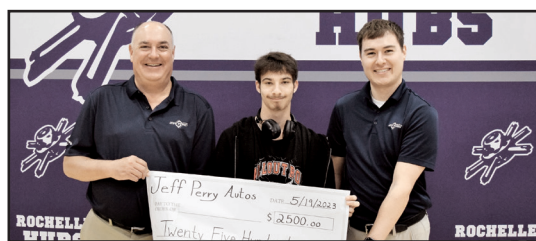


Beckman wins
\$2,500 check
from Jeff Perry

PAGE 3



Gehm hired as
next Lady Hub
hoops coach

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Vol. 104 • No. 12

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

\$1.25

RCH Foundation awards scholarships Dempsey: 'That was a big, significant help to me...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation recently presented three \$1,000 scholarships to employees that are pursuing education in the healthcare field.

They include Materials Assistant Brenda Aguila (pursuing sterile processing at Kishwaukee College), Emergency Department RN and House Supervisor Megan Dempsey (pursuing doctor of nursing practice in education leadership at Chamberlain University) and Cardiac Rehab RN Ellee Myers (pursuing masters of nursing at University of Phoenix).

The employee scholarship program is in its third year. RCH Foundation President Reed Harris called it a "privilege" to present RCH employees with scholarships that will help with ongoing certification, continued studies to improve in their current positions and advancing in the future.

"The RCH Foundation is all about helping our hospital in any area we can," Harris said. "Upgrading equipment, purchasing new equipment, improving



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation recently presented three \$1,000 scholarships to employees that are pursuing education in the healthcare field. One of which includes Materials Assistant Brenda Aguila (above).

connections within our community, and helping the hospital provide basic testing for the community, are just a few of the ways we can help. Our scholarships, therefore, can help the hospital employees continue their pride and ownership of their positions which allows RCH to become the place we want it to be: a sanctuary of health and caring in our community. A little help can earn huge rewards."

Aguila said after getting

her start with sterile processing, she hopes to get into the surgical tech field and one day be a surgical assistant.

"When I started working here, we took a tour up to surgery and everything was just so fascinating," Aguila said. "That's really what influenced me to go back to school and get this degree done."

Aguila has worked in the healthcare field since she was 16. In her current position, she works with

every department in the hospital and has been able to see how the emergency and surgical departments work. She has had the access to get better insight on a future career.

The RCH materials assistant called receiving the scholarship "a blessing."

"Just the hospital offering that kind of scholarship and money to help their employees, that says a lot," Aguila said.

See RCH page 8



Permit for fire
training facility
recommended

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the City of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing for and unanimously recommended that the City Council approve a special use permit for a government multi-use fire training facility located at 920 S. Main St.

The property is approximately 12.06 acres and is currently vacant land. The subject property is zoned I-1 light industry, and a government facility in an I-1 requires a special use.

The joint project between the City of Rochelle and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District started to see movement in the past year. The 12-acre property that was donated to the city in 2020.

See CITY page 8

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KNOW IT
TODAY



Flags planted for
Memorial Day

Local Girl Scouts and the Rochelle DAR planted flags in celebration of Memorial Day. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
79 55

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
77 50

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
81 51

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
81 61

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OBITUARIES

• JAMES I. (JIM) MCCASLIN
• DAVID E. NEWMAN JR.

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INSERTS

• SUMMER SIZZLER
• FARM & FLEET

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Community.....7



Fire departments respond to farmhouse burn Property owner's son suffers second-degree burns Monday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Fire Department and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Departments responded early Monday afternoon to a fire in rural Steward at 2930 Herman Road.

That same address was the site of a total loss structure fire to a farmhouse in March 2022. Rochelle Fire Lt. Jeremy Good said that Monday's incident involved the son of the homeowner attempting to burn debris from the past fire and wind and dry conditions caused what was supposed to be a controlled burn to get out of hand. The man who was attempting the burn did not notify the required parties for a controlled burn and local first responders were not aware it was happening Monday.

"They are still trying to clean up the property from the last fire and the homeowner's son had a burnpile going and wanted to clean up some of the house debris and stuff like that and it kind of got away from him and lit the rest of the remaining



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Fire Department and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Departments responded early Monday afternoon to a fire in rural Steward at 2930 Herman Road.

house and a portion of the corn crib on fire and a small part of the roof of the barn," Good said. "But we were able to stop it and save those other two structures. Then we allowed the remnants of the house that had burned last year to kind of smolder. We didn't know he would be doing that beforehand. That's the issue. The proper channels were not followed. He had good intentions and was just

trying to help his mom out. They're struggling to find a company to clean up the debris and he thought he would just light it on fire."

The man who started the burn on Monday suffered second-degree burns to his hands after the fire became uncontrollable, Good said. He refused treatment at the scene and told first responders he'd travel to the hospital on his own later.

To conduct a controlled

burn in the area, residents are required to call county dispatch and notify them. The area is currently under warnings for dryness and a no burn order is in effect.

"It just takes a little bit of wind to carry those embers and the things that you don't want on fire quickly become on fire," Good said. "And that's kind of what happened today. There's a wind advisory and a no burning advisory right

now, and he violated both of those. The stuff that was damaged today was debris from the last fire, so there's really no monetary value with the damages. There was an investigation done and he admitted to lighting the remaining garage on fire that was mostly already burnt down. He came in with good intent, but it was bad delivery."

See FIRE page 8

Community SHRED DAY

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NMLS#454387



LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY APRIL BOLD (100WWC))
 Front row from left to right: David Head (director, OCHS), Marlene Hobbs (director, OCHS), Christa Young, Kris Gilbert (vice president, OCHS), Jan McMillan (treasurer, OCHS), Julie Mastney (100WWC), Julie Mann (100WWC) and Karen Urish (100WWC). Back row from left to right: Maja Shoemaker (100WWC), Jennifer Bakener (100WWC), Dede Forrest (100WWC), Pam Steele (100WWC), Becky McCause (100WWC), Debby Katzman (100WWC) and Michal Burnett (Facebook administrator and tours and programs director at OCHS).

100 Women Who Care of Ogle County donate to OCHS

OREGON—The Ogle County Historical Society of Oregon was the May recipient of the 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County philanthropic donation amounting to \$7,000.

Part of this gift will

be put to immediate use to cover necessary porch repairs, deep cleaning expenses, additional costs from hail damage, all of which have depleted cash on hand.

The rest of the funds

will be used to purchase preservation supplies, the restoration of donated artifacts, and costs associated with research and scanning services.

Ogle County Historical Society is sustained

through donations and the work of volunteers. Ogle County researchers and museum visitors are welcome at 111 N. 6th St. in Oregon. Call 815-732-7545 for visiting hours and/or appointments.

100 Women Who Care meets four times per year to award a sizable donation to a deserving charity in Ogle County. For information about this group, contact Deanna Forrest at forrestdede5@gmail.com

Electronics recycling event June 23

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecounty-il.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

Memorial Day enforcement data released

OREGON—The Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced May 31 it issued 108 total citations during the recent Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" enforcement period.

While Illinois' 2022 seat belt compliance rate was 93%, unbelted occupants still account for more than half of those killed in traffic crashes. The "Click It or Ticket" campaign aims to change the behavior of the millions of people who don't buckle up. Thousands of lives could be saved each year if every vehicle occupant was properly restrained when traveling.

During the enforcement period, sheriff's deputies issued 108 citations for violations to increase traffic safety that included the following offenses: six arrests for driving under the influence, 15 arrests for revoked/suspended/no valid driver's licenses, one felony drug arrest, two misdemeanor drug arrests, two arrests for drivers with outstanding arrest warrants, 28 citations for speeding offenses, seven citations for uninsured motorists, nine citations for registration violations, three citations for no seat belt violations and three citations for improper lane usage violations.

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9:30 AM - 6 PM 9:30 AM - 6 PM 9:30 AM - 5 PM 9:30 AM - 5 PM

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LOCAL NEWS

Classic rock and soul band Generation to open 2023 Mt. Morris Jamboree

MT. MORRIS — Consummate entertainer David Huizenga brings his high energy classic rock and soul band, Generation, back to Mt. Morris to open its 11th annual free concert season on Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Generation brings it all to the stage! It's a "rock show" of iconic, popular hits not defined by decades...but some of the best groundbreaking music of our time! Beatles to Stones...Bowie to Led Zeppelin...Aretha to Sly Stone...songs always sure to bring smiling faces in the crowd! This Band is powerful....the songs unforgettable....a performance that makes the audience part of the excitement and fun, happening on stage!

David Huizenga, the front man, with his unique style and incredible energy is the ultimate entertainer. Then there's Stefanie Berecz, with her jaw-dropping, soulful vocals covering the "women in rock" from artists like Ann Wilson (Heart) to Tina Turner. Dave and Stef cover the groups, the front men and male/female solo artists, often trading off verses in duets, making these songs their own, but keeping true to the original artists. All backed by a fabulous band with a bit of Zany Antics from the Generation horn section, "The Brasscals", puts this group at a level that you'd expect of national touring acts!

The Mt. Morris Moose

Lodge will be serving concessions for the evening starting at 6 p.m. They'll have chicken strips, French fries, cheese fries, onion rings, cheese curds and fried mushrooms, with pop and water to drink. One or two ice cream trucks will likely be there, too.

Please bring a blanket or chair, or enjoy the new benches and join the fun on the beautiful, historic campus in the center of Mt. Morris, two blocks south of Illinois Route 64 on Wesley Avenue and enjoy the free rock & roll concert. In the event of rain, please check for an alternate location on one of three websites: Facebook.com/mtmorris-jamboree, mtmorrisil.net, moundertown.com



Rochelle Kiwanis Club sponsors Kissack's Camp Independence enrollment

The Rochelle Kiwanis Club, thanks to the hard work and efforts of John Schinzer, was able to sponsor Bryn Kissack's enrollment into Camp Independence. John's previous employer, Weyers McKeever Financial Partners, donated money to Kiwanis in his honor to thank him for all his time helping people realize their financial goals. John wanted these funds to help someone local, and he was happy to support Bryn's participation at Camp Independence. This camp helps those with Spina Bifida gain more independence. Kiwanis' mission is to help children and we are happy to support the youth right here in Rochelle. Pictured: Schinzer, Kissack and Ric Taylor.

Hero Hotline VBS is July 24-27

ROCHELLE — Every child can be a hero — even a superhero! Rochelle United Methodist Church is training heroes this summer at their "Hero Hotline" VBS July 24-27! It is free to everyone, with supper served at 5 p.m. and Hero Training beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Register your children ages 4-12 for Rochelle United Methodist Church's Superhero Hotline VBS by calling 815-562-2164 or emailing admin@RUMC.com! At Hero Hotline, they will learn what God needs in heroes and how to respond to the needs of people and the world around them! Hero Training includes

fun superhero-themed games, awesome crafts, interactive Bible lessons and so much more as they learn about serving God!

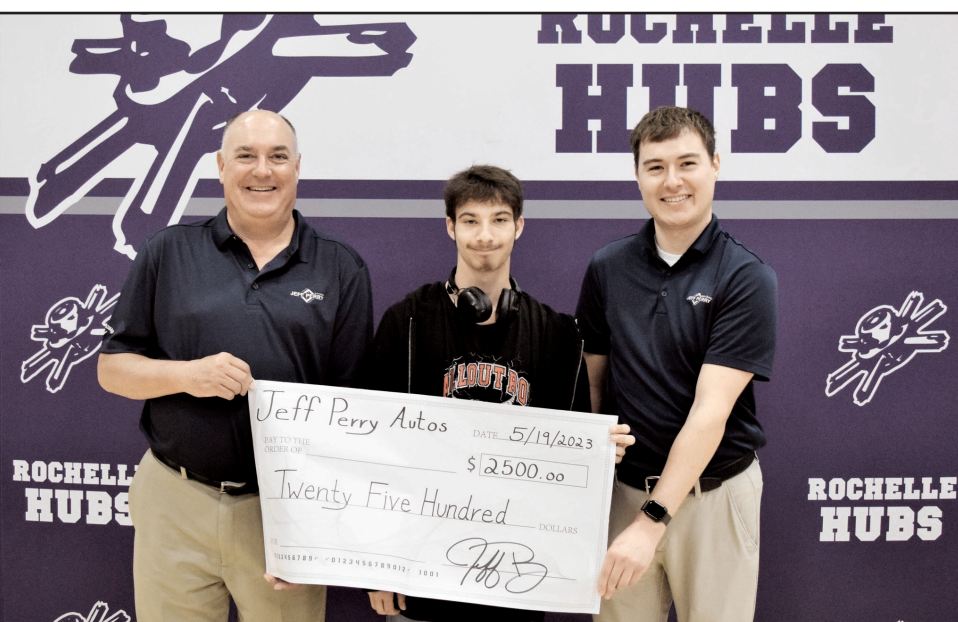
Stories about less familiar heroes in the Bible will encourage us all to look for what we CAN do, and teach us that God identifies hero qualities a bit differently than the movies we enjoy! We will wrap up each day by checking in with "Super Meer" a heroic meerkat with fun tips on being superheroes!

This free event takes place at Rochelle United Methodist Church, located on 7th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues on July 24-27 from 5:30 p.m. to

7:30 p.m. (with a meal provided each day at 5 p.m.) Call 815-562-2164 or email admin@RUMC.com for more information or to register. All children ages 4-12 are welcome!

Teens are welcome as helpers — we don't want them to miss the fun! On Sunday, July 30 the 9 a.m. worship service will conclude the VBS adventure and friends and family are invited to see the heroes in action! Also come to our VBS kick-off pool party on July 23 from 6-8 p.m. at Spring Lake for some good food and swimming!

There is no charge for any of these activities, and everyone is welcome!



Beckman wins grand prize at RTHS EOY assembly

Rochelle Township High School sophomore Christopher Beckman won the 2023 Renaissance Grand Prize at the May 19 assembly. He received a \$2,500 check from Jeff Perry Autos. For every nine weeks of perfect attendance this year, students earned a shot at the grand prize. The school thanked Jeff and Troy Perry for continuing to offer the incentive to improve attendance and grades.

Crop marketing program is June 14

ROCK FALLS — The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of June 14 at the Days Inn in Rock Falls. "Riding Crop Price Cycles" is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions to capture profit margins through this year into next.

Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension farm management specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the farm & ag business management specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999.

He specializes in topics related to government

farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing, grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance.

Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually he reaches more than 200,000 producers, landowners and other agribusiness professionals.

During the two hour program producers will examine the following topics: Supply/Demand & Crop Price Outlook, Weather Forecasts & Crop Insurance Review, Pre-Harvest Marketing Strategies, Global Geo-Political Issues & Recession, and Imple-

menting a '23-'24 Marketing Plan.

This presentation will assist producers in designing and implementing a marketing plan that is specific to their own operation. It will present producers with various options they can effectively utilize to capture market profits, manage market risks in this volatile market, minimize cost increases and make informed decisions on input pricing, storage options and position their marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations.

Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net. The Program begins at 7 p.m. on June 14.

Central College honors Ricketts with academic award in economics

PELLA, Iowa — Gregory Ricketts of Rochelle received the Economics

Award at Central College. Ricketts is a major in the Class of 2023. Central

College of Pella, Iowa, is a private, four-year liberal arts college.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

James I. (Jim) McCaslin

AUBURN — James I. (Jim) McCaslin, 84, of Auburn, formerly of Rochelle, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2023.

He was born September 14, 1938 in Rochelle. He was the son of Roy and Anna Card McCaslin.

He married Connie Boesdorfer Adcock on Sept. 2, 1995, and she survives.

Jim began his career in real estate and as a volunteer Fireman. Jim was later promoted to lieutenant and then to the Rochelle Fire Chief. Jim also served on the City Council as the Police and Fire Commissioner, as well as the Finance Commissioner. Jim was the Director of the Department of Petroleum and Chemical Safety at the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. He retired from the Secretary of State's Office.

In addition to his wife, Connie, he is survived by three daughters: Karen (Mike) Combes of Cincinnati, Karla (Rod) Brown, and Kelly Kersten both of Rochelle; two stepdaughters: Lori (Steve) Johnson of Auburn and Deana (John) Bolletta of Cape Coral, Florida; 14 grandchildren: Kaitlyn (Michael) Smith, Nick (Shaylah) Combes, Tim (Kiersten) Combes, Julia Combes, Kory Brown, Emma (Cody) Rannells, Kaylee Brown, Kylee Brown, Haley (Cody) Brill, Kelsey Kersten, Emily (Ryan) Porter, Logan (Shannon) Johnson, Kaitlyn (Ben) Norrenberns and Jordan (Tess) Bolletta; 16 great grandchildren and two sisters: Shirley Rainwater and Rosemary Van Kirk.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by brothers Elmer, Mac,



and Eugene, and sisters Mildred, Edna, and Lillie.

Visitation will be Friday, June 9, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 11:30 at Bramley Funeral Home in Auburn with the Deacon Denny Baker officiating.

Memorials can be made to St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 700 E. Spruce St., Chatham, IL 62629 or Rochelle Fire Ambulance Fund, 401 5th Ave, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Condolences may be left online at www.bramleyfh.com.

David E. Newman Jr.

ROCHELLE — David E. Newman, Jr., 52, passed away Monday, June 5, 2023, at the OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. He was born Dec. 29, 1970, in St. Joseph, Missouri, the son of David E. Newman Sr. and Sherrie (Scroggins) Newman.

Dave worked as a forklift operator at Silgan Containers. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, and playing basketball with his brothers. He knew most everything there was to know about sports. Dave was also an avid music fan and always had music playing. He loved to be with his family and especially loved being a dad and uncle.

Dave is survived by his life partner, Tracy McBee of Rochelle; daughter, Sadie B. (Taylor) Kimmel of Grand Junction, Colorado; son, Zachary Newman Davis of Austin, Texas; three grandchildren; mother, Sherrie (Fred) Vrieswyk of O'Fallon, Missouri; siblings Becky (Ken) Wheat of St. Louis, Missouri, Nathan (Lori) Wooten of Rochelle, Adam (Jess) Wooten of Amboy, Washington, Krista (Terrance) Parks of Lawrence, Kansas, Ben Newman of Kansas City, Missouri, and Lucas Newman of Camdenton, Missouri; and several nieces and nephews.

Dave is preceded in death by his father, David



E. Newman Sr.

Visitation will be from 4-7 P.M. on Friday, June 9, 2023, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle. Cremation care will be provided after the services. Interment will take place at a later date in St. Joseph Memorial Park in St. Joseph, Missouri. Please visit www.ung-erhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers issue several arrests

ROCHELLE — On May 31 at 1:49 p.m. Lucas N. Vasquez, 24, of Sterling was arrested for retail theft. He was released on an I-Bond with a June 30 Ogle County court date.

On June 1 at 10:17 a.m. Sandra C. Behm, 51, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$825 and was released with no court date listed.

On June 2 at 12:45 p.m. Paul A. Gardner, 36, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$500 and was released with a June 23 Ogle County court date.

On June 2 at 3:11 p.m. Garrison Magnuson, 25, of Rochelle was cited for improper U-turn. He

signed a promise to comply and was given a June 23 Rochelle court date.

On June 2 at 6:30 p.m. Liza J. Anguiano, 20, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond with a July 23 Ogle County court date.

On June 2 at 10:52 p.m. Angel C. Lopez, 36, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 7 Rochelle court date.

On June 3 at 11:31 a.m. Jessica Erdman, 45,



of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$3,034 and was released with no court date listed.

On June 3 at midnight, Kyle E. Combs, 33, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 7 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 11:05 a.m. Manuel Carlos, 50, of West Chicago was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for suspended registration. He was released on an I-Bond with a June 23 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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LOCAL NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center baseball players earn end-of-season honors

Congratulations to the Baseball All-Conference Winners: 1st Team: Griffin Bushman, Jordan Harris, & Carson Rueff; 2nd Team: Brock Lehman; Honorable Mention: Michael Cochrane & Aaron Lester.

Congratulations to the Varsity Baseball Award Winners. Varsity Winners: Speed: Carson Rueff, Contact: Griffin Bushman, Power: Brock Lehman, Fielding: Jordan Harris, Starting Pitching: Michael Cochrane, Relief Pitching: Caleb Thomas, Growth: Griffin Bushman and Raiders of the Year: Jordan Harris & Carson Rueff.

Congratulations to the 2023 JV Baseball award winners. JV Winners: Pitcher's Award: Chase Hayes-Near, Hitter's Award: Logan O'Brien, Fielder's Award: Ben Rockwood and #LiveLikeCal: Ryan Garcia.



Ashton-Franklin Center softball players earn end-of-season honors

Congratulations to all of the 2023 softball award winners.

Captains: Andrea Buhrow & Greta Horner, Most Improved: Emma Maronde, Best Batting Avg., .406: Claire Freeman, Slugging %, .727: Alexis Schwarz, On Base %, .611: Alexis Schwarz, Most Coachable: Nadia Near, Most Runs: Reese Polk, Player of the Year: Alexis Schwarz,

NUIC All-Conference 2nd Team: Alexis Schwarz & Claire Freeman.

COMMUNITY MATTERS



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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

It takes a community...of great organizations

DURING my time serving as Rochelle's city manager, I have had the opportunity to work with numerous organizations whose missions are to serve our community and residents. If I attempt to name them all I know I will inadvertently miss one. Instead, I want to talk about the importance these organizations serve in moving Rochelle forward. For without our support, whether through our monetary offerings or

our time and talents, they will not be able to succeed in fulfilling their respective visions.

One of the many positive attributes about Rochelle is our people and our generosity of spirit, dollars, and time. Take for example the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry. From their Facebook page, it states the pantry serves families in the Rochelle Township High School District who are needing temporary help obtaining food. I know they never turn anyone

away because God never turns anyone away. Or the Rochelle Golden K group, whose mission is to serve the greater Rochelle area with a dedication to helping children become better-educated and productive members of the community. Some of the programs they are involved in include Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Miss Peanut and C.A.N. Let's

not forget HOPE of Ogle County, whose mission is to advocate on behalf of domestic abuse victims and their children in a welcoming environment. They offer support, counseling, assistance and resources to those who are contending with the effects of abusive relationships. There is a direct link on their website for those who want to get involved. Well, I did not follow

my own advice, so what else is new. I know I only mentioned three groups and there are many more to name. My point is, no group can exist or fulfill its mission without an active and dedicated group of volunteers. Our community cannot move forward without all of you. Please consider giving of your time and talents to any organization that speaks to your heart and soul. There are many people in our community that need our help and we can assist

by acting though volunteerism.

"Act as if what you do makes a difference...it does." -William James

"It is not enough to be compassionate, you must act." -Dalai Lama

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help." -Heather French Henry

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, ICMA-CRM, MPA, is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.



Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh

Artificial intelligence, an ethical dilemma

THE latest buzz concerns AI (artificial intelligence). Simply put, artificial intelligence is a computer program that thinks and learns on its own without human interaction. However, those who develop the AI programs can easily program bias into the AI behavior whether political, emotional or economical. AI is nothing new.

In the 1968 movie, 2001 a Space Odyssey, the AI-programmed computer attempted to take over the space craft and eliminate the human astronauts. In the early 1970s, Bell Laboratories developed software for sampling, transmitting and reconstructing a person's voice for their elec-

tronic switching systems. The 1980 movie, "War Games," presented a scenario where a computer thinks and learns (AI) and almost destroys the planet — hopefully not a harbinger of the future.

Virtual assistants such as Siri, Alexa, Chat GPT and Google Assistant are current examples of conversational AI which are popular. You ask Siri for the location of the nearest gas station and it pops up on your handheld device. The big players in AI are Microsoft, Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook.

So, what is all the fuss about? The answer is the rapid development of AI though computer technology advancement and the ethical problems it pres-

ents. AI can be very useful and nearly everyone can utilize this technology, but it can be abused by the bad people among us. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, has developed recommendations on the ethics of artificial intelligence.

Briefly, privacy must be protected, data usage must be protected and conformity to international law and sovereignty should be respected. Apparently, there are three major concerns: lack of neutrality (AI is susceptible to the whims of the programmers such as ideology, discrimination,

political persuasion and other forms of bias), lack of transparency (the basis for AI decisions may not be understandable) and lack of control on gathering of data on people (privacy concerns).

Congress is attempting to get a handle on some of these concerns despite the fact that they know nothing about the technology and in typical fashion never admit it.

Voice cloning using AI is on the rise and is used by scammers. Voice cloning is the reconstruction of a person's voice by a computer that sounds exactly like a loved one or friend. A typical scam

is to receive a phone call with the voice sounding exactly like a family member saying they are in a jam and need money right away. The giveaway is when the voice requests that you send money via cryptocurrency, gift cards, wiring, etc. — an obvious scam. How do scammers get your voice print? It usually happens when you answer a robo call and say a few words like, "Yes," "I don't want it," etc.

This is enough to sample and reconstruct your voice through AI. Agreeing on a family password may help discriminate between family and foe.

Computerized photo editors can generate a video using AI that appears to be a person attempting

to influence you and is entirely fake. AI has been used in the music realm to create songs with voices that are nearly identical to popular artists even though the artist was not involved in its creation, which could be a copyright violation. Investors must be vigilant to fraud based on AI. Some investment promotion videos depict a person who never existed.

AI has its blessings and its problems requiring us to recognize and be skeptical of AI content until verified. The bad people always seem to be ahead of the game. "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light." -Luke 16:8 ESV.



Chuck Roberts

Send a letter to the Rochelle News-Leader

THE News-Leader would like to remind the public and our readers that respon-

sible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers are encouraged. Letters to the editor must

abide by the guidelines that you will find at the bottom of this page.

Those that want to make

their voice heard can send their letters via email to news@rochellenews-leader.com, in the mail to

PO Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068 or drop them off at 211 Illinois Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068. Ques-

tions? Call 815-561-2151.

Jeff Helfrich
Managing Editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY



Girl Scouts, Rochelle DAR members place flags for Memorial Day
Members of Girl Scout Troop 409 assisted the Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in placing approximately 200 flags on veterans graves at Lawnridge Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day. Shown left to right with the scouts are Troop Leader Heather Simo, Volunteer Michael Billings and DAR Service to Veterans Committee Member Lydia Roberts. If your veteran was missed and has a flag holder or flower pot (flags may not be placed in the ground per cemetery rules) please contact the DAR at VIS.DAR.Rochelle@gmail.com with their information and location and we would be happy to place a flag for you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 4 Barb Manning	June 9 Minnie Losoya Sammy Navejas	June 13 Chrissy Norris Jaelyn Gonzales	June 17 Ellie Sherburne	June 27 Brittany Sullivan Gary & Rachelle Phillips (anniversary)
June 6 Chonito Astudillo	June 10 Eleanor Kulwicki Tanya Sage	June 14 Nicholas Oleson Gabe Aleman	June 19 Eddie Villalobos	June 22 Betty Armstrong Isaac Bonilla
June 7 Jacob Seldal Keli Perez Lyle & Ruth Allen (anniversary)	June 11 Caleb Smith Emmalyn Eggenburg	June 15 Brayden Moser	June 25 Chyanne Bozek Cruz Hord Teresa Baker Treavon Huff David & Courtney Jones (anniversary)	June 28 Grace Sherburne Greg Danekas Harold Sanders
June 8 Scarlet Jones	June 12 Robby Lang	June 16 John & Carolyn Overstreet (anniversary) Anna Norris	June 29 Derek Oleson	

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

2023 From The Heart Calendar

Celebrating 15 Years of Giving

\$20

May 12 - Charlie Boonstra, Dixon, \$25

May 13 - RACF, \$25

May 14 - Alexis Wooden, Paw Paw, \$500

May 15 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25

May 16 - Brittani Lambrecht, South Beloit, \$25

May 17 - Tammy Burke, Oregon, \$25

May 18 - Megan Dempsey, Dixon, \$25

May 19 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25

May 20 - RACF, \$25

May 21 - Rochelle Fire Fighter Social, \$50

May 22 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

May 23 - Merrick Jacobs, Glendale, AZ, \$25

May 24 - Dustin Shafer, Rochelle, \$25

May 25 - Justin May, Byron, \$25

May 26 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

May 27 - Judy Connolly, Rochelle, \$25

May 28 - Robert Thompson, Rochelle, \$50

May 29 - Louise Reinke, Rochelle, \$1,000

May 30 - Kevin Reilly, Hoffman Estates, \$25

May 31 - Chicagoland Skydiving, \$25

June 1 - Hannah Payne, Rochelle, \$25

June 2 - First State Bank Employee, Rochelle, \$25

June 3 - Marsha Miller, Rochelle, \$25

June 4 - Liquor 'n' Wine, Rochelle, \$25

June 5 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25

June 6 - Erica Sachs, Rochelle, \$25

June 7 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Cave flier

4 Beanies

8 Experts

12 Punk rock off-shoot

13 Classic the-aters

14 Global septet

15 Ages and ages

16 When bar drinks are dis-counted

18 First-rate, in slang

20 Perched

21 Apothecary measure

24 Of the Arctic

28 Annual celebration for a saint

32 Forbidden act

33 Freedom, for short

34 First half of an LP

36 Pol. party org.

37 Raw materials

39 Magazine founded in 1933

41 Costume

43 Admin. aide

44 Composer Rorem

46 Grammarian's concern

50 Freshman

55 Pen name

56 Garfield's pal

57 North Sea feeder

58 "This tastes awful!"

59 Engrossed

60 Conked out

61 Uncle (Sp.)

DOWN

1 Gridlock sound

2 Latin love

3 Singer Braxton

4 Companions

5 Oklahoma city

6 Zing

7 Easy targets

8 Actor Kutcher

9 Corp. boss

10 Vichy water

11 Old map letters

17 Chatter

19 Rx writers

22 Tennis score

23 Tyler Perry persona

25 Mine find

26 Diarist Frank

27 Boulder

28 Promote aggressively

29 Hibernia

30 Help a hood

31 Evergreen trees

35 Promised

38 Twilight time

40 Scale amts.

42 Favorite

45 Turned blue?

47 Border on

48 Leslie Caron role

49 Repeat

50 Supporting

51 Lupino of film

52 Wardrobe malfunction

53 Peyton's brother

54 Actor Vigoda

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **M** equals **B**

HPCY YOCZ-XWZWTOE MCTTDOT

VDBPY JWVO QWZDXO MO

HTCQQDAB CTWLAE C XTDVO

JXOAO? XWTEWA MZLO.

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What teal-colored barrier might some police be wrapping around a crime scene? Cordon blue.

answer

CryptoQuip

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation recently presented three \$1,000 scholarships to employees that are pursuing education in the healthcare field. Two of which include Emergency Department RN and House Supervisor Megan Dempsey (left) and Cardiac Rehab RN Elise Myers (right), pictured with Reed Harris.

RCH: Three employees awarded scholarships from foundation

From page 1

“Because not a lot of places do that. For RCH to invest in its employees to further their education, that’s such a blessing and it’s super cool. I’m really blessed to have that opportunity.”

Dempsey also teaches nursing at Sauk Valley Community College and works with nursing students throughout the school

year. Everything that she can learn and keep herself up to date with in school and working as a PRN at RCH, she can take back to students. Part of being a DNP educational leader involves taking current evidence-based practice and implementing it into the patient care setting to improve patient outcomes.

“Receiving the scholarship was very meaningful,” Dempsey said. “As

a nursing faculty, we are obviously not paid a whole lot to educate our future nurses. It meant a lot to me to be able to continue the two classes I’m in right now, because without getting the federal funding I was receiving before, I would have to pay for all of that out of pocket. So that was a big, significant help to me during this quarter of school.”

Myers plans to special-

ize in nurse education with her masters program. She enjoys the education realm and informing patients. She wants to help other nurses find that enjoyment. Working in RCH’s cardiac rehab unit sees Myers work with patients with a variety of cardiac conditions.

“We spend time on exercise and therapy,” Myers said. “But 90 percent of the workload is mental. It’s about how they got here.

I spent a lot of my time educating patients, which is my favorite part. I talk with them one-on-one when they’re exercising so we can incorporate the education into the exercise.”

Myers said she has enjoyed working at RCH and how it makes employees’ futures a priority.

“They sought me out to apply for the scholarship,” Myers said. “I’ve only been here six months. That’s

been so nice. Getting the scholarship was awesome. It just means that I can keep going in my class. It’s fun working here. I’m working part-time so I could go back to school and have kids and manage a life. The scholarship helps me to keep going to school without having to take breaks. The faster I get through the program, the faster I up my certification and I can get back into the workforce for more time.”

CITY: Zoning board holds public hearing held for petition approval

From page 1

Along with serving local fire personnel that struggle at times to find good training locations, the facility is planned to serve other entities in the region including law enforcement, electrical lineman, other City of Rochelle departments and possibly railroad personnel, Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville has said in the past.

The project will be done in phases as money becomes available. The cost will be split 50-50 between the city and the OLFPD. The first phase is a small initial facility for firefighters to start training on. Most training is currently done at the Rochelle and OLFPD

fire stations and is limited due to fear of damaging buildings.

“Right now, this is a multi-phase project,” Sawlsville said. “This is phase one, getting metal structures on there for training. With 12 acres, the possibility exists of expanding into whatever the city and OLFPD decide is the best use. There are no plans right now for a secondary fire station down there due to how expensive it would be. But I’m not saying it couldn’t go there. There’s 12 acres. The possibilities are huge.”

Another benefit of the planned facility is its potential to lower homeowner’s insurance rates for area residents. The Insurance

Service Organization rates fire departments and that plays into residents’ insurance costs. Rochelle and Ogle-Lee having access to a fire training facility would give them a better rating.

Housing

The planning & zoning commission also held a public hearing for and unanimously recommended that the city council approve a petition by Willis Senior Lofts Limited Partnership to combine three parcels of 400-420 Willis Ave. into one for a multi-family senior housing development for those aged 55 and older. The property is zoned R-5 multi-family high-density residential and is approxi-

mately 2.037 acres.

The proposed development is for a four-story building with 60 units. This development is an allowable use within the R-5 multi-family high-density residential district and only a subdivision is required. Buildings can’t be built across more than one lot under city code.

916 S. Main St.

The planning & zoning

commission held a public hearing for and unanimously recommended that the city council approve the subdivision of 2.855 acres of city property at 916 S. Main St. into a one-lot subdivision and as well as dedicate right of way and easements for use by the city.

The property is zoned I-1 light industry. The proposed name of the subdivision is Veterans

Parkway Industrial Park.

When the city was doing street improvements in the area and needed to acquire right of way, the opportunity to purchase the entire parcel came about, which it did.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau said he’s not sure what development will happen at the site, but it can be expected it will fall under light industry zoning.

FIRE: Departments respond to Monday incident in Steward

From page 1

Herman Road is the furthest southern point of the Rochelle and Ogle-Lee fire coverage area. High winds in the area and a long distance from Rochelle exacerbated last year’s blaze at the property.

Good said it is common for demolition crews to utilize small burn piles when demolishing a home lost from a fire, but controlled burns require a close eye, especially during this time. Fire crews allowed the homeowner to continue burning piled debris as long as they remained on scene to watch it.

“We definitely put out the structures that they didn’t want burnt and a couple of trees caught on fire and we put those out along with some smaller grass fires,” Good said. “We told them how to properly do a controlled burn in the future. You tell the county who you are and how long you’re going to be burning and what you’re burning. We really launch the fleet when we hear structure fire and heavy black smoke and flames showing. When we don’t know about it, that puts us in danger responding and on the road and other people in danger. It’s just unnecessary.”

Response Monday included three fire engines, a tender truck for water, an ambulance and off-duty firemen and volunteers. Crews were on scene for 2.5 hours. OLFPD covered Rochelle’s station in its absence.

“Every time something like this happens, the next call is only a couple minutes or seconds away,” Good said. “If you’re sending

a bunch of apparatus to the southern point of our district, somebody else has to filter into the center part here to kind of protect us. If it’s unnecessary, then it doesn’t make any sense. I would just advise everybody that with the drought conditions we’re in right now, if there’s any kind of wind or anything like that, it’s very dangerous to be burning right now.”



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A photograph of three young men, members of the AHS Robotics team, standing side-by-side. The man on the left is wearing a maroon t-shirt with a white eagle logo and a white baseball cap with a black logo. The man in the middle is wearing a grey t-shirt with a white graphic and a red baseball cap. The man on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt with a blue and white graphic. They are all smiling at the camera.

See page 7 for more details

Former Rochelle Middle School coach eager to bring hard-working mentality

See GEHM page 3

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



The Rochelle Hub tennis team celebrated its season with an awards banquet at the Rochelle Township High School tennis courts on Monday evening. Several Hubs took home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference honors at the banquet. Seven Hubs earned All-Conference honors for the season including Nolan Fonfara, Owen Haas, John Green, David Wanner, Mark Green, Paul Swartz and Jimmy Chavez (Honorable Mention). Eight Hubs received Academic All-Conference honors including Evin Odle (Honorable Mention), Nolan Fonfara (Honorable Mention), Owen Haas (Honorable Mention), John Green, David Wanner, Parker Lenkaitis, Paul Swartz and Jimmy Chavez (Honorable Mention). Nolan Fonfara won the Most Improved Varsity Player Award and John Green earned the Varsity High Point Award. Jace Whitehead won the JV High Point Award and Philip Winters received the Fresh-Soph Most Improved Player Award.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Confidence keys Lodico's successful sophomore season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER Rochelle softball standout Bella Lodico had the tough task of taking the pitcher's circle with the Benedictine University team trailing by nine runs during an NACC matchup against Marian University on April 2. What resulted was not only Lodico's longest collegiate outing, but a remarkable come-from-behind win that highlighted her sophomore season with the Eagles.

Forced to enter in the top of the first inning, Lodico fired a career-high 10 and one-third innings while striking out a season-high eight batters and holding the Marian offense to only one run. Lodico's efforts helped Benedictine fight back and tie the score at 10-10 in the bottom of the third inning. Lodico didn't walk a single batter in the game and she remained in the circle through the 11th inning, where a walk-off single in the bottom half clinched an extra-inning win.

"It was amazing knowing that I had the defense behind me and the support from the dugout in between innings," Lodico said. "I was able to keep my head in the game and focus on doing what I needed to do as a pitcher. The support from my teammates motivated me and winning the game was a big confidence builder. It helped me show my coaches what I'm made of and what I can do on and off the field. After this game, I earned a lot more reps later in the season."

Looking to make an immediate impact after transferring in from Judson University, where she played her freshman season, Lodico found her role at Benedictine as a relief pitcher, ultimately throwing 37 and two-thirds innings while recording a 3.72 ERA with 26 strikeouts and only eight walks. Lodico went 2-0 in the circle this season, with her second victory coming after hurling two and one-third scoreless innings during Benedictine's 6-3 win over Edgewood on April 22.

"It's been a much better experience for me and I've really enjoyed being with the girls and working with the coaching staff," Lodico said. "The girls were really accepting of me when I transferred in and it's been a great bonding experience. I think the team enjoys having a lefty pitcher who can come in and help close out games. I love the campus here as well as the environment and the staff here. I also love winning and having success as a team has been a huge

"It's been a much better experience for me and I've really enjoyed being with the girls and working with the coaching staff. The girls were really accepting of me when I transferred in and it's been a great bonding experience."

Bella Lodico



(PHOTO COURTESY OF BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY)
Former Rochelle softball standout Bella Lodico recorded a 3.72 ERA for the Benedictine University team this season.

motivator. We've always been able to battle back when we've been down in games."

Lodico's efforts in the circle helped Benedictine finish with a 24-18 overall record this season. The former Lady Hub standout started her collegiate career at Judson University, where she logged 78 and two-thirds innings across 13 starts and recorded a 4.72 ERA. Pitching with a renewed sense of confidence, Lodico said she intends to begin her summer throwing program soon in order to begin preparation for her junior season at Benedictine, where she's currently studying psychology with a minor in social work in hopes of pursuing a career in foster care.

"I understood my role this season and my goal was to be ready for whenever I was called upon," Lodico said. "I'm working hard over the offseason and my goal for next season is to compete for a starting role. It was nice to see how the program worked with it being my first season this year and I'll have a chance to step into a leadership role next year... My confidence has improved and I've realized that I can strike hitters out and I can fight back if I'm down in the count or if we're down in the game because we have good bats and a good defense behind me."

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SPORTS

Kishwaukee College Athletics

Kougar student-athletes nominated for Academic Excellence Team

Eight student-athletes receive NJCAA All-Academic nominations this year

MALTA—Kishwaukee College saw a college record 45 student-athletes nominated for the Arrowhead Conference Bob Bopp Academic Excellence Team during the 2022-2023 season. The award is named to honor Bob Bopp, a major supporter of the Arrowhead Athletic Conference and its athletes. The recognition is given to student-athletes who complete at least 12 credits per semester while achieving a 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA for the academic year. The following Kishwaukee student-athletes were nominated:

Men's Baseball — Forrest Gerber, Chana; Tyler Jacobsen, Algonquin; Cameron Knapp, Plainfield; Blake Novinsky, Sycamore; Collin Quandt, Lake in the Hills; Tyler Potter, McHenry; Jack Ryan, Harwood Heights; Ian Solger, Lake in the Hills

Men's Basketball — Jackson Chatman, St. Louis, MO.; Cooper Hasz, Rochelle; Luke

Jungerman, Sterling; Brennen McNally, Paw Paw; Cameron Russell, Waterman; Donavyn Sayles, Belvidere

Women's Basketball — Brooklyn Sellers, Freeport
Women's Bowling — Carly Summers, Esmond
Women's Cross Country — Gretchen Strathman, Sycamore

Men's Cross Country — Josue Huerta, Rochelle; Zander Ward, DeKalb

Women's Golf — Amber Fellows, Genoa

Men's Golf — Garrett Burdin, Rochelle; Jared Glendenning, Oregon; Ayden Theiss, Rochelle; Rowan Williams, Rochelle

Men's Soccer — Alex Chavez, DeKalb; Yahir Diaz, Mendota; Alec Garcia, Sycamore; Khor Miles, Clarksburg, WV.; Andrew Prescod, Orlando, FL.; Ilir Redzepi, DeKalb; Griffey Rodriguez, Dixon; Francis Zaylik, DeKalb

Women's Soccer — Britney Calin, DeKalb; Guadalupe Carrillo, DeKalb; Valeria Gonzalez, Aurora; Luciana Monroy,

Rochelle; Tracee Nelson, Byron; Taylor Rufer, Oregon; Cassandra Winters, Kingston

Women's Softball — Tracee Nelson, Byron

NJCAA

In addition, eight student-athletes also received National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Academic nominations. Student-athletes with a 4.00 GPA earned NJCAA All-Academic First Team. Student-athletes with a 3.80-3.99 GPA earned NJCAA All-Academic Second Team. And student-athletes with a 3.60-3.79 GPA earned NJCAA All-Academic Third Team. The following student-athletes were nominated:

First Team — Valeria Gonzalez, Aurora; Francis Zaylik, DeKalb

Second Team — Garrett Burdin, Rochelle; Jackson Chatman, St. Louis, MO.; Luciana Monroy, Rochelle; Blake Novinsky, Sycamore; Cameron Russell, Waterman; Gretchen



Strathman, Sycamore

"The 2022-2023 athletic year was a solid year in competition, but we are extremely proud of the number of student-athletes that achieved academic recognition," said Scott Kwall, Director of Student Involvement, Athletic Director. "Their collective

efforts both inside and outside the classroom are extraordinary, including extra studying and tutoring, practices, traveling to games, or working part-time jobs. And a record 45 student-athletes showed dedication to be successful while being role models to the College and community.

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With the start of a new athletic season fast approaching this August, Kishwaukee College is eager to welcome its next class of athletes.

To learn more about athletics at Kish, visit www.kishkougars.com.

Forge Wrestling Club

Three athletes qualify for 2023 Fargo Nationals

Voight, Windham, Gensler record top-2 finishes at Second Chance Qualifier

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — The Forge Wrestling Club sent a small number of athletes to the 2023 Illinois Second Chance National Team

Qualifier at Sycamore High School this past weekend. Three FWC wrestlers punched their tickets to the 2023 USA Wrestling Freestyle & Greco-Roman National Championships, which

will be held in Fargo, North Dakota early next month.

Brenden Voight won the 16U Greco-Roman 145 Division with a 3-0 record. Voight notched a first-round fall over Addison's Jonathan Castillo before

securing a 9-0 technical fall over Callan Wrestling Club's Trace Wilson and a 14-6 technical fall over Southern Illinois Regional Training Center's Lonnez Smith.

Landyn Windham won

the 16U Greco-Roman 182 Division with a 3-0 record, earning falls over Hurricane's Elvis Mora and Beat the Streets-Chicago Midway's Joaquin Gigante as well as a 8-0 technical fall over Omega Training

Center's Lucas Bittman. Grant Gensler took second in the Junior Greco-Roman 160 Division with a 1-1 record, scoring a 11-2 technical fall over Team Tortorice Wrestling's Nicholas Asllani.

GEHM: Former RMS coach named next head coach at RTHS

From page 1

Rochelle went 8-24 overall and 6-8 in the conference during the 2022-23 campaign, falling against Kaneland in the IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals at Sycamore. The Lady Hubs graduated five seniors from the 2022-23 roster, but several starters including juniors Alivia Henkel, Sydney

Tabor, Kennedy Adamski and sophomore Kendyl Darby are eligible to return next season.

"We're hoping to build a winning program and we can do that by starting on defense and bringing the energy there," Gehm said. "We can then look at our talent and our skills so we can score the ball, but our defense and our hard work will always be what keeps

us in games. We want to run a lot and we want to be the team that our opponents don't want to play. We want to work hard for 32 minutes and regardless of our talent level, we want that to be our goal."

Gehm will be officially approved as the next head coach by the RTHS Board of Education during its next meeting on Tuesday, June 20. The Lady Hub

"We're hoping to build a winning program and we can do that by starting on defense and bringing the energy there... We want to run a lot and we want to be the team that our opponents don't want to play. We want to work hard for 32 minutes."

Jon Gehm

varsity team will compete in the Plano Summer

League and hold skills camps from 6:30-8 a.m.

at RTHS throughout the month of June.

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ON THE FARM

The environmental impact of shopping local

SHOPPING at locally owned businesses benefits everyone from local business owners to the people they employ to the communities where they operate. As beneficial as shopping local can be for small business owners and the communities where they operate, the planet is perhaps the biggest beneficiary of consumers supporting locally owned small businesses. The environmental impact of purchasing locally manufactured and sold products is significant. Consumers who choose to use their purchasing power to support local businesses may not realize just how much they're helping the planet in so doing.

• Shopping local reduces your "food miles." Large grocery stores get much of their inventory from producers in other countries. Even stores that rely heavily on domestic producers may not limit their domestic partners to local farms. That means products may be traveling thousands of

miles before they end up on the shelves in local grocery stores. This is often referred to as "food miles," and the more consumers can reduce their food miles, the more they help the planet. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions notes that transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in the United States, so anything consumers can do to reduce the amount of fuel needed to get food from farm to table can greatly benefit the planet. Shopping local grocers who source their foods from local farms is a simple and effective way to help the planet.

• Shopping local conserves fuel. Much like shopping local reduces reliance on producers who must travel thousands of miles to get their products on shelves in your community, it also reduces the time consumers spend in their vehicles. That conserves fuel and helps to reduce air pollution. That's an easily overlooked benefit of shopping local, but one



that should not be taken for granted. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, an estimated 150 million Americans are living in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards. Emissions from automobiles are a major source of the pollution that's behind

poor air quality, so anything consumers can do to reduce their fuel consumption, including shopping locally, can greatly benefit the planet.

• Shopping local protects land from developers. Another way shopping local benefits the planet is its link to

preserving local farms. When local grocers get their foods from local farms, that increases the long-term sustainability of those farms. If farms are sustainable, they're more likely to remain in operation. Farms don't just grow foods, they also provide habitats for local

wildlife that helps maintain local ecosystems. That domino effect begins with consumers who support local businesses by shopping local. Shopping local pays dividends, not the least of which are the many ways supporting local businesses benefits the environment.

The role of technology in agriculture

MODERN industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry

people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible. Precision

agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the agricultural sector become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly. In addition,

the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For example, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves

both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that agricultural technology has reduced waste. For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently. That saves time and allows farmers to use only minimal quantities

of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productivity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.

Modern farms are technological marvels where various technologies are being employed to produce crops more efficiently and safely than ever before.



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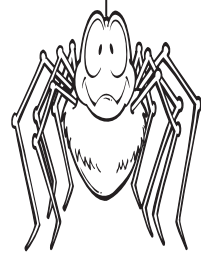
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SPORTS

RTHS Baseball

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards at team banquet

The Rochelle Hub baseball program celebrated its season with an awards banquet on Wednesday evening. Several Hubs took home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards at the banquet. Six Hubs received Academic All-Conference honors including Brandyn Metzger, Bradley Cooney (Honorable Mention), Aidan Rodriguez, Garrett Gensler, Colton O'Rorke (Honorable Mention) and Dylan Gapski (not pictured). Noah Lara won the Ricker Award and Alex Burnette was named the Most Improved Player Award winner. Colton O'Rorke was named the Most Valuable Player Award winner.

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The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation ... *The Zinger*.

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough ... a personal electric vehicle. It's called the *Zinger*, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"
—Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the *Zinger* is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding – when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a



Available in Green, Black and Blue (shown)



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the *Zinger* to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your *Zinger* almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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