with a time of 1:48.06 to surpass the previous time of 1:50.97 set in 2003.

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Rays returned for their second home swim meet of the 2023 season at Spring Lake Pool on Thursday, July 20. The Rays raced against the Dixon Dolphins and South Beloit's Catch the Wave, with several swimmers recording top finishes in the meet.

Ali Ohlinger set a new 200-yard freestyle record with a time of 2:26.06, breaking the previous record established in 2009. Rochelle swimmers Owen Haas, Nolan Johnson, Caleb Johnson and Kaenan McDevitt set a new 200-yard freestyle relay record in the 15-18 Boys Division, clocking in with a time of 1:48.06 to surpass the previous time of 1:50.97 set in 2003.

Head coach Tori Johnson said that Rochelle's 8-and-under boys group of Brody Lofthouse, Eoghan Good, Waylon Casey and Corbin Streit all swam well during Thursday's meet. Johnson also credited 11 and 12-year-old girls Samantha Garcia, Megan Johnson, Madisyn Ruthe, Savannah Goodrich, Gwen Good, Daphne Wise, Grace Walters and Natalie McCandless for their efforts in the water on Thursday. Rochelle swam against the Geneseo Gators on July 13.

"Our 8-and-under group of boys did great for both of their relays," Johnson said. "All boys except for Eoghan are first-years swimmers and it's been so exciting watching all of them improve each meet with big smiles every time. Our 11 and 12-year-old girls also did great in their relays. Both groups of girls swam beautifully and were very successful in the meet."



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HUB SPOTLIGHT

DeLille makes most of second chance at Carthage

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MASON DeLille recalled a moment during his senior year at Carthage College where he asked his mother, Marcy, to bring his track and field spikes home with her. It was a sobering moment for the RTHS alum, who had just been discharged from a local hospital and was convinced that his collegiate athletic career was over after suffering a medical emergency last September.

DeLille had been attending his usual Friday morning class and was excited to come home and watch his younger brother, Landon, compete for the Rochelle Hub varsity football team during the school's Homecoming contest against Sycamore. Halfway through the class, however, DeLille began noticing issues, including discoloration and a tingling sensation, in his right arm.

Without a pulse in his injured arm, DeLille left class and drove himself to the local hospital. A CT scan later on revealed that DeLille had several blood clots in his lungs, which led to four days of testing as well as the start of a blood-thinning treatment that would ultimately last six months.

"My initial thought was that I was going to lose my arm," DeLille said. "It was a long process and I had to take daily doses of blood thinners. I also wasn't able to stay active physically until the doctors found out what the problem was. I certainly wasn't all there mentally and I wasn't in a good state, but I knew I needed to stay strong... I knew I needed to keep a positive attitude because nothing good would come out of moping around or making excuses for myself."

After four months of tests and hospital visits, including one on his 21st birthday, DeLille was diagnosed with a rare condition called thoracic outlet syndrome, which involves the compression of blood vessels or nerves which can lead to pain in the arm, shoulder or neck. DeLille was also diagnosed with a second rare condition known as Paget-Schroetter Syndrome, which sees as few as 3,000 diagnosed cases in the United States each year according to ASH Clinical News.

The two diagnoses set the stage for a series of procedures, including a rib resection and the removal of muscle, in early February. The procedures were successful, so much so that DeLille was discharged from the hospital quickly enough to make his long-awaited return to RTHS, where he saw his brother Landon and five other student-athletes honored during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team's Senior Night contest against the Ottawa Pirates on Feb. 3.

"I had an appointment on my birthday and I was doing tests in the hospital," DeLille said. "I received a call that night



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Former Rochelle student-athlete Mason DeLille overcame a medical emergency last fall to finish his senior year at Carthage College, earning All-Conference honors in the javelin throw.

and was told to come in and do another test called a double-arm venogram. The doctors were able to pinpoint the problem and I received my diagnoses. Once I was diagnosed, I was able to start doing minor activities including jogging and other daily activities. I had my first rib resection during the first week of February and I was out and about only days later. I wasn't fully cleared until April 1 and I was very anxious to get back into things."

With a recovery plan and a path forward, DeLille set his sights on returning for his senior season of track and field, something he had given up on months prior. DeLille was fully cleared on April 1 and opened his senior season one day later, finishing seventh at the Wisconsin Private College Championships in the javelin throw, an event that became his specialty last season.

"I was confident that there was no way I'd be able to compete this year," DeLille said. "Finding a solution in December and having surgery in February caused me to miss the indoor season, but I wasn't affected too much other than missing my training. It felt great to be back on the field and I was super excited to be ready to go. I had no practice, but I wanted to make the most of it."

DeLille started in six meets during his senior season, which concluded with a career-best javelin performance at the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Outdoor Championships in early May.

See **DELILLE** page 3

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SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament was held from July 28-29 at the Rochelle Township High School tennis courts. Above are the medalist winners from the Women's Doubles Division (above left) as well as the Mixed Doubles Division (above right), 6th-9th Grade Doubles Division (below left) and Senior Doubles Division (below right). The tournament featured 106 players from 43 different cities.

TENNIS: Annual tournament held at RTHS from July 28-29

From page 1

Freeport's Auston and Angelina Sala finished first and second in the Junior High Singles Division, with other participants including Grace Betts, Claire Betts, David Eckardt and Dawson Berg. Sycamore's Liam Kerbel finished first in the High School Boys Singles Division with 24 points, while Dixon's Bashar Elbzour took second with 16 points. Other participants included Jimmy Chavez, Luke Curtis, Rylan Salas, Danny Chisamore IV, Dylan LeBlanc and Regan Ni.

North Aurora's Kelsey Danner finished first in the High School Girls Singles Division, while Sycamore's Jetta Weaver took second. Other participants included Cali Mickley, Olivia Bonniver, Ella Kamke, Isabel Bucio and Jocelyn Alvarado. Oregon's Kristy Eckardt won the Women's Singles Division, while Naperville's Samantha Hathaway took second. Other participants included Anna Guevara, Emma Stumpf, Jamie Brigl, Jessica Timm and Krystal Baggett.

Oswego's Aaron Kramer won the Men's Singles Division, while Western Springs' Rob Vogt took second and two players including Rochelle's David Waner and Ottawa's Vadim Cheli placed third. Other participants included Ira Lathan, Tommy Davies, Tristan Plaut, Greg Locascio, Joey Sloan, Miguel Morales, Alex Jenkin, Ethan Krafft, John Cheli, James Harder, Nicholas Born and Peter Pascua.

See pages 7 and 8 for more photos of medalist winners from the 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament at RTHS.

DELILLE: RTHS alum takes second at CCIW Outdoor Championships in javelin

From page 2

DeLille set a new personal record by a wide margin, medaling in second place with a mark of 48.79 meters (160 feet 1 inch) to earn All-Conference honors for the third straight year.

"I felt like I went out with a bang," DeLille said. "It wound up being a very good season for me. I ended my career as a three-time All-Conference athlete. I tried not to put too much pressure on myself and I went into the conference meet as if it were any other meet... I was really happy to finish the way I did and it meant a lot to me and my coaches."

Coming back and having the best throw of my life felt like a moment of redemption and it was nice to have that feeling."

DeLille spent four years with the Carthage men's track and field team, competing in the long jump, triple jump and high jump before settling into the javelin throw later in his career. The former Hub track and field standout graduated earlier this year, earning his bachelor's degree with a major in mathematics and a minor in economics. An IHSA state qualifier and the current RTHS record holder in the triple jump, DeLille said he intends to pursue a career in analytics.

"It was great meeting new people and experiencing new competition," DeLille said. "I saw a lot of growth from my freshman year and I didn't have that experience in high school since I came in as an older guy and one of the top guys. I thought I matured a lot and I was able to climb the ladder... Life isn't all about sports and there are always other things to look forward to. I knew that I was going to graduate whether I had my senior track season or not, so looking forward to other aspects of life is always the priority. It's an extra blessing to do the extra fun things."

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ASHTON NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center school staff wraps up summer professional learning

Ashton-Franklin Center School District staff recently wrapped up its last day of professional learning for summer 2023 with 6-12 math teachers being trained on illustrative mathematics our its 6-12 curricular resource. The week prior, K-5 teachers spent two days being trained in bridges mathematics, a new K-5 curricular resource. In June, all K-12 ELA teachers spent a week learning about the best practices of ELA teaching and learning. "AFC teachers dedicated many hours to growing professionally this summer! We are so lucky to have such amazing teachers," a district Facebook post said.



Left: Nick Dinges, CEO, Dinges Fire Company, right: Dave Rider, vice president, sales, HME Ahrens-Fox.

HME Ahrens-Fox appoints Dinges Fire Company as an authorized HME dealer

WYOMING, Mich.—HME Ahrens-Fox (HME) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dinges Fire Company (DFC) as a new HME dealer covering six states located in the Midwest. DFC is authorized to sell and service the complete HME portfolio in its assigned territories. Dinges Fire Company is privately held and located in Amboy. The company has demonstrated consistent growth – particularly over the last eight years. Their success is the result of multiple factors including: Offering a broad assortment of quality brands and products, building a team with deep knowledge of the fire service and a passion for protecting first responders, creation of a scalable business model that's built around the

needs of the customer and anchored by purpose-built systems for customer support operations and marketing. Building trust with customers by prioritizing transparency. A consistent commitment to support the communities in which they operate. "HME is committed to expanding its business in the Midwest and we see the addition of the Dinges Fire Company to the HME dealer network as a large step forward in achieving that goal," Gary Troost, president, HME Ahrens-Fox, said. "The Dinges team is differentiated by their business success and culture. Their ability to maintain standards, customer satisfaction levels and execute on plan and – throughout their many growth cycles – sets them

apart." Both HME and the DFC share a passion for the fire service. With a workforce that has over 2,000 years of fire service experience, DFC is uniquely qualified to serve as a trusted advisor to fire departments as they evaluate and source new apparatus. Dinges Fire Company will represent HME in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Michigan (Western). "Our team is excited. We see the combination of the HME product and the Dinges customer experience as a very compelling value proposition that will accelerate our apparatus business in multiple geographies," Nick Dinges, chief executive officer, Dinges Fire Company said.

Extension events set for August

LEE COUNTY—The local University of Illinois Extension Offices recently released their events for August and September. Container Fruits | Growing Hort in NW Illinois, Aug. 3 | 3:30-4:30 p.m., Lee Extension Office. Lacking a large landscape and love home-grown fruits? Look to container gardening: fruit edition! Horticulture in Northwest Illinois is for anyone interested in learning more about gardening, growing food in a home or community garden, or looking for ideas for the upcoming growing season. Register for one

or more of the sessions at go.illinois.edu/LeeGrow-ingHort. Before the Build: Considerations for Backyard Greenhouses | Four Seasons Gardening, Aug. 22 | 1:30 p.m., online. Have you ever thought of going outside to your backyard greenhouse during the cold weather months to pick fresh lettuce or plant some basil? Explore a variety of budget-friendly backyard greenhouses, what can be grown in them, and how to extend a growing season. Four Seasons Gardening sessions led by Extension's horticulture experts are free to attend, and

registration is required at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons. Considerations for Backyard Greenhouses will be offered at 1:30 p.m. online on Aug. 22. Master Gardener Training, Tuesdays Sept. 12- Nov. 28 | 9 a.m. to 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/CLW-mgtraining. For questions, contact Bruce Black at 815-632-3611.



Ashton-Franklin Center FFA competes at Section 2 Vo-Ag Fair

Thirty five AFC FFA members showed more than 250 projects at the Section 2 Vo-Ag recently. Projects included horticulture, swine, vegetables, rabbits and chickens.

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ON THE FARM



Steps farmers can take to combat climate change

CLIMATE change is a challenge the world must confront together. Though people from all walks of life and in all corners of the world will be affected by rising global temperatures and the ripple effects of such increases, the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector figures to be especially significant.

Farmers have been on the front lines in the fight against climate change for decades. When storms strike and climate patterns

shift, farmers must find ways to adapt or potentially lose their livelihoods. Experts warn that the planet is warming at a pace that could prove devastating. For example, one assessment conducted under the World Climate Research Programme and published in 2020 in the Reviews of Geophysics concluded that the warming range of the planet will be between 2.6°C and 3.9°C.

Everyone must do their part in an effort to avoid the more drastic out-

comes associated with climate change. Farmers can explore these ways to combat climate change as they look to protect their personal and financial futures.

- Curtail methane emissions. The European Environment Agency notes that capturing methane from manure is one way for farmers to reduce agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions. The California Climate & Agriculture Networks notes that more than half of the state's agricultural emis-

sions come from livestock in the form of methane. The nonprofit organization Foodwise reports that holistic, pasture-based livestock management utilizing practices like rotational grazing can help mitigate methane emissions from livestock.

- Emphasize efficient use of fertilizers. The EEA recommends efficient use of fertilizers as another means to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture notes that the greatest efficiency typically comes from the first increment of added fertilizer/nutrients, with each additional increment thereafter resulting in lower efficiency. Making every effort to make the most of initial applications can save farmers money and reduce the impact on the environment.

- Participate in and help promote local farmers markets. Foodwise notes that food in the United States travels an average of 1,500 miles before

it ends up on consumers' plates. Transporting foods that far contributes to more greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers who can sell to local farmers markets can help reduce such emissions. Promoting those efforts via social media pages or other public platforms can increase consumer awareness of the availability of fresh, locally grown foods.

The challenges posed by climate change are not going away. Farmers can take various steps to overcome those challenges.



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10:00 a.m.

Auctioneers Note: This auction features equipment and tools from Les's farming operation along with several generations of collectibles and household items. This will be a live, onsite auction at the farm. There will also be live internet simulcast bidding on select machinery items at EquipmentFacts.com. Visit our website for full info and photos at bearrows.com. There will be something for everyone. Lunch available and comfort station.

Farm Machinery: (Selling at approx. 12:00 p.m.), **John Deere 6030** #033944, 1973 model, Cab, syncro, 3pt, 3 remotes, 24.5-32 rears, with clamp on duals, 9967 hours; **John Deere 6620 Combine** #456559 shows 3044 hours, hydro, chopper, spreader; **John Deere 444** Corn head 4 row 38"; **John Deere 216** platform, 16'; **EZ Trail 672** Head cart; **Avco / New Idea 708 Uni system** w/ 838 uni-husker corn picker and 841 4 row 36" corn head - corn head has a gear box out; **John Deere 4010** diesel #39439 nf, syncro, 2 remotes, 540 pto - not running; **International 350** utility, wf, w/ loader and manure forks- not running; **Machinery: 2- Case IH 5100** 12' soybean special grain drills with tandem hitch assembly, grass seed, and markers; Brillion SG-1 20" soil finisher w/ 5 bar drag; JD 14' disk, 9" spacing; Glencoe 30' field cultivator w/ 3 bar drag; Kewanee 20' disk, 9" spacing w/ buster bar; Krause 25' disk, 9" spacing; Glencoe Soil Saver 11 shank disk chisel plow w/ drag; JD 7000 8 row straight bar pull type planter, 36"; JD 101 30' planter trailer; JD Van Brunt model B grain drill, 12' w/ grass seed 2- 4 row wide JD front mount cultivators; 3 single mulcher sections 2- 6' and 1- 8'; JD 14' 3pt double rotary hoe; Glencoe 8r 36" cultivator; JD 5 bottom semi mount plow; JD 4-14" trailer plow; JD 145H 4 bt semi mount plow; Oliver pull type 13' field cultivator; 4 section drag on cart; M&W 200B gravity wagon; EZ Flow gravity wagon on 1065 JD gear; DMI side dump gravity wagon; Several running gears in various conditions; King Kutter 4' 3pt rotary mower; 6' rotary mower; Peerless roller mill; New Holland 469 9' Haybine; New Holland 451 sickle mower 7'; Case IH 8430 round baler, twine; NH 78 square baler; NH 256 rake; steel wheel rake; JD #15 flail chopper 5' cut; Knight live bottom barge box; South east 3pt quick hitch; Little Giant conveyor 8' flat, 8' incline, 4' rise; 1986 Ford F-700, gas, 123k, w/ 14' box, not running, box floor in poor condition; 1989 Bonanza steel, gooseneck stock trailer, 16', single slam, poor floor and tires. **Compact Tractor, Mower, Tools, and Farm Items:** John Deere 2210 compact tractor #215197, 954 hrs, diesel, MFWD, hydro, 3pt, 540 pto includes JD 62" deck and Woods 1005 loader w/ 4' bucket; Cub Cadet Z force zero turn mower w/ 50" deck; Bolens Huski walk behind tractor w/ disk, plow, and field cult attachments; Dalton Type "B" metal lathe; Sun Battery starter/tester; 7" metal band saw; flare box A frame; Contintal 4000 shop hoist; Linco welder 225 gas generator / welder - not running; Continental 30 Ton shop press; Sears 1000lb engine stand; craftsman riding mower; 10" radial arm saw; Chicken plucker; chicken feeders; assorted hand and power tools; assorted misc parts and farm items. **Household & Collectibles:** There will be a large quantity of usual household items including antiques & collectables. Vist our web site www.bearrows.com and click on the Auctionzip link.

Consigned by neighbors: Farmall C Tractor, nf, w/ belly mounted blade; IH 430 baler; New Idea 2 row pull type corn picker; Case 580L Loader / Backhoe, 3890 Hours, MFWD, Extend-a-hoe, 4 speed shuttle shift, Cab w/ heat, 81" loader bucket and 22" backhoe bucket, 19.5-24 rears, 12-16 fronts.

Estate of Leslie Mullins Jr. - Paw Paw IL
Leanne Dickson, Owner

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SPORTS



RTHS hosts 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament from July 28-29

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament was held from July 28-29 at the Rochelle Township High School tennis courts. Above are medalists from the High School Mixed Doubles Division (above left and center) as well as the Junior High Singles Division (above right), the High School Girls Singles Division (below left), the High School Boys Singles Division (below center) and the Women's Singles Division (below right).

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SPORTS



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The 4th Annual Rochelle Summer Tennis Tournament was held from July 28-29 at the Rochelle Township High School tennis courts. Above are medalists from the Parent & Child Doubles Division (above left and center) as well as the High School Girls Doubles Division (above right and below right) and the Men's Singles Division (below left and center).

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- 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.
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- 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
- 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.

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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