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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, AUG. 13, 2023

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**Page 7**

## WEATHER

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<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>84 61</b>	<b>76 64</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>78 58</b>	<b>83 60</b>

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## OBITUARIES

• JOANNE AGNES ROGDE  
• PATRICIA 'PAT' HALL

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## Tilton School in need of improvements District to utilize new communication program

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education gave its permission to District Business Manager Kevin Dale to begin the borrowing process to finance facilities improvements after it was recently found that Tilton School is in need of \$8-12 million in work to bring it up to code and date.

The board began discussing and assessing its facilities' needs in fall 2022 and has had a specialized committee meeting on the topic for several months. Tilton School's 10-year health life safety evaluation was moved up a year early due to the district anticipating needed improvements. The board also heard a presentation recently on its bond capacity to see its borrowing options for the financing of improvements.

Dale said the findings on Tilton's needs are nearly finalized and the district should have the final report by the board's September meeting.

"There were potential things flagged that we weren't aware of," Dale



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting, the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education gave its permission to District Business Manager Kevin Dale to begin the borrowing process to finance facilities improvements after it was recently found that Tilton School is in need of \$8-12 million in work.**

said. "Some of those concerns kind of add more costs for repairs than we were originally thinking with regards to Tilton School. Numbers are now roughly estimated at anywhere from \$8-12 million into the existing building to bring it up to code and bring it up to date."

Tilton School is nearly 80 years old. Dale said issues include asphalt around the whole building, the roof, windows, HVAC and brick work. The full

extent of needed repairs will be seen and prioritized in the final report that will be received in the coming weeks.

"We're probably going to have to look at issuing some sort of borrowing to help offset and make those repairs," Dale said.

The district could opt to not make the improvements to Tilton School and instead put funding towards another option for its students at either that site or the sites of May School

or Lincoln School. There is no additional room at the Central School site, Dale said. Alternatives would include a new building or an addition at another site.

If the board does opt to go forward with repairs at Tilton and wants to start them by summer of 2024, which would be soonest they could start, it would have to start the bidding process in October or November.

**See SCHOOL page 5**

## Water main project moving forward

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**HILLCREST** — At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees unanimously voted to move forward with its priority 1A water main project that plans to replace mains along portions of Scott Avenue, Errett Road and Erickson Road in the southern and oldest part of the village.

The current construction estimate on the project is \$2.68 million and that IEPA loan amount is being reserved for the village. Hillcrest is eligible for 50-percent principal forgiveness of as much as \$1.25 million. The project is planned to go out for bids in December, sign a loan agreement in March, start construction in April and be completed by fall of 2024. The project has been on the village's radar for a number of years. A greater water main replacement project was considered in the past, but was trimmed down to the areas of greatest need.

**See HILLCREST p. 3**

## Seebach's Sweet Corn open for business 'It's great seeing the customers and we're very appreciative...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Seebach's Sweet Corn recently kicked off its 2023 season of sales at 11594 E. Kyte Road just outside of Rochelle.

The Seebach family has grown and sold sweet corn at the location for over 40 years. The tradition of selling sweet corn was started by the late Jerry Seebach, and it has since been carried on by his sons, Jeff and Scott, their stepmother, Christy and other family members and seasonal help.

Jeff Seebach heads up the sweet corn operation and has participated in the tradition for as long as he can remember. What's been out of the ordinary this year for him is the drought the area has seen, which has made the sweet corn crop inconsistent at times.

"Some of the ears look like they're not ready yet, but they are," Jeff said. "And some of the ears look like they're ready, but they're not. You can even see it in the corn stalks where it just gets lower and then the corn gets to a



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Seebach's Sweet Corn recently kicked off its 2023 season of sales at 11594 E. Kyte Road just outside of Rochelle. The Seebach family has grown and sold sweet corn at the location for over 40 years.**

normal height. But there's a lot of valleys and stuff in it. Just due to a lack of moisture, it's just been kind of inconsistent."

The drought and inconsistency has caused

occasional gaps between plantings and varieties when the family doesn't have corn on hand to sell. It can also impact the consistency of the kernels in the ears of kern.

"With that lack of moisture, the plant is only looking to survive rather than actually produce the fruit," Jeff said. "It may be back to 1988 when it was this dry last. The last couple

of years it was kind of dry, but it never affected how the corn was because there was already moisture in the ground."

**See SEEBACH'S p. 2**



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# LOCAL NEWS

## SEEBACH'S: Family sweet corn business open for 2023 season

From page 1

"This year, we didn't have much snow in the winter to get the moisture base down there. It just seems like it was a lot drier at the beginning of this season and then it stayed dry pretty much through the growing process of it."

Jeff said Aug. 8 that Seebach's Sweet Corn was about halfway through the season and he expects to sell for about 2.5 more weeks, depending on how fast the corn reaches readiness to sell and how fast it's sold. He expressed some disappointment in the drought's impacts, but said he felt lucky that the family does have a crop to sell this year and that he's appreciative of late rains it got to help later plantings of corn.

Seebach's Sweet Corn went through its first planting fast, Jeff said, due to lower yields and a little higher volume of sales, which he said could be due to Rainwater Farms not selling sweet corn this year as it usually does in Rochelle.

"It can be tough to see a year when we have higher demand and it's a drought," Jeff said. "I wish we had the yield that we normally would. We try to pick the day and let people know when we'll have more corn next. It's great seeing the

customers and we're very appreciative that they keep coming back. As long as they keep coming and they appreciate it, we'll keep selling it."

Christy Seebach, who usually runs the stand, said more sales have been seen this year than usual.

"Once we open up, everybody is hungry for sweet corn," Christy said. "We were really busy the first week. After that, it kind of tapers off. But then people like to freeze it, too. Some call ahead. I have 10 dozen waiting for one lady. We hate to disappoint people. We put up signs that say when we'll have more corn. We're seeing some new faces this year. And a lot of repeat customers from years' past. A lot of people from town. It's great seeing them."

While the drought has been out of the ordinary this year, the work itself has not. Because that's the way it's always been done at Seebach's Sweet Corn.

"The work has gone well this year," Jeff said. "We have a few more people to help out. We have Gage working for us, who's nine years old. He drives the tractor and for us and helps us. We don't have to hop on and off the tractor to move it. We pick everything by hand. We can just pick and put everything in the cart while he drives along. It



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The tradition of selling sweet corn was started by the late Jerry Seebach, and it has since been carried on by his sons, Jeff and Scott, their stepmother, Christy and other family members and seasonal help. Jeff Seebach heads up the sweet corn operation and has participated in the tradition for as long as he can remember.

helps us out. I'm just used to picking by hand. It's how we've always done it. If we ever had to grow more for more demand, we'd try and figure out options. We wanted to see how it went this year with how much

volume we'll need to see if we need to plant more next year or not."

Seebach's Sweet Corn is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The stand can be reached by phone with questions about daily availability,

which is recommended, especially for customers coming from out of town, at 815-213-5229 or 815-562-7561. Available corn is left over at the stand after hours and can be purchased via a money drop box at the

stand. If customers would like to buy more than five dozen ears, they're asked to call ahead. Fresh vegetables are sold at the stand regularly as well, even if it's not on a day when sweet corn is available.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## HILLCREST: Work underway to repair village water tower damage

From page 1

### Infrastructure

Baxter & Woodman, the village's engineering firm, made another presentation on Hillcrest's infrastructure needs after one last month. Engineer Kaitlin Wright said the water system improvement process started in 2017 when one of the village's wells showed a nitrates exceedance which brought on an IEPA violation. Hillcrest got back in compliance by mixing water from that well and its other well, but agreed to rectify the issue permanently in the future with an additional source of water or treatment.

A water main break occurred in July 2018 that caused the village to run out of and shut off water to homes while repairs took place. That further pushed Hillcrest to look at its aging water system, Wright said. In January 2019, the village tasked Baxter & Woodman with looking at addressing the system as a whole along with other infrastructure like roads and sewer.

Baxter & Woodman then made designs for a shallow well, a deep well, a water treatment plant, a water treatment plant sewers and an elevated tank as well as new water mains throughout town. In April 2020, the village requested that work stop due to the community's financial hardships from

COVID-19.

Wright revisited those needs again Wednesday, as the nitrate issue will need to be resolved to be in compliance with the IEPA. The village's options to get in compliance include constructing a new shallow well, constructing a new deep well, and various options that would involve it connecting to Rochelle Municipal Utilities. Cost estimates that dated back to 2020 showed a new shallow well costing \$3.2 million, a new deep well costing \$3.15 million and a new elevated tank costing \$2.24 million. The village has looked in the past at the abandoned asphalt plant site in Hillcrest for a new well, which the IEPA would allow after determining it's not contaminated.

Connecting to RMU would include the options of an emergency connection, or acting as a retail or wholesale customer to RMU. The village would pay to connect at different levels depending on which of those options it chose. Trustees were in agreement Wednesday that connecting to RMU is not something they want to pursue.

### Water tower

Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group has begun work to repair the village's water tower after a leak was noticed in recent months. Rhoads said the village has no specific time frame



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

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for the work's completion. Two pressurized tanks to maintain water pressure for village residents during the work have been placed at Village Hall and the Masterbend building.

The cost for the leak repair will be \$26,605 and Pittsburg will be performing some of the other work to the tower it recommended in the past. The estimate on the total amount of the rest of the work needed for the water tower is \$384,370, but not all of it will be done by Pittsburg. The village

approved money for water tower repairs at its April board meeting.

### Loader

The board unanimously approved the purchase of an articulating loader to replace its current skid steer for its public works operations. The cost will be \$20,500, on top of the skid steer being traded in on the purchase.

Rhoads said the move was made due to the negative effects of salt on the skid steer in the winter. The loader could be used

in the future to clean up the former asphalt plant in the village in the future, Rhoads said.

### Officer

Trustees and Rhoads discussed the idea of getting an ordinance officer or police officer to enforce the village's ordinances and rules in the future during the meeting.

Rhoads said Ashton recently hired a retired police officer on a part-time basis as an ordinance officer and he would like to see something similar

in Hillcrest.

"I think we need to hire somebody here that can actually do the ordinances on a more regular basis that has knowledge of law enforcement and stuff like that and what they can and can't do," Rhoads said. "I'm going to look into that hopefully this month."

Issues brought up by trustees that an officer could work on include illegal parking, tall grass, immobile cars and UTVs driving illegally on village roads.

## Nominations being taken for 2023 Cederholm Community Service Award

**CRESTON** — Nominations are now being taken for the 2023 Cederholm Community Service Award.

The person you nominate should be from Creston. This person should be nominated for their contribution to the betterment of the Village of Creston as a good citizen.

Please submit your nomination at any of these locations in Creston: Casey's, Headon's Fine Meats, or the De-

ment Library by Aug. 23, or it can be mailed to PO Box 62, Creston, IL 60113

The award ceremony will be directly after the community worship service during Creston

Booster Days at Booster Park on Sept. 17 at 9:30 a.m.

The information need-

ed for a nomination is as follows: The name of the individual, their number of years in the Creston

community, why they should be considered, and the name of the person making the nomination.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Joanne Agnes Rogde

**ROCHELLE** — Joanne Agnes Rogde, 89, was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2023. She was born in Rochelle on Dec. 7, 1933, the youngest of five children born to Paul and Lucille Lower. Joanne attended St. Patrick's Catholic Grade School and Rochelle Township High School, graduating in 1952. On Jan. 2, 1954 she married Donald Rogde, who preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 2017. They were blessed with 63 years of marriage and four children, Robert, Barbara, Bonnie and Brenda.

Joanne worked at Caron International from 1955 to 1963 until the arrival of their first child. As their family grew, she stayed home devoted to raising their children. In 1972, she began a long career with First National Bank of Rochelle until 1991 when she retired. After that, she spent her time working for the local schools and thoroughly enjoyed spending Saturdays in the auction trailer assisting her nephew, John Bearrows.

Joanne was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Church. She happily devoted countless hours and resources teaching Sunday School, lecturing, commentating, delivering communion and selflessly doing anything else she was called to do to serve the Church and the Lord.

Together Joanne and Don loved walks, spending evenings sitting outside on their swing, attending auctions, fishing, and of course, being with their children, grandchildren and very special four-legged friends.

She loved spending her time knitting, crocheting, working crossword puzzles, and anything arts and craft related. She was an avid reader and would read anything she could, often buying boxes of books from sales not knowing what was inside and reading them all. However, what brought her the greatest pride and joy was creating her own greeting cards for special friends and family. She spent endless hours picking out just the right pictures and



sentiment for each individual person.

In addition to her husband, Don, and her parents, Joanne is preceded by her brother, John, sisters: Pat Esterday and Rita Bearrows, and an unborn child.

She is survived by her four children: Robert (Amanda) of St. Charles, Barbara (Eric) Bell of Rochelle, Bonnie Moore of Rochelle and Brenda (Clint) Garner of Spanish Fort, Alabama; eight grandchildren: Jessica (Paul) Mueller of Kings, Andrew (Brittney) Rogde of Rochelle, Jacob Bell of Edwardsville, Anthony Rogde Hinderliter of Rochelle, Samuel Moore of Rochelle, Justin and Joshua Rogde of St. Charles and Lauren Garner of Spanish Fort, Alabama; brother, Paul Lower of Rochelle and five great grandchildren: Sophia, Bentley, Xavier, Stella and Gabriel.

Visitation will be from 5 – 7 P.M., Monday, Aug. 14, 2023 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th Street, Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 11 A.M., Tuesday, August 15 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 244 Kelley Drive, Rochelle.

Joanne will be laid to rest following the funeral service at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be made in Joanne's memory to Focus House of Rochelle.

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

### Patricia 'Pat' Hall

**ROCHELLE** — Patricia "Pat" Hall, 79, of Rochelle, passed away on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was born on Nov. 21, 1943 in Rochelle to Francis and Gertrude (Mertel) Connolly.

Pat graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1961. She married Ken Hall and they were blessed with five children: Patrick, Timothy, Christopher, Sara and Carrie. Her children were the joy of her life. Pat would load up the old Ford station wagon and be off to many activities from sporting events, school programs, graduations and more. She corralled the children for weekly Religious Education classes and Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. You were guaranteed a pinch under your upper arm if you were caught messing around during Mass. That time was for prayer and faith. Pat was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Church of Rochelle.

Pat was always doing side jobs from painting to housekeeping while the kids were in school. Keeping a large family fed, clothed, and involved in extracurricular activities was a task. Tuna, Spam, grilled cheese, and soup were considered kitchen staples. Hand-me-down clothing articles were a given, including snow boots. By the time the youngest children recycled the oldest child's snow boots, they had to put Wonder Bread bags over their socks because the boots had holes in them. Nonetheless, all the children would still venture outside to play in the snow.

With time, her family grew to include grandchildren. Once again Pat attended many events at the same location she once brought her children to. She cheered the next generation on to success. Rain, sleet or snow, Pat would bundle up and go. She was proud of each grandchild and would often share how many years she sat in the same seat at

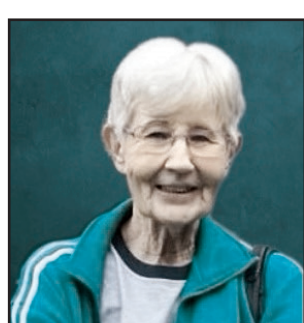
the Little League field or football fields years ago. Just when she thought her heart was full, she became a great-grandmother. Her great-grandchildren enriched her life more than words can say and added an extra sparkle to her blue eyes. They were her treasures.

Patricia enjoyed traveling with her sister, Kay Morrison, across Europe, Canada, and the United States. Her favorite destinations included Ireland, Budapest, and Paris. Pat enjoyed spending time with her sister-in-law, Judy Connolly, and reminiscing about how the family has grown over the years and sharing many stories. Judy always said Pat was the life of the party and enjoyed her Scotch on the rocks.

Pat traveled every fall season to Notre Dame football games to cheer on her beloved Irish. She cheered on the Fighting Irish football team either on the field in South Bend, Indiana or, later in life, in front of her TV. She enjoyed all things Irish and her Irish heritage. She made sure everyone in the family had some green Notre Dame attire.

Pat never wavered from her constant sidekick, a hot cup of coffee. Pat enjoyed coffee with others, including lifelong friends, Judy Messer and Pauline Brass and lunches with Sandy Hall. Pat's conversations would always stay with you as she would not hesitate to give you the third degree or provide you with her opinion. She was loyal and always showed up. If you were lucky, you even got a hug. Better have the coffee on.

Even in her final days, Pat loved family events. Most recently, the Connolly Family Reunion was held the Saturday prior to her passing. People came to see her from all over. She could not attend in-person, so people visited her. Those gathering around her bedside shared many memories, shed many tears and all left stating they were her favorite sibling, grandchild, nephew, niece or friends.



Pat had many favorites.

Pat went home on Monday to have coffee with those that preceded her in death. Patricia was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Hall; parents, Francis and Gertrude Connolly; brother, Jack Connolly; sister, Mary Ann Hall; and sons, Patrick and Timothy Hall.

Patricia is survived by her sister, Kathryn (Jim) Morrison of Toronto, Canada; son, Christopher (Joan) Hall of Clare; daughters: Sara Hall and Carrie Hall both of Rochelle; grandchildren: Carter (Lacey Jackson) Hall of Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Jacob (Brittany) Delano of Greenwood Lake, New York; Whitney (Brett) Demetruk of Stephenville, Texas; Cassandra (Ryan) Grover of Oregon; Quinn Hall of Charlotte; Tim Hall of Oak Lawn; Ryan Wiese of Rochelle; Nick Wiese, PRAN, U.S. Navy of San Diego, CA; Zach Wiese of Woodstock; and Nolan Wiese of Normal. She is also survived by nine great-grandchildren: Hayden and Gunnar Hall, Irelin and Halston DeLano, Cillian and Willow Demetruk, Grady and Ridge Grover, Sadie Hall and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 – 10:45 A.M., Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 236 Kelley Dr., Rochelle, IL with a Memorial Mass following at 11 A.M. with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Burial at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle will immediately follow. Memorials may be made in Pat's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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### Ogle County Sheriff's Department

## Deputies conduct traffic stops

**OREGON** — On Aug. 8 at approximately 10:23 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Illinois Route 64 near Mulford Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Nicholas Adams, 41, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Adams was released on scene with a return court date. Adams was additionally cited for expired registration.

On Aug. 9 at 7:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Royster Road at the intersection

with North Kilbuck Road. As a result, Victor M. Alcalde, 55, of Monroe Center was arrested for driving while license revoked. Alcalde was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 10 at approximately 10:39 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 109. After investigation, deputies arrested Justin Smith, 41, of Galesburg, for driving while license suspended. Smith was issued an additional citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Smith was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene. Passenger Amanda Wil-

son, 41, of Galesburg, was also arrested for an active Warren County warrant. Wilson was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 10 at 7:07 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 72 near the intersection with North Moulton Road. As a result, Joseph W. Szymanski, 24, of Lockport was arrested for driving while license suspended. Szymanski was additionally cited for operating a vehicle with expired registration and loud muffler. Szymanski was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### Rochelle Police Department

## Officers make arrests

**ROCHELLE** — On Aug. 9 at 7:31 a.m. a 16-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Sept. 8 Rochelle court date.

On Aug. 9 at 4:01 p.m. Domingo C. Mancilla, 46, of Dixon was arrested on an outstanding Ogle

County warrant and transferred.

On Aug. 9 at 11:50 a.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Sept. 8 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



# LOCAL NEWS

## SCHOOL: Rochelle elementary board approves bus contract

From page 1

Health life safety evaluations for the district's other buildings will take place next summer, but Dale does not anticipate any of them will have needs to the level of Tilton's, and he believes they will only include "normal, preventative maintenance."

Giving Dale permission to begin the borrowing process did not commit the board to spending the money at Tilton versus another site, but the Tilton issues would still need to be addressed in some way in the future if the board spent the money elsewhere.

Board President Trisha

Vaughn asked Dale to bring the board numbers on the cost of a new building or an addition at another site. Dale said he would work to get the numbers by the September meeting.

### Communication

Superintendent Jason Harper provided an update to the board on parent and community communication. Survey responses caused the district to assess how it communicates information to students, their families and the community, and that resulted in a new service it will be utilizing called Apptegy. The Apptegy service will be used by both dis-

tricts, and will include a main platform hub where district employees can simultaneously share information across different platforms and groups. The service will also include an app and a unified, connected website, Harper said. The direct communication service the district has through Infinite Campus will still be used.

"Essentially what this new service allows us to do is communicate in more global, macro senses like at the district levels or by building more cleanly with push notifications right to an app," Harper said. "Also if a building or a district is using social

media it can go to that social media and the website all as the same message and all at the same time. Or we can bring that down to the micro level and it can be communication by a group of teachers, a single teacher or a program or sports team within our district."

Harper said the service is still being implemented and more information will soon be provided to district employees and families.

### Buses

The board unanimously approved a contract with Illinois Central Bus to continue transportation services for preschool and

Ogle County Educational Cooperative students within the district. ICB has provided the service for around the past 10 years. The contract improves a 5.3 percent increase and is for a term of one year.

### NIU

The board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding with the Illinois Tutoring Initiative to continue its tutoring program that involves Northern Illinois University College of Education students coming to tutor Rochelle Middle School students. The program began last year and the new agreement included no changes.

### Personnel

The board unanimously approved personnel changes including the resignations of Carol Deutsch (sixth grade science, RMS) and Kate-Lyn Kalata (sixth grade English language arts, RMS), the employment of Megan Monfils (third grade, Central), Alexa Ochoa (bilingual interventionist, Lincoln) and Kate O'Neil (sixth grade ELA, RMS) and the transfers of Jackie Cruz (special education teacher at Tilton to special education teacher at Lincoln) and Kimberly Lumzy (fourth grade dual language teacher at Tilton to language and culture coordinator at Central).

## Rochelle Area CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Ashton Bible Church**, corner of Main and Paddock in Ashton. Pastor Farrel Stauffer, church phone is (815)453-2190, church website [www.ashtonbible.org](http://www.ashtonbible.org). Sunday School for all ages 9:00-10:00am, Morning Worship 10:15am, Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm.

**The Bridge Church**, Pastor Greg Duncan, 11038 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-7750. Sunday School: 9:00 am; Sunday Service: 10:00 am; Nursery & Children's ministry during am service; Bible Study Tuesday 10:00 am and Wednesday 7:00 pm. Web: [thebridgechurchrochelle.com](http://thebridgechurchrochelle.com) Email: [thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com)

**Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God**, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday Worship & Children's Church 10:00 A.M., Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers Childrens Classes, Nursery available for all services. HE-Brews Cafe is open before and after services. For further information, please call the CLC office at 815-562-7701, or email us at [staff@calvarylighthouse.com](mailto:staff@calvarylighthouse.com)

**Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMC** - "To Know Christ and to Proclaim Christ in Word and Deed" -19 Perry Road, Lee, IL 60530 (the intersection of Perry Road and W. County Line Road). Rev. Martha Uecker Nelson, Pastor. Coffee Hour starts at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Bible Study are at 9:15 a.m. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and is broadcast live on Facebook. Go to our website is at [www.Calvarychurchlee.org](http://www.Calvarychurchlee.org) and click on the link there. A Grief Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call or text (815) 824-2825 or email [CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com) with questions or for more information. Also check us out at [www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church).

**Rochelle Church of Christ**, Keeping Christ at the center in the Hub City. We meet Sundays at 9:00am for Bible Study and 10:00am for worship. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00pm. 206 Erickson Rd, Rochelle, IL 61068. You can call us at (815) 562-6572 or visit us on the web at [rochellechurch.com](http://rochellechurch.com). We also have a radio program Sundays just after 8am on WRHL 1060AM. Minister Dominic Venuso.

**Creston United Methodist Church and Steward United Methodist Church** - Rev. Ilhan You, Creston: 126 West South Street, P.O. Box 209, Creston, Illinois 60113. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. Coffee fellowship at 10:15am. Steward: 507 Main Street, P.O. Box 80, Steward, IL 60553. Adult Sunday School, 10:00am. Sunday morning worship and Children's Sunday School 11:00am. Contact the church office at 847-730-4370 for more information. [facebook.com/crestonumcil](https://facebook.com/crestonumcil) [facebook.com/stewardilumc](https://facebook.com/stewardilumc)

**Elim Reformed Church**, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com) Website [www.goelimchurch.org](http://www.goelimchurch.org) Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 Rev. Marv Jacobs

**Faith Lutheran Church** - (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) - "Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith." In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at "Faith Lutheran Social" on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - 'Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.' You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at [Pastor@faithlrochelle.org](mailto:Pastor@faithlrochelle.org) for more information. All are welcome to join us!

**First Baptist Church of Rochelle, First Baptist Church of Rochelle** invites you to experience our practical Bible services which have nurseries provided in every service along with a wide range of children's and teen ministries. Sunday School is at 9:30 am with regular church services at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Wednesday Family Night starts at 6:30 pm with AWANA for the 5 yr. olds thru 6th grade. The Omega Teen Ministry also starts at 6:30 pm for 7th - 12th grades and the Adult Bible Study at 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church is located 6 blocks west of Hwy 251 at the corner of Woolf Ct. and 8th Ave. in Rochelle. Call 562-4168 for more information. Listen at 8:30 am Sunday mornings on WRHL 1060 AM for the Sunday morning "Bible Message." [www.firstbaptistrochelle.org](http://www.firstbaptistrochelle.org)


**First General Baptist Church**, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: [fgbcrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:fgbcrochelle@gmail.com). Website: [www.fgbcrochelle.org](http://www.fgbcrochelle.org). Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle](https://www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle). Pastor: Rev. Angelo Bonacquisti. **Sunday worship services:** 8:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm. **Sunday school:** 10:00 am. We'd be honored to have you join us as we worship JESUS and continue to grow in truth and love for God and each other. A nursery, children's church, youth group and small groups are available. If you need a ride please contact our church bus driver, John, at (815) 262-4275 by 8:30 am on Sunday. "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

**First Presbyterian Church** - An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace-Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: [info@placeforgrace.com](mailto:info@placeforgrace.com). Sunday morning worship 9:00am & 11:00am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. [www.placeforgrace.com](http://www.placeforgrace.com) / [www.facebook.com/placeforgrace](https://www.facebook.com/placeforgrace)

**Grace Fellowship Church** — Pastor Jeff Ardissonne, 2128 Il Route 38, Ashton, 815-453-7464. Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:45 a.m. [www.graceisforyou.com](http://www.graceisforyou.com)

**Harvest Baptist Church** 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email [duane712@hotmail.com](mailto:duane712@hotmail.com), cell 815-757-3427. Visit us on Facebook! Service times: Sunday morning worship with Children's Church at 10 am. Wednesday night worship at 7 pm.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church** Missouri Synod 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock. Church Phone 393-4500. Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christian Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.

**Living Water Community Church** 405 N. Main St, Downtown Rochelle. Phone 815-561-6249, Website: [www.lwccr.com](http://www.lwccr.com), Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor, Brent Braski- Administrative Pastor, Adrian Daugherty- Lead Worshipper, Joe Mortimer- Youth Director, Amanda Barnes- Office Manager. Sunday Worship Service- 10:00am. Nursery/Toddlers Ages 0-5 available during the service in the Splash building. Swim- Grades 1st-5th worship with the adults then break out for age appropriate teaching. Youth groups, Small groups, Life Groups and Workshops meet throughout the year for Bible teaching. 7C's Mission- serves the community physically & spiritually each month from 1135 Lincoln Hwy, providing lightly used clothing, Hygiene items, a light lunch and Elder Prayer open the second Saturday from 10am-2pm and the 4th Thursday from 4pm to 7:00pm and by appointment.. 

**New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN)**, 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m., (815)561-8400, [www.NHFchurch.net](http://www.NHFchurch.net) Pastor: Dan Sergeant and Pastor Nick Tornabene. (Classes for children through age fifth grade during service.)

**Rochelle United Methodist Church invites everyone to come to hear the stories of some heroes in the Bible as we consider how God is calling heroes to serve today! This is our worship series beginning July 30 and extending through August!** Our stories are Jesus building a team (John 1: 35-51), God's Wonder Women in Exodus (Exodus 1:8-2:10), The Magnificent Magi (Matthew 2: 1-12), and Unexpected Heroes who give Paul a basket ride (Acts 9: 1-25). Worship will include storytelling with some drama, music and fun! Our children will remain in worship for this inter-active series, and may help in some of the storytelling dramas. **Sunday worship is at 9:00 am.** Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at [www.rochelleumc.com](http://www.rochelleumc.com). Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Our facebook page is [www.facebook.com/rochelleumc](https://www.facebook.com/rochelleumc). **Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley, pastor.** 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. [admin@rochelleumc.com](mailto:admin@rochelleumc.com). Everyone is welcome and loved!

**St. Patrick Catholic Church** Rev. Jesus Dominguez; Deacon Fermin Garcia; Deacon George Schramm; 244 Kelley Dr. (Corner of Kelley & Caron Rd.), PO Box 329, Rochelle, IL 61068. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM-4PM Monday-Thursday, Phone: 815-562-2370. **Mass times:** 8:00 AM Monday-Thursday, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM English, 7PM Spanish, Sunday Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish. **Confessions:** Monday 8:30AM & 6:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM, Saturday 8:30am & 4:00-4:45 PM Or by appointment. **Religious Education:** Deacon George Schramm, Director of Religious Education. 903 Caron Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 815-561-0079; Website: [stpatricksrochelle.com](http://stpatricksrochelle.com) Email: [stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org) Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

**St. Paul Lutheran Church** "Building Relationships in Christ, Now and Forever!" Steven Hall, Principal, Parish Nurse-Marcia Schnorr. 1415 Tenth Ave., Rochelle. Church Office-562-2744. Worship times: 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Our service is broadcast over WRHL 1060AM at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School 10:15-11:15 a.m. Call 562-6323 for more information about the school.













# HERITAGE FESTIVAL



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The annual Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival is planned for the weekend of Aug. 18-20 in downtown Rochelle. The event is celebrating its 26th anniversary, and this year's theme is "Hometown Spirit". There will be a carnival and beer garden for all three days of the event.

## Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival returning for 26th year

**ROCHELLE** — The annual Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival is planned for the weekend of Aug. 18-20 in downtown Rochelle.

The event is celebrating its 26th anniversary, and this year's theme is "Hometown Spirit". There will be a carnival and beer garden for all three days of the event. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, a vendor basket raffle, craft, vendor, and business booths, a food court and various local talents performing each day.

Friday, Aug. 18 will feature the Little Miss Peanut competition from 6-7 p.m. and Nauti Nauti from 8-10 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, the Hub City Cruisers Car and Motorcycle Show will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the raising of the flag at noon. There will be a pancake breakfast and then a free kid's zone from 11 a.m.-3p.m. Magic Matt's Family Fun Show from 11 a.m.-8p.m. Lynx from noon-1p.m. Blue Steam from 2-4 p.m. The Moose's Haunted Maze will be open from 4-9p.m. Jerry Criss Band from 5-7 p.m. and closing out the night is Neverly Brothers from 8-10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 20, will start with a pancake breakfast and church service. Magic Matt's Family Fun Show from 11 a.m.-6p.m. The parade begins at 1

p.m. Neal Woolbright-Music with John Brown from 1-3 p.m. There will be an old-fashioned ice cream social at the gazebo. The Moose's Haunted Maze will be open again from 2-5 p.m. Closing out the night is Vodka Boys from 4-6 pm.

"We hope everyone enjoys the festival just as much as we enjoy putting it together and seeing everyone," LHHF President Lisa Schwarz said. Also, a huge thank you to the committee members for the hard work they do. We always need volunteers and if anyone wants to volunteer, they can reach out at facebook.com/lincolnhighwayheritagefestival or LHHFest.com.



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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



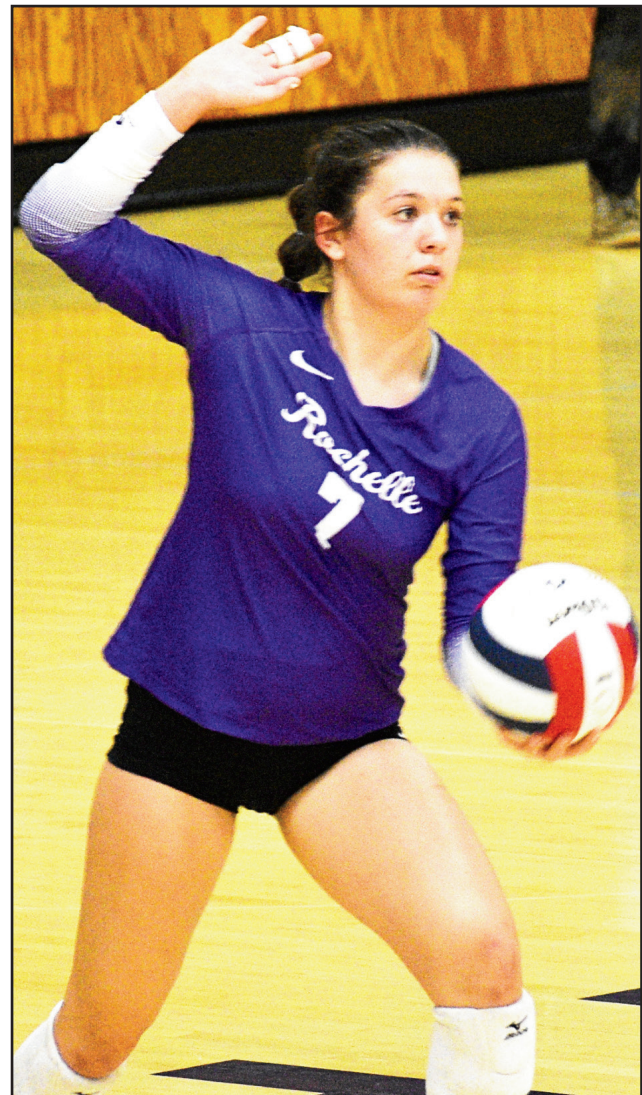
**See page 6 for more details**

# Hubs back on the field

as far as we can, but my main goals are to get the team continuity going and to keep improving in that area as the season moves forward,” Male said

# Lady Hubs eager to build on winning season

All-Conference setter Ohlinger headlines returning varsity players for RTHS



seeing our girls rise up to those challenges. Our goal is that our girls walk off the court thinking they gave it their all, regardless if we won or lost."





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Preston  
Borris**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Golf*

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

*A: One year.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: You don't have to be rushed and it's fun to walk the course.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Math because paramedics give medicine and they need to know how much to give.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Rory McIlroy because he's a*

*really good golfer.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: My uncle Andrew because he inspired me to want to be a firefighter.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a firefighter or a paramedic because it's a lot of work and I don't like to be still.*

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

*A: Being very nimble and athletic.*



**Bryson  
Stewart**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Golf*

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

*A: I've been playing golf for three years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: I enjoy golf because it can take multiple hours to play and it's relaxing.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: My favorite subject is science because it can teach you how things work and what they do.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: My dream job is a nuclear*

*engineer because I've always been interested in nuclear power and other things like that.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: My dream vacation is Washington D.C. because there is a lot of history and there are a lot of museums there.*

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

*A: The thing I enjoy most about being a student-athlete at RTHS is that I get to hang out with people who enjoy the same sports that I do.*

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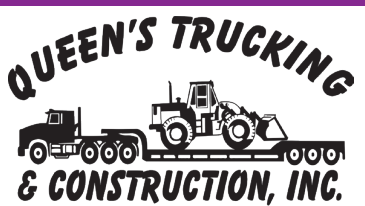
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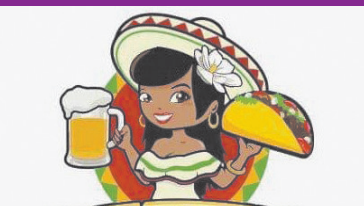
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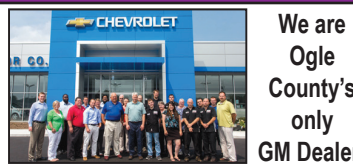
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# SPORTS

**RTHS Golf**

## Hubs return mixture of youth and experience

### IHSA sectional qualifier Metzger headlines Rochelle players back this season

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Head coach Glen Mehrings will lean on a mixture of upperclassmen and underclassmen to fill varsity roles as the Rochelle Township High School golf team tees off the 2023 season. RTHS held its first practice of the season at Fairways on Monday.

The Hubs will look to improve on a 5-9 record and a 2-5 finish in the Interstate 8 Conference last season. Rochelle will also seek to replace four varsity starters from last season including All-Conference First Team honoree Griffin Ohlinger as well as IHSA sectional qualifier David Wanner and four-year varsity player Damen Harrington. Sophomore Ian Metzger, who was an All-Conference Honorable Mention and an IHSA sectional qualifier last season, headlines Rochelle's returning players who could see increased roles on the team this fall.

"We have some pretty good golfers back this year," Mehringssaid. "Ian played a lot of golf over the summer and he's doing really well. I expect him to be one of our top players and we're excited to have him for three more years... We have three players returning who will

be in our top-6 spots and then we'll have to sprinkle in some other players. We have some talented freshmen who have tournament experience and have been playing a lot of golf this summer."

Junior Jacob Ost as well as seniors Cale Workman and Parker Lenkaitis are all back for the Hubs this season. Rochelle also returns senior girls Elise Horner and Haley Bozinovich, who will travel this week for the Belvidere Invitational at Timber Pointe on Friday morning. Junior Chris Hickey along with seniors Chandler Cunningham and Owen Messer are all newcomers this fall.

"Chris has been working hard this summer," Mehrings said. "We have some experienced players returning and it'll be interesting to see how our roster blends together. I think we'll know a lot over the next few weeks... I know Ian wants to return to the sectional and make a run at the state meet this season. Jacob wants to get better and I know Cale wants to have a good senior year. We have some freshmen who really like to golf and I think they'll help the team out."

Incoming freshmen Owen Carmichael, Alex Dyer and Bryson Stewart are three more players to



**Sophomore Ian Metzger (left) and senior Cale Workman (right) are two returning players back in the fold for the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team this season. Rochelle will compete against Dixon and Freeport on Aug. 15.**

keep an eye on this season. Rochelle will travel for a triangular meet at Freeport with Dixon on Tuesday before hitting the road for an Interstate 8 matchup against Morris on Wednesday. The

Hubs will compete in two tournaments next week including the LaSalle-Peru Invitational at Senica's Oak Ridge on Thursday as well as the Rocket Invitational at Deer Valley on Saturday.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

"We may not be where we were last season in terms of depth or experience, but I think with some lineup changes and more exposure, our kids will learn how to handle pressure," Mehrings

said. "We want to compete in every tournament and we'd like to finish close to .500 on the season, but we'd really like to see more individual success from both the boys and the girls."

**NIU Football**

## Transfers making an impact through first week of camp

### Head coach Hammock pleased with Huskies' progress in first five practices

**DEKALB** — Five practices and one week into the Northern Illinois University football team's 2023 preseason camp, it is quickly apparent that even with the presence of 17 returning starters, this is a new Huskie team whose newcomers, specifically transfer newcomers, will make a significant impact.

"I've been very pleased with some of the new guys we've been able to add to

the team," said head coach Thomas Hammock following the Huskies' fifth practice Sunday morning. "Number one, they've helped the competition and number two, they've helped the depth. I'm really excited about what those guys have been able to add to our team from a competitive standpoint and we'll continue to assess them as we go."

Offensively, the Huskies welcomed back quar-

terback Rocky Lombardi and wide receiver Trayvon Rudolph, who missed some (Lombardi) or all (Rudolph) of the 2022 season due to injury, along with running back Antario Brown, receiver Kacper Rutkiewicz and five experienced starters on the offensive line. Transfers, along with players who reshirted or saw limited action a year ago, have stepped up.

"Offensively, we have

a couple backs in Gavin Williams (Iowa) and Kendrell Flowers (S.C. State) who have done a nice job," Hammock said. "At the tight end position, Grayson Barnes (American River [Calif.] CC) has done a nice job and Chris Carter (Howard) has done an excellent job as a big threat at the tight end position. At the receiver position, we have some guys that are really stepping up with Davis

Patterson (Notre Dame College) and then Cam Thompson (Eastern Illinois) is a young man that has really flashed the first week of preseason camp."

Williams, Barnes and Patterson joined the team in January, while Flowers, Carter and Thompson are new additions. Flowers came to NIU after two seasons, one active, at South Carolina State, Thompson redshirted the 2022 campaign at Eastern

Illinois, while Carter, a 6-7, 240-pound junior, brings skill as both a blocker and receiver to the tight end group.

Similar to the experience returning on the offensive line, the Huskie defensive line brings back eight players with significant game experience, while transfers are set to contribute at linebacker and cornerback.

**See HUSKIES pg 5**

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Susan Sevedge, Secretary-Treasurer  
No. 0807  
(Aug. 13, 2023)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of School District Number 144, in the County of OGLE, State of Illinois, that a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 100 First Street, Kings, Illinois 61068 in this School District from and after 8:00 AM, on the 16th day of August, 2023. Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6:00 PM, on the 20th of September 2023, at the Library in this School District Number 144, in the County of OGLE, State of Illinois. Board Secretary Dave Schabacker  
No. 0811  
(Aug. 13, 2023)

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Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of the Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD#275 in the County of Lee, State of Illinois, Regarding Repair of School Grounds to the Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School, that a Public Hearing will take place on Monday, August 21st, at 6:45pm at 611 Western Avenue, Ashton Illinois 61006 in the High School Library. The purpose of this Hearing is for the Board of Education to determine the need to undertake repairs to the sidewalks and wheelchair ramps of the Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School located at 217 South Elm, Franklin Grove, IL 61031, and to receive any public comment regarding such repairs. Chad Murphy, President  
Tiffany Willstead, Secretary  
Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD#275 Board of Education  
611 Western Avenue, Ashton Illinois 61006  
No. 0814  
(Aug. 13, 2023)

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of the Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD#275 in the County of Lee, State of Illinois, that a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024 will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at 611 Western Avenue, Ashton, Illinois in the School District Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day of August,

2023 and thereafter until September 18, 2023. Notice is further given that a Public Hearing on said budget will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023 in the Jr./Sr. High school Library, 611 Western Avenue, Ashton, Illinois. No. 0815  
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# SPORTS

## HUSKIES: NIU football team begins second week of fall camp Tuesday

From page 3

“Defensively, both of the new corners - Shaad Dabney (Kansas) and Gabe Amegatcher (Nebraska-Kearney) - are playing well,” Hammock said. “Then at linebacker, DaRon Gilbert (Lafayette) and Tyler Jackson (Lamar), have been phenomenal.”

The Huskies will have the first “off” day of preseason on Monday following a two-plus hour practice Sunday morning at Huskie Stadium and the third consecutive day in pads. After seeing the Huskie defense own the edge in the first two days in pads, Hammock was happy to see NIU’s offense respond Sunday.

“There was a response [by the offense] and that’s what you want to see,” Hammock said. “In the team meeting, we talked about the response. How are we going to respond to a bad play, a bad game, a bad situation. The offense has been having an uphill battle the first few days and today they had a chance to respond. To me the mark of a good team is when you have that back-and-forth competition because everyone gets better.”

### Practice

The Northern Illinois University football team was back on the practice field at Huskie Stadium Tuesday morning after an off day Monday. It was the first time in full pads for the Huskies as the second week of training camp got underway.

“I liked the intensity,” said head coach Thomas Hammock. “Today was very spirited, very competitive.”



The guys got a lot of quality work in which is very important. Our defense is playing at very high level right now. They’re showing great communication, great urgency and great energy. Offensively we have to match that tempo.”

The defensive backfield made their presence known in the team periods of practice Tuesday. Red-shirt-freshman cornerback Amariyun Knighten (Hollywood, Fla./Stranahan) had an interception early in practice while Jacob Finley (Birmingham, Ala./Hoover) made a tackle for loss in a third down drill.

“The first day in pads was very physical, but it’s what we’ve been waiting for especially on defense,” said junior linebacker Jaden Dolphin (Des Plaines, Ill./Maine West)... We’re at the point now where we’re working through different zones on the field,” Hammock said. “Today it was third down, tomorrow it’ll be red zone. We want to put them in all the different situ-

ations they will be in before we scrimmage on Saturday. This is an opportunity, like a preseason game, to get through those situations so guys can execute in critical moments.”

The offense had some bright spots on third down as well on Tuesday. The offensive line created running lanes for running backs Antario Brown (Savannah, Ga./Beach) and Billy Dozier (New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln Way West). Rocky Lombardi (Clive, Iowa/Valley) combined for a pair of conversions with wide receiver Trayvon Rudolph (Crete, Ill./Crete-Monee), one of which went for 70 yards and a touchdown.

“The energy goes up when the pads come on,” said redshirt-sophomore offensive lineman Pete Nygra (North Indianapolis, Ind./Brownsburg). “I thought we had a really good day. It was very competitive and that was the goal. Iron sharpens iron and we’re getting each other ready for that first game September 2.”

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Cross Country

# Rochelle harriers back in action for 2023 season

## IHSA sectional qualifier Hernandez headlines returning RTHS runners this fall

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Senior Luis Hernandez headlines a crop of returning runners that are back in action for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity cross country teams this season. Rochelle held its first practice of the 2023 season on Tuesday, with the Hub and Lady Hub harriers scheduled to run their first races at the Morris Early Bird Invitational on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

The Hubs are looking to improve on notable finishes from last season including a second-place performance at the Rochelle Invitational and a fourth-place performance at the Matt Walter Invitational. The Lady Hubs, who return several underclassmen including sophomores Annaliese Koziol, Rose Luxton and Mary Chadwick, will need to replace a key leader from last season in Interstate 8 All-Conference honoree and IHSA sectional qualifier Yuelma Ortiz.

"I think we're going to have a decent group of runners this year," head coach Mark Zilis said. "We're hoping that we can have a few individuals advance

through the state series and we have runners like Luis and Annaliese who have shown a lot of potential. One of our major goals is to advance from the regional to the sectional as a team. We'd also like to finish in the top half of our conference and advance a few of our individuals from the sectional to the state meet."

Hernandez, who was an All-Conference honoree and an IHSA sectional qualifier last season, will look to lead a young Hub roster that includes sophomore standout Declan McGee. Freshman Vivian Worthington is a new runner who could be a key contributor on the girls side. Rochelle will compete in the Sycamore Invitational at Kishwaukee College on Tuesday, Aug. 29 before continuing on with the Oregon Invitational at Oregon Park West on Saturday, Sept. 2.

"I'm not too worried about early-season meets," Zilis said. "Our main focus is getting all of our runners in shape and not sustaining any injuries. Our goal is that, by the time we reach late September, we start to become more competitive on both the boys side and the girls side."



Senior Luis Hernandez (left) and sophomore Mary Chadwick (right) are two key runners returning for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams this season.

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

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