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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

\$1.25

Liquor license moratorium extended Ambulance rate increase approved Monday night

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance extending its moratorium on the issuance of any new class B (bar) liquor licenses until May 1, 2025.

The council previously approved the moratorium in January of last year and the term lasted until May 1 of this year. The move was made in an effort to limit the number of gaming machines in the city. The city has no control over whether liquor license holders can get a gaming license from the state, but can limit if a business can get a liquor license in the first place, which qualifies it for gaming.

The moratorium exempts all current holders of class B licenses. If a current class B is revoked or relinquished, the limit number of class B liquor licenses will remain a total of 10. The ordinance does not affect any other type of liquor license.

Ambulance

The council unanimously approved a reso-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation designating the week of May 21-27 National EMS Week in the city and presented it to Rochelle Chief Dave Sawlsville.

lution establishing a new emergency service price schedule for the Rochelle Fire Department's ambulance work that will increase current rates by \$150 per category when the call for service includes private insurance.

The increase will not impact Medicaid/Medicare calls, which makes up most of RFD's ambulance calls. At least 80 percent of RFD's total calls are Medicare/Medicaid. The

city currently bills at the maximum amount that Medicaid/Medicare will reimburse. Ambulance rates were last updated in May 2021.

In comparison to surrounding communities, the city's rates fall in the "middle of the range" and are "considerably lower" than private services.

"State-wide, we're really, really low," Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said. "Re-

gionally, we're in the lower middle as far as rates go."

The city estimates the change will generate about \$127,000 in additional billable revenue, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said.

"We always work with our residents on their bills and don't send them to collections if they don't have insurance," Fiegenschuh said.

See CITY page 2



RFD to add six full-time firefighters

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville has been with the department for 43 years. When he started at RFD, the department staffed three firefighters per day. In 2006, that increased to four per day, which required hiring three additional firefighters.

At a special meeting on April 25, the Rochelle City Council voted 6-1 to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3445 that will see six more full-time firefighter/paramedics added to RFD. The city will hire three firefighter/paramedics before the end of 2024 and three more by Jan. 1, 2026.

See FIRE page 5

City working to lure grocery store to Rochelle 'Our staff and council want that added convenience and selection...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — In a community survey put out by the City of Rochelle back in 2020, the number-one resident desire was seeing an additional grocery store open in town.

Current options in Rochelle include Walmart, ALDI and Lupita Supermarket. Sullivan's Foods off Illinois Route 38 closed in March 2018, which started to spur residents' hopes for another grocery store. City staff has worked in recent years to help facilitate that, including considering offering incentives, reaching out to grocery store companies, and looking at sites that would lend themselves well to another grocery store due to location or tax increment financing eligibility.

"We've done some research on what other communities have done to attract grocery stores," City Director of Community Engagement Jenny Thompson said. "Is it a financial incentive? Is it more marketing directly to grocery stores? Is it letting them know that we did a community survey



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

In a community survey put out by the City of Rochelle back in 2020, the number-one resident desire was seeing an additional grocery store open in town.

back in 2020 and one of the most-requested things on the survey was that our residents want another grocery store? Residents have been loud and clear that that's what the desire is. So we've talked on our end about what we can do

to make that happen."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh stressed the importance of residents continuing to support Rochelle's current grocery stores, along with what would need to happen for a potential fourth store to

be successful.

"Businesses don't go out of business because people spend too much money there," Fiegenschuh said. "When I met with Sullivan's when they closed, they said Rochelle was their lowest-performing store. I

can't speak to why that is. The only way an additional grocery store in town would work is if it's supported. Any grocery store is only going to remain open if people shop there."

See STORE page 3

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LSR Fish Fry will be held June 2

The Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Protection District will hold its fish fry event on June 2.
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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
77 52	70 46
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 43	81 47

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OBITUARIES

- CONNOR HEATH EWALD
- ANN DELORES CARNAHAN
- BETTY JUNE (ELLIOTT) DEARTH
- ARTHUR J. ORLIKOWSKI

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INSERTS

NONE

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LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council proclaims May 21-27 as National EMS Week

From page 1

"But it is an enterprise and it's a utility that needs revenue and we did just approve a contract to hire six new firefighter/EMTs and one way to pay for it is an increase in ambulance rates, so those of us who don't use it aren't unfairly subsidizing those who do use the service."

Restaurant

The council unanimously approved an ordinance creating an additional class R-2 (restaurant) liquor license for Barrio Agave, a new business opening at 1310 N. 7th St., the former site of El Tapatio and Pizza Hut.

The city received the liquor license request from Alejandra Gonzalez and Jennifer Gonzalez for the business at 1310 N. 7th St. A class R-2 liquor license allows for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises by restaurants with no bar, and retail sales of liquor shall not exceed 10 percent of the total sales of all alcoholic beverages.

14th Street

The council unanimously approved an ordinance accepting and approving a proposal from N-TRAK Group for phase two of its improvements at 14th Street and 8th Avenue in the amount of \$721,344.

Phase one of the 14th Street pavement improvements was completed in 2022. Phase two, from 6th Avenue to 8th Avenue and west along 8th Avenue, has been programmed in the 2023 budget. An alternate bid for work along



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle City Council approved an ordinance extending its moratorium on the issuance of any new class B (bar) liquor licenses until May 1, 2025. The council also approved a resolution establishing a new emergency service price schedule for the Rochelle Fire Department's ambulance work that will increase current rates by \$150 per category when the call for service includes private insurance.

15th Street south of 8th Avenue was also included in the bid proposal. The project will consist of complete pavement removal and reconstruction of the pavement more suited for the existing truck route. The project will include certain storm sewer, curb/gutter and sidewalk ramp improvements.

N-TRAK Group was the low bid, which in total was lower than the engineer's estimate. The

city manager and city engineer will have authority to negotiate further change order work not to exceed \$35,000 to facilitate other improvements and upgrades to streets adjacent to the project. It is anticipated the construction project will be substantially complete by the end of August 2023.

Truck

The council unanimously approved a res-

olution authorizing the city manager to enter into a lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management to purchase a 2023 Ford F-450 for the Rochelle Municipal Utilities electric department for \$21,657. The council has twice attempted a purchase of a truck with the same specifications, but those orders were canceled by Ford. The truck is on the ground and ready to be outfitted with a dump

body and snowplow. This truck will be delivered mid 2023 with a lease term of 60 months.

Proclamations

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation designating the week of May 21-27 National EMS Week in the city and presented it to Sawlsville.

Bearrows and the council also unanimously voted to make May 25 annually in the city Don

Vogeler Day. Vogeler served the city as a firefighter, police officer and city councilmember.

RACF

Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Anaya made a presentation at the meeting on RACF's city employee contribution program, which raised over \$32,000 last year and has a goal of \$35,000 this year.

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Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department fish fry is June 2

The Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department in Lindenwood is holding their 70th Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser on Friday, June 2 from 4-7 p.m. at the Lindenwood Fire Station (15940 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood). Meal includes all-you-can-eat fish or hot dog, chips, beans, bread, potato salad and drink. Cost is \$10 for adults over 13, \$7 for children, free for children under 3. Carry-outs are also available. Contact Ryan Schweitzer at 630-292-0303 or rmschwei@aol.com for further information. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kishwaukee College to offer appliance repair technician class in summer 2023

MALTA — Kishwaukee College will offer appliance repair technician as a new short-term training program during the summer 2023 semester.

The inaugural course will be held from 5:30-9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays starting June 5 and ending Aug. 30. Students will receive hands-on experience in the field through labs at Knodle's Appliance Service Company Inc. with lectures at

Kishwaukee College.

Appliance repair technicians provide quality customer service by assisting clients with household appliance installation, troubleshooting and repairs. Through Kish's program, students will gain the skills and technical knowledge for appliance repair in one semester.

Kish designs its short-term programs to meet the local workforce de-

mand, allowing students to acquire the expertise necessary to quickly start a career path. Students can also build upon their credentials with additional courses and training.

Registration for the appliance repair technician program is now open. To learn more about the program or to register, fill out the appliance repair technician interest form at kish.edu/appliancerepair.



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LOCAL NEWS

STORE: City working on strategy, possible incentives to lure grocery store

From page 1

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease has spent time reaching out to chain grocery stores big and small to get them to consider locating in Rochelle. She said companies look for property, underserved areas, potential incentives from local municipalities, and favorable demographics and spending trends.

"They have to be willing to pull the trigger and have the numbers to support what they're going to invest," Pease said. "A company doesn't come to Rochelle unless they see the spending trends are going to support that business. They're looking for certain income levels."

Thompson and Fiegenschuh said they want residents to understand that it isn't up to the city whether or not an additional grocery comes to town. All it can do is encourage companies to do so, and provide an economic environment conducive to successful investment and operation.

"I've seen some people say that the city won't let another grocery store come to town," Thompson

said. "That's completely false. We all live here too and do our shopping here. We want to be able to purchase just like everybody else does. Our staff and council want that added convenience and selection that our residents want."

Fiegenschuh said "quite a bit" of city staff time has been spent on the issue. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff shifted its focus to supporting and retaining businesses already in the city. Recent months and years since have seen a "renewed push" on the additional grocery store initiative, Fiegenschuh said.

"For us, it's about quality of life," Fiegenschuh said. "And if our residents want to see more grocery options, that's our job to try to increase that quality of life for our residents."

When asked about ideal locations for a potential additional grocery store, city officials mentioned the former Sullivan's location, the May Mart shopping center, the vacant former site of Hickory Grove, and on the south side of Rochelle.

The former Sullivan's location and the May Mart shopping center are al-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease has spent time reaching out to chain grocery stores big and small to get them to consider locating in Rochelle.

ready built to suit a grocery store. The Hickory Grove site is still the subject of property acquisition work between the city, the Comfort Inn and the condo association next door. Fiegenschuh said a grocery store company did look at the vacant site, but was unable to fit its

concept on the site without buying and demolishing additional property.

Pease and Fiegenschuh agreed that the south side of town, which has seen economic growth in current and new business developments recently, would make sense for an additional grocery store.

"I would love to see a grocery store in that southern corridor," Pease said. "Because you have all those neighborhoods there that it would be so convenient for."

Fiegenschuh commended staff for their work on the additional grocery store initiative.

"Just because you don't see something being built doesn't mean that there isn't a lot of work behind the scenes that takes place," Fiegenschuh said. "When we did that survey, it was pretty loud and clear that our residents want to see additional grocery options."



Knight sworn in as new RPD patrol officer

Noah Knight was sworn in as one of the Rochelle Police Department's new patrol officers on Monday, May 15. He will be in training until he goes to the Sauk Valley Police Academy this fall.

Extension program offers online training

OREGON — For 48 years, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners have measured success by gardens planted, insects identified, produce harvested and the millions of hours volunteers have logged by helping others learn to grow.

Take your love of gardening to the next level in 2023 by joining an online training course that will be offered through Ogle County Extension. Whether you're interested in the Master Gardener certification process and continuing on to volunteer in your community, or you're simply interested in bettering your own gardening knowledge, Illinois Gardener Training is for you.

Online training is again being offered starting June 12. This self-guided course is for Illinois residents and can be taken from the comfort of home on a desktop, laptop or tablet.

The training includes videos, a manual, reading materials, and quizzes. The course can be completed in 14 weeks with four hours of weekly work. A strong

internet connection is highly recommended.

This course is aimed at exposing participants to in-depth horticulture content through 13 modules including soils and fertilizers, plant diseases, entomology, pest management organic gardening and more. For more information, visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg/become-master-gardener>.

The course costs \$300 and registration is open until May 22. Local fees may also apply. For more information, contact your local Illinois Extension Office at go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice. Not all counties are offering the online training option.

After finishing training, participants have the option to put their newfound gardening knowledge to use by applying to become an Illinois Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. To become a Master Gardener, you must fill out and submit an application by contacting your local county extension office. After the local coordinator reviews the application, applicants will be asked for

an interview. Acceptance of trainees will be based on an established need for local Master Gardener volunteer activities. Please note that different counties have different periods for accepting applications and applying does not guarantee acceptance, as some units receive more applications than spaces available for training.

Master Gardener volunteers participate in education programs in their communities. Those opportunities may include speaking at garden clubs, civic groups or schools; answering calls or emails at garden help desks; establishing demonstration gardens that serve as educational tools and educating citizens on how to establish community gardens.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in programming, contact Cindy Jankiewicz, Ogle County Extension program coordinator at 815-732-2191 or email at cjankie@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting participant needs.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Connor Heath Ewald

ROCHELLE — Conner Heath Ewald, age 8, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 19, 2023. He was born on Dec. 17, 2014 in DeKalb, the son of Tyler and Abbey (Hyde) Ewald. Conner was finishing up second grade at Central School. He loved his family, friends, and three dogs: Sophia, Gizmo, and Grimlee.

Conner was active in Cub Scouts, soccer, bowling and snowmobiling. He could relate and have a meaningful conversation with people of all ages. He loved spending time near water, whether that was camping and exploring rivers, especially at the River Road Campground or the many adventures he and his family had while visiting various lakes. Conner's beautiful soul will be dearly missed.

He is preceded in death by his "Grandpa Brad" Young; great grandmother, Vickie Grimley; and great grandfather, Gary Manning.

Conner is survived by his mom and dad, Abbey and Tyler Ewald of Rochelle; grandparents: Christine Ewald of Oregon, Barrett Manning of Monroe Center, and Daniel (Debra) Hyde of Lindenwood; step grandfather, Erick Heinzman; great grandparents: Barbara Manning, Robert (Marie) Ewald, and Connie Manning all of Rochelle; aunts and uncles: Nathaniel (Brittany) Hyde, Lauren Hyde, Eric Young, Noah Young, and Logan Heinzman, Brandon (Sarah) Manning, Brittnei (Kirk) Gorsuch and Grace Manning; cousins: Evan Hyde and Grayson Young; and many great aunts, un-



cles and cousins.

Funeral service will be on Friday, May 26, 2023 at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle with Pastor Doug Forsberg officiating. Visitation will be from 4 - 7 p.m., Thursday, May 25, 2023 at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. In lieu of flowers, a memorial is established, which will be used towards a memorial bench near a river or lake in Conner's name. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ann Delores Carnahan

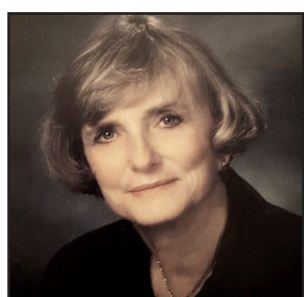
FULLERTON, Calif. — Ann Dolores Carnahan passed away on May 8, 2023, at home in Fullerton, California. Ann was born April 6, 1930, in Geneva and was the only child of Bertrand and Edythe Carlson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Lloyd Carnahan and son Jeffrey Carnahan.

Ann attended Geneva Community High School 1948 in Geneva. She went on to Knox College in Galesburg, graduating undergraduate school in 1952 with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. While in college she enjoyed membership in the Tri-Delta Sorority.

Ann moved to California in 1957 and to Fullerton in 1959. Ann was an avid golfer and

began playing golf in 1959. She initially joined Yorba Linda Country Club and was the ladies Club Champion six times in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1980, 1984, and runner up four times. Later she joined Hacienda Golf Club and was Club Champion in 1994 and 1997 and was the Net Club Champion in 1999, 2005, 2011, 2014 and 2016. Ann had nine holes-in-one.

Ann and her husband Lloyd had been married for 59 years. She is survived by her two sons and their spouses Scott and Karen Carnahan, of San Clemente California and Jay and Kris Carnahan of Corona del Mar, California; her daughter and her spouse Erin and Vaughan Barnes of Co-



rona del Mar California; her eight grandchildren: Cheyne, Chase, Conner, and Christian Carnahan, Courtney Hasson, Ashley Carnahan, and Allie and Katie Barnes, her three great grandchildren Emerson and Wyatt Hasson and Aisling Carnahan.

A Celebration of Life service for Ann Carnahan will be held on May 31, 2023.

For more information, please contact Erin Barnes at eacharnes@gmail.com.

Betty June (Elliott) Dearth

ROCHELLE — Betty June (Elliott) Dearth, age 101, of Rochelle, passed to be with her Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday, May 21, 2023. She was born on Dec. 21, 1921, to Floyd and Grace Elliott in Scottsburg, Indiana joining her two older sisters, Florida Catherine (Roy) Christianson and Marjorie May (Robert) Meredith.

She worked the family farm with her family through the Depression. Betty married Joseph L. Dearth, from DeKalb during World War II. In 1963, the family moved from Oak Park to Rochelle with the purchase of the A&W Drive-In, where she worked for 20 years. She and the family sold Christmas trees during December and tried to get some fishing in and some

travel when the A&W was closed during the winter. A long time member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle, she deepened her life long relationship with Jesus Christ.

She enjoyed the many people who worked at the A&W for their first jobs, teaching the lost art of making change and the responsibilities that go with a job in scheduling and working with others. After Joe and Betty sold the drive-in, Betty worked at Walmart as a stocker for several years, retiring at 86 years old. She loved to fish, bake, and work her gardens until Covid-19 shut things down.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Patty L. (Bob) Robertson; and her sons Edwin E. Dearth, David H. (Anna) Dearth and Donald



H. (Jan) Dearth, DC. Betty has been blessed as the matriarch of five generations of family with kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and even two great-great grandsons.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle with Pastor Doug Forsberg officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Arthur J. Orlikowski

OTTAWA — Arthur J. Orlikowski, 89, of Ottawa, IL, formerly of Rochelle, passed away Monday, May 22, 2023, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. Art was born Nov. 27, 1933, in Winona, Minnesota, the son of Victor and Elizabeth (Kellogg) Orlikowski. He married Mary Ann Rose on Feb. 7, 1953, in Winona.

Art worked for Swift and Company for 29 years, first in Winona before transferring to Rochelle. He later worked for Caron International in Rochelle until his retirement. Art loved being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trap shooting. He was always fond of a casual walk.

When they were younger, he would take his children hiking along the trails, bluffs, and river in Winona. He

was very mechanically inclined and loved working on anything from houses to cars. Later in life, he took up making stained glass as a hobby.

Art is survived by his wife Mary Ann "Mitzie" Orlikowski; seven children, Joseph Arthur Orlikowski, Richard (Joan) Orlikowski, John (Laura) Orlikowski, Lisa (Joel) Carson, Susan (Steve) Swanson, Dennis (Sue) Orlikowski, and Phil (Denise) Orlikowski; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Art is preceded in death by five siblings, Donald, Victor, Raymond, and Roger Orlikowski and Janet Eide; and a daughter-in-law, Barb Orlikowski.

Private family services will be held at the



Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Cremation care will be provided after the service. Interment of cremated remains will take place in St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery, Rochelle.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Art's memory may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

The funeral service may be viewed online at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page after Saturday, May 27.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department Deputies respond to single-vehicle rollover accident

OREGON — On May 19 at approximately 5:46 p.m. deputies responded to the 5,500 block of South Watertown Road for a single-vehicle rollover accident. A preliminary investigation revealed that a northbound vehicle being driven by Abbey Ewald, 32, of Rochelle, traveled off the east edge of the roadway. The vehicle then overturned multiple times before coming to a rest. Abbey Ewald was transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon EMS for treatment of serious injuries. A passenger in the vehicle, Conner Ewald, 8, was pronounced deceased at the scene. This accident remains under investigation with charges pending. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Oregon Fire/EMS.

On May 19 at approximately 9:39 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of East Ritchie Road and South Woodlawn Road for the report of a car in the ditch. Upon arrival, deputies located a blue Nissan Altima wrecked in the ditch east of the intersection. It was determined that the Nissan, being driven by Janeiro Tlapa-Hernandez, 36, of Davis Junction, was traveling eastbound on East Ritchie Road, disregarded the stop sign and the intersection, and crashed in the ditch. After a brief investigation, deputies

arrested Tlapa-Hernandez for driving under the influence of alcohol. Tlapa-Hernandez was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Tlapa-Hernandez was additionally cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, disregarding an official traffic control device, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to carry/display a driver's license.

On May 19 at approximately 9:31 p.m. deputies responded to the 200 block of South Prairie Street in Creston regarding a reported domestic battery. After an investigation, deputies placed Donna J. Russell, 58, of Ashton, under arrest for aggravated domestic battery. Russell was transported to the Ogle County Jail, pending an appearance before a judge.

On May 20 at approximately 1 a.m. deputies investigated a vehicle parked in the northbound lane, facing south, in the 3,200 block of North Stillman Road. After a brief investigation, Donald Goike Jr., 54, of Chana, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Goike was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

See **SHERIFF** page 5

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LOCAL NEWS

FIRE: Department seeing record call numbers in recent years

From page 1

RFD has seen record call numbers in recent years and a shortage of paid on-call firefighters, which it uses to supplement its staffing. The department handles both fire and EMS calls. Once full-time staff is engaged with a call, RFD relies on paid on-call staff to report to the station to handle additional calls.

"This is one of the biggest undertakings we've seen at RFD," Sawlsville said of the staffing expansion. "It's a challenge, but it's a great challenge. Instead of looking to fill holes, now you can sit down and look at what your response model is going to look like and things you can improve upon and things that you're not doing like transfers where we can expand with some increased staffing. It's a pretty interesting time to be at RFD."

Rochelle Fire currently has one chief and 12 sworn full-time firefighters. Each shift sees one lieutenant and three firefighters on duty at all times. After the initial three new full-time firefighters are hired, RFD would have one lieutenant and four firefighters on duty at all times. After the following three, it would have one lieutenant and five firefighters on duty at all times.

The additional cost of the proposed staffing expansion would be a total of \$670,000 a year, after all six are hired, with the total per firefighter at \$101,000.

Last year, RFD responded to a record 3,028 calls for service, which is just over eight calls per day, on average. It saw an average of 1.6 multiple calls per day where off-duty personnel were recalled to cover the second call. RFD saw 1,828 calls in 2018, with that number rising to 3,028 in 2022 with no staff increases over that time. The department is currently on pace in 2023 to set another record in call numbers.

"It's a human investment and it's a dollar investment," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. "Ultimately, it came down to the fact that it's taking a toll on our guys. They don't want to work that much overtime and it's stressful to be away from their families. Not to mention that it becomes a safety concern for not just our employees but potentially for our customers and residents. It became a top priority for me to get this contract approved because I really do believe that we needed that number of firefighters."

The RFD staffing expansion process began in January. Sawlsville said with the department coming up on the end of another record year in calls in 2022, firefighter/paramedics made a presentation and asked for a meeting with the city manager.

"We all sat down as a group and went through the numbers and saw it was time to do something," Sawlsville said. "The surreal part for me still is, that's not normally how

those conversations go. It's usually a little more contentious between staff and management. This time we were all on the same page and it was a really cool thing to watch."

Later on, a presentation was made to the city council at a meeting and discussion was had among members of the department and the council. Following the staffing expansion's approval, the hiring process for the initial three additional firefighter/paramedics began.

State statute stipulates that fire departments must hire from a local eligibility list that's tested for every two years. RFD's most recent list was made last year and has 12 people on it. Sawlsville said two potential hires are currently in the works, and he's confident that all three will be hired by Jan. 1, 2024.

Fiegenschuh said the staffing expansion will be funded by money freed up by some city positions that have been left open, increased ambulance revenues, and "outside-the-box" thinking such as taking on patient transfer work that the department has not done previously.

"Our firefighters on the negotiating team helped me figure out ways to pay for it and offered concessions," Fiegenschuh said. "It's an investment back in our people and making sure that they're safe. We've got a plan in place that will fund it. That doesn't mean that there won't be some years where it's tight and we have



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

RFD has seen record call numbers in recent years and a shortage of paid on-call firefighters, which it uses to supplement its staffing. The department handles both fire and EMS calls.

to cut in other places. We're going to start looking at creating a transfer program where we take transfers from the nursing homes up to Rockford. Because we can do it cheaper than private ambulances and it can bring additional revenue in to cover the added costs for our firefighters. There's lots of ways to fund it by thinking outside the box. I've been here six years, and this is my proudest accomplishment, hands down."

Sawlsville said increased call numbers and COVID-19 made the past 3-4 years for Rochelle firefighter/paramedics difficult. The pandemic brought uncertainty, stress and increased anxiety. RFD personnel had to go into homes of patients infected with COVID-19 to provide

care amid uncertainty with guidance and science early on in the pandemic.

"You see the rebound effect now with a lot of anxiety in our patients that I think is a carryover from those days," Sawlsville said. "COVID-19 brought tough times for us. I've never been more proud. Those guys showed up every day and did their job in the face of all that uncertainty. We got hit hard as a department with cases. We were down with staffing considerably because people were out with the virus. And even through that, our paid on-call and part-time staff stepped up and filled holes. I was very proud. They put their uniforms on and showed up every day."

Expanded staffing will allow RFD to better navigate times when mul-

multiple calls are ongoing, Sawlsville said. Off-duty firefighters and paid on-call staff will be less likely to have to drop what they're doing to report to the station for a call. RFD had one shift recently where it had to call in off-duty personnel four times in a 24-hour period.

"The crew got off at 7 a.m. Saturday morning and went home after a fairly eventful Friday night, and their day wasn't done," Sawlsville said. "Because we kept calling them back because we needed additional staffing. This new model is going to give them some time to be off and recharge. It's a win-win for everybody. When our firefighters are off-duty, they can be off-duty and focus on quality-of-life stuff as opposed to having to have one ear open all the time."

SHERIFF: Deputies respond to reported physical disturbance

From page 4

On May 20 at approximately 11:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 14,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Marisela Soto-Martinez, 36, of Waukegan, for driving while license suspended. Deputies next made contact with a separate vehicle traveling with Soto-Martinez. After further investigation, deputies placed Jesus C. Morales-Santana, 40, of Waukegan, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Both

individuals were transported to the Ogle County Jail without incident, where they were held in lieu of bond.

On May 21 at 6:45 p.m. deputies responded to the 1,300 block of North Illinois Route 251 for a reported physical disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Eric Rawls, 46, of Lindenwood, for domestic battery and an outstanding warrant. Rawls was transported to the Ogle County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

On May 21 at 1:28 a.m. deputies conducted

a traffic stop at Hickory Lane and Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Joseph Patterson, 22, of Mendota, for driving without a valid license. Patterson was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Patterson was also issued a citation for loud exhaust.

On May 21 at approximately 12:47 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of South Woodlawn Road where two vehicles pulled over. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Robert Rawls, 26, of Pensacola,

Florida, for no valid driver's license. Rawls was also cited for speeding 26-34 miles per hour above limit and released on scene.

Deputies also arrested Scott Beattie, 49, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked. Beattie was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On May 22 at approximately 10:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of South Ridge Road. After investigation, deputies placed Lisa Peterson, 47, of Leaf River under arrest for driving under the influence of

alcohol. Peterson was additionally issued a citation for operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and a warning for an expired registration. Peterson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On May 22 at 6:49 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of Roy Avenue in Hillcrest for the report of a domestic distur-

bance. After investigation, deputies arrested Karlo Qunitanilla, 20, of Davis Junction, for criminal damage to property. Qunitanilla was additionally charged with resisting a peace officer. Qunitanilla was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

ISP announces nighttime enforcement patrol results

OGLE COUNTY — Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette announces the results of Nighttime Enforcement (NITE) patrols in Ogle and Winnebago County during April. These NITE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting, and taking enforcement action in response to impaired driving and occupant restraint violations especially

between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Driving under the influence (DUI) citations: zero, other alcohol/drug citations: zero, occupant restraint offenses: four, registration offenses: three, driver's license offenses: eight, insurance violations:

seven.

Total citations/arrests: 65/seven. Total written warnings: 19.

Alcohol and drug impairment are a factor in more than 30 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. Over half of all fatal crashes in Illinois

occur at night. The NITE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous impaired drivers from the road and making sure everyone is buckled up. This project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Reeder: An ongoing American tragedy

WHEN I read about four adults and one child being killed last month in a shooting rampage in Cleveland, Texas, I just cringed.

We live in a society where gun violence has become commonplace. Mass shootings have become weekly occurrences. During the first 18 weeks of 2023, our nation experienced 20 shootings that have each taken the lives of at least four people.

The five killed in Cleveland were just ordinary folks, immigrants from Honduras. Their next-door neighbor was reportedly outside late firing his rifle into the sky. They asked if he could stop because the gunfire was keeping their baby awake.

It would seem a reasonable request. Instead, police say Francisco Oropeza, 39, took his AR-15 style semiautomatic rifle and killed five people, including an 8-year-old child.

The Washington Post reported three children survived the shooting. "Two

of the women who were killed were found lying on top of the young children in a bedroom. "They were trying to protect the children," San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers told *The Washington Post*. "It's horrific," Capers said. "No one should ever have to look at this scene, the blood, the trauma that went on in that house."

A massive manhunt ended May 2 when a law enforcement team found Oropeza in a closet hiding under some laundry. Brave fellow.

When I read that story, I couldn't help but remember when I was in Cleveland, Texas, five years ago. Oddly enough, I was investigating a different murder.

When I was a young reporter, fresh out of graduate school, I covered a shooting at a day care center near Galveston, Texas. A man walked into the nursery with a gun and shot two teachers in front of two dozen screaming kids.

I covered his trial. He was sentenced to 30 years

in prison.

Thirty years later, I found myself in a state prison in Cleveland sitting across a table from him as he awaited his release. He tried to write-it off as a big misunderstanding. I have never had such a strong desire to slap someone I was interviewing.

I had spent the preceding days with the family of the teacher he killed, talking to the worker he shot three times but survived and listening to one of the children whose earliest memory was his act of violence. After I finished the interview in the prison, I did what I always do when I visit a small town for the first time. I ate at the local diner, sat at the "community table" and learned about the town. Two cops sat across from me eating their breakfast.

When I told them why I was in town, they invited me back to their station and regaled me with stories of cases they had investigated over the years. After a few hours of listening, they took me to lunch at a Mexican restaurant. (Nothing

is better than TexMex in small-town Texas.)

When I learned of the recent violence in Cleveland, I thought about the cops I met and wondered if they were working the case. I also thought about the killer I interviewed in the Cleveland prison.

He's proof that this senseless gun violence is nothing new. It's an ongoing American tragedy. I don't like to write about gun rights because I don't have much new to say.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said that the Second Amendment gives Americans a right to own firearms. I'm a gunowner. I spend November and December weekends shivering in a deer blind with a gun on my lap.

But I'm the first to acknowledge that no constitutional right is an absolute. Freedom of speech doesn't protect perjury. Freedom of the press doesn't include child pornography. Free exercise of religion doesn't cover human sacrifice.

When I reported on the daycare center shooting

35 years ago, I learned the killer had purchased a cheap handgun in a pawnshop shortly before the crime. In those days before the federal waiting period, he was able to leave the shop angry and fully armed.

I can't help but wonder if a whole lot of heartache could have been avoided if he had had two days to cool off and wait to pick up his firearm like he would today. That's an example of a gun control measure that has worked and saved lives.

I have never understood why some people feel the need to go outside and fire their gun into the air. According to the *New York Times* in many areas of rural Texas a person can stand in their front yard and fire a gun repeatedly and not violate so much as a village ordinance. The night of the Cleveland massacre, Oropeza reportedly had been drinking alcohol, waving a rifle in his front yard and firing off bullets with his military-style rifle. His neighbors called the police five

times to complain. Each time, a dispatcher told the callers the officers were on their way.

Such calls are a pretty-low priority, particularly when the complaint doesn't involve someone violating a law.

After hours of hearing a crying baby kept awake by gunfire and finding the police unresponsive, the mother of the child walked next door to ask her neighbor to quiet it down. In the moments afterward, five people ended up dead.

It seems to me that Texas lawmakers ought to consider banning the recreational firing of guns in neighborhoods. And we don't allow people to drink while driving cars, how about banning drinking and firing guns?

If some measures such as these had been on the books, police officers may have had a pretext to intervene and prevent the tragedy that ensued.

Scott Reeder a staff writer for the Illinois Times can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

Ron Kern: Pomp and Circumstance

POMP and Circumstance playing in the background as graduates will be marching down the aisle to accept their diplomas. Proud parents, family and friends crowding gymnasium bleachers or folding chairs to cheer on their loved one.

Yep, graduation is here. On to college or on to the work force; decisions must be made. It's off into the "real" world, except I'm no longer sure what is real and what is fiction these days. I guess these young people will define that in the coming years.

Congratulations!

Scholarships

Megan Hagemann, Jack Richolson, Lauren Carlson, Alexandria Cassens, Morgan Schabacker, Kennedy Strohecker, Breanna Cisketti and Grace Prose were all recently named as recipients of

scholarships awarded by the Ogle County Farm Bureau in 2023.

Cisketti was awarded the Del Flessner Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. This scholarship was created to honor the legacy of long-time Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Del Flessner. She is the daughter of Brian and Brandi Cisketti. Breanna is a 2022 graduate of Polo High School and is currently majoring in agribusiness at Sauk Valley Community College with plans to attend UW-Platteville next fall.

Cassens and Hagemann were named winners of the \$1,000 General Farm Bureau Scholarship.

Cassens is the daughter of John and Diane Cassens, Byron. She is a 2022 graduate of Byron High School and currently attends Luther College majoring in nursing.

Hagemann is the daughter of Brad and Jean Hagemann, Mt. Morris. She is a 2020 graduate of Forreston High School and attends UW-Platteville majoring in animal science.

Richolson was named the recipient of the \$1,000 Don Bybee Memorial Scholarship, sponsored through the generosity of the Bybee Family to honor Mr. Bybee for his many years of service to agriculture in Ogle County. Jack is the son of Brad and Julie Richolson, Lindenwood. Jack is a 2022 graduate from Rochelle Township High School and currently attends Iowa State University majoring in agricultural studies.

Schabacker is the recipient of the Mark Detig Memorial Scholarship awarded in the amount of

\$1,000. This scholarship honors the late Mark Detig for his service to the Ogle County Pork Producers Association and Ogle County agriculture. Morgan is the daughter of Todd Schabacker and Anita and Mike Friedlund, Rochelle. Morgan is a 2020 graduate from Rochelle Township High School is currently attending Iowa State University majoring in agricultural business.

Carlson is the Ag Technology Scholarship winner. Lauren is the daughter of Jason and Julie Carlson, Byron. She will graduate Byron High School this year and will continue her studies at either UW-Platteville or Southeast Missouri State majoring in environmental horticulture. The scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$1,000.

Strohecker is the recipient of the Mary LeFevre Memorial Scholarship, sponsored in cooperation between the farm bureau and the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family. The scholarship focuses on students pursuing careers in healthcare. Kennedy is the daughter of Ron and Tasha Sims, Byron. She will graduate Byron High School this spring and attend the Viterbo University majoring in nursing. The scholarship is awarded at \$1,000.

Prose was awarded the George LeFevre Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. It also is funded with the cooperation of the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family, recognizing Mr. LeFevre for his lifelong service to Ogle County agriculture. Gracie is the daughter of Nick and Charity Prose, Oregon. Gracie will graduate Oregon High School this spring and go onto

study ag communications at either Highland Community College or Iowa State University.

This marks the 25th year that the Ogle County Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to member dependents who seek to pursue course studies in agriculture at an accredited institution of higher education.

Scholarships will again be awarded in 2024 and applications will be available in January. For information on the Ogle County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program contact me at 815-732-2231.

"A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success." -Robert Orben

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



Ron Kern

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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

(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)



Stover accepts Studio C Dance award at Chamber dinner event
Nine local businesses were awarded during the annual Rochelle Chamber of Commerce dinner and awards night at Kennay Farms Distilling. Cecillia Stover (above) and Studio C Dance were one of the nine businesses presented with awards from Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera (left).

Sheriff's Office joins Illinois 'Click It or Ticket' campaign to save lives

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced May 19 it is stepping up enforcement for the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign that will run May 19-30 and reminds motorists to buckle up for safety. "Click It or Ticket" leverages education and enforcement to save lives.

"Seat belts have proven to be life-saving in the event of a crash," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. "Unfortunately, many still don't buckle up. Worse yet, not wearing a seat belt is a habit that can be passed on to younger generations who follow the example set by their elders."

Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of summer, a popular time for traveling to visit family and friends. Whether you are traveling down the block or across the country, make sure you buckle up every time. Wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent. Seat belts save lives every day, but they're only effective if they're used.

While Illinois currently has a 93 percent seat belt use compliance rate, unbelted occupants still account for more than half of those killed in motor vehicle crashes. The simple click of a seat belt could save thousands of lives each year.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation with federal highway safety funds.

2023
From The Heart
Calendar
Celebrating 15
Years of Giving
\$20

Apr. 28 - Deanna Hill, Rochelle, \$25

Apr. 29 - Chris Sawlsville, Rochelle, \$25

Apr. 30 - Sherri Salsbury, Oregon, \$50

May 1 - Chuck Kessen, Rochelle, \$25

May 2 - Alex Dyer, Rochelle, \$25

May 3 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

May 4 - Donna Durham, Rochelle, \$25

May 5 - Ronny Alvarez, DeKalb, \$25

May 6 - John Zhe, Rochelle, \$25

May 7 - RACF, \$50

May 8 - Shelly Crownheart, Sterling, \$25

May 9 - City of Rochelle, \$25

May 10 - The Kitchen Table, \$25

May 11 - John Dreska, Lindenwood, \$25

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 24
Katie Sherburne
Dave & Mary Helfrich (anniversary)

May 25
John & Kristi Gonzales (anniversary)
Dorothy Lockard

May 27
Leland Hazlip

May 29
Tristan Perkins
Kathy Marchesi

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Coffee Break

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1 Beer ingredient
5 Adj. modifier
8 Taverns
12 "The Middle" actress
Heaton
14 Denny's rival
15 Susan of "Dead Man Walking"
16 Donated
17 Business mag
18 Rose and fell on the sea
20 Chicago cagers
23 Seethe
24 God of war
25 Adirondack lake
28 Martini ingredient
29 "Star Wars" baddie
30 Pirate's chart
32 Arabian nomad
34 Minus
35 Melodies
36 Blitzen's boss
37 Two-piece suit
40 Jazzy style
41 Greek vowels
42 Revolutionary War battle
47 Hamlet, e.g.
48 Stumble on

1 Winter coaster
50 Thanksgiving veggie
51 Section
DOWN
1 AWOL pursuers
2 Bond rating
3 USPS delivery
4 Nature walks
5 Outlet letters
6 God, in Roma
7 Eighth U.S. president
8 London landmark

9 Melville captain
10 Peregrinate
11 Raced
13 Hostels
19 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
20 Purse
21 "Topaz" author
22 Sultry Horne
23 Loses color
25 Clerics' robing room
26 "So be it"
27 Group of actors
29 Futile

31 Unpaid TV ad
33 Elevated
34 Portable PC
36 Daytime drama
37 Hotel furniture
38 Slanted type (Abbr.)
39 Welles role
40 Edge
43 Coach Parseghian
44 Eggs
45 Berlin's country (Abbr.)
46 Museum display

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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: R equals T
ZVOMRAN BUYUQUVM UM CGUZG
SDVSHD JHCJNQ BAJSD RGDY-
QDHYDQ UM HVMF QVORG JQUJM
FJAXDMRQ: J QJAU QRJRD.
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7	2	2	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
8	5	6	2	3	4	9	1	7	7
1	3	9	7	6	5	4	2	2	8
9	4	8	1	5	3	2	7	6	6
6	3	7	4	2	8	5	9	1	1
2	1	5	9	7	6	8	1	3	3
5	6	7	3	4	2	1	8	5	9
4	1	8	6	9	7	3	5	2	2
3	2	6	3	5	2	8	7	1	4

Answer

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

Answer

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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SPORTS



CHEERING IN COLLEGE

RTHS senior Rivers Estock will be on the cheer team at Olivet Nazarene next year.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Boys Tennis

Doubles duo makes state

Hub seniors Wanner and Haas medal in fourth at IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — It's been a full decade since Rochelle Township High School last saw a doubles tennis team advance to the IHSA State Championships on the boys side. Seniors David Wanner and Owen Haas looked to end that 10-year drought on their home courts Friday afternoon, when the Hub combo battled as the No. 6 doubles seed in the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional.

Looking to build on a championship performance at the Interstate 8 Conference tournament, where they successfully won the No. 1 doubles crown for the second straight season, Wanner and Haas began their sectional run in the second round, where they started strong and held off a valiant second-set effort to defeat Sycamore's Alex Jenkin and Josh Plagakis 6-2, 6-4. The win moved the two seniors one match closer to clinching their first-ever state tournament bid.

Standing in the way of a ticket to the state tournament were Sterling's Connor Pham and Elias Jensen, who defeated Wanner and Haas during the regular season and entered the sectional as the No. 3 doubles seed.

See **TENNIS** page 3



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Seniors Owen Haas and David Wanner will represent the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team at the IHSA State Championship this season. The two are pictured above with assistant coaches John Michael Loggins, Jeff Truckenbrod and head coach Kristy Eckardt.

RTHS Boys Track

Hubs take 10th at IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Sectional

Three Rochelle athletes record top-5 individual finishes as season concludes

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

GENOA — The Rochelle Hub varsity track and field team concluded its season at the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Sectional on Friday evening. Rochelle tied for 10th place out of 15 schools with 10 points and the team did not have any athletes qualify for the IHSA State Championships.

Junior Landon Mickley finished fifth in the shot put with a heave of 13.75 meters and 11th in the discus with a throw of 35.28 meters. Junior Nathan Sergeant took fourth in the triple jump with a personal-best distance of 12.41 meters and 14th in the long jump with a distance of 5.29 meters. Sophomore Jack Tilton took fourth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.80 meters.

"Nate was a big surprise for us in the triple jump," head coach Dale Bergeson said. "He had a shot and was third heading into the finals. Landon made the finals in shot put and threw well. I was really impressed with Jack in

the high jump. He nearly cleared the state qualifying standard but was off by only a few centimeters. Overall, I thought we performed well. We came out and competed and what's exciting is that almost all of these kids will be back next season."

Rochelle's 400-meter relay team (Caden Goodwin, Jackson Smith, Reece Harris and Virgil O'Dell) and 800-meter relay team (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Jackson Smith and Nathan Sergeant) each finished 11th with respective times of 48.32 seconds and 1:41.21. Rochelle's 1600-meter relay team (Bruno Fernandez, Caden Goodwin, Nathan Sergeant and Jackson Smith) took 12th with a time of 3:51.55.

"Whenever we can have freshmen and sophomores compete at the sectional, it's a big deal because that experience will really help them when they become juniors and seniors," Bergeson said. "The kids gained some confidence knowing where they are and where they could be next year."

See **TRACK** page 3



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Nathan Sergeant took fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 12.41 meters at the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Sectional on Friday. Sergeant is pictured above with assistant coach Vic Worthington.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Rivers Estock will continue her academics and her cheerleading career at Olivet Nazarene University next year.

Estock makes Olivet Nazarene University cheerleading team

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE Township High School senior Rivers Estock recalled anxiously awaiting the results of her two-day tryout for the Olivet Nazarene University cheerleading team earlier this spring.

It was during her spring break that Estock traveled south to Bourbonnais to participate in the in-person tryout, which was held on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1 at the McHie Arena on the Olivet Nazarene University campus. Having prepared thoroughly for the tryout, which included learning the school song and showcasing several cheerleading and tumbling skills, Estock didn't learn her fate until the final results of the tryout were announced two days later.

Much to her excitement, however, Estock learned that she would be one of only three incoming freshmen who made the Olivet Nazarene University cheerleading team for the 2023-24 school year. Estock, who intends to study elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education, said the university aligned with many of her educational and religious values.

"I've wanted to go there since I was in middle school," Estock said. "Once I became a junior in high school, I visited the campus and I really loved it there. Faith is also important to me and that's why I chose to go there in the first place. . . I thought the tryout was going to be really intense because I received a packet of information about what to expect, but it was really relaxed and it was really cool that all three of the incoming freshmen who tried out made it."

Estock spent four years with the RTHS cheerleading program, competing on the JV team over her freshman and sophomore

seasons before elevating to the varsity team for her junior and senior seasons. A two-time Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference honoree, Estock received the Spirit Award during her junior and senior seasons for her sportsmanship and dedication to the cheerleading program. Estock helped the varsity team win the Wilmington Invitational this year.

"I'm looking forward to making more friends and continuing to grow as an athlete," Estock said. "I'd love to coach someday and I think that cheering in college will give me more experience and help me learn more skills so I can eventually pass those skills on. I worked my way up from JV to varsity and being on both teams taught me a lot. I've also had two amazing coaches here and I learned how to do things the right way. I think that will set me up for success during college."

Estock filled different roles on the cheerleading team throughout her time with the program. She transitioned from a base role to a back spot role this season due to numbers and she also said her ability to learn, recall and perform chants has grown since she arrived as a freshman. Estock intends to study elementary education in order to eventually pursue a teaching career.

"Olivet Nazarene is lucky to get a cheerleader like Rivers," RTHS head cheerleading coach Trish Rodeghero said. "She truly exemplifies all the qualities that make a successful cheerleader. She puts her heart and soul into every game she cheers. She is one of the most coachable student-athletes I have had the pleasure to coach. She is a role model to younger athletes in our program. She is going to do very well in college cheerleading and I am excited to follow her journey. We will definitely feel the loss in our program next year."

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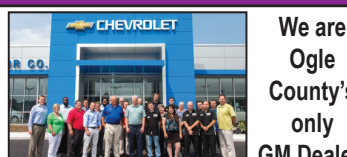
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SPORTS

Meridian Conference

RTHS hosts 2023 Meridian Conference Championship meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School hosted the 2023 Meridian Conference Championships on Thursday, May 4. St. Paul Lutheran School won the 5th & 6th Grade Boys Division with 73 points as well as the 7th & 8th Grade Boys Division with 62 points. Steward won the 5th & 6th Grade Girls Division with 60 points and Creston won the 7th & 8th Grade Girls Division with 60 points. Other competing schools included Kings, Eswood and Cornerstone.

5-6 Girls

Steward's Mayson Smardo won the 55-meter dash with a time of 9.29 seconds. Cornerstone's Presley Paccacio won the 100-meter dash with a time of 16.18 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 34.39 seconds. St. Paul's Paisley Albaugh won the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:16.87 and Kings' Emma Osborne won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 23.66.

Kings' Brailee Bennett won the high jump with a clearance of 3 feet 6 inches. Steward's Barbara Palmer won the shot put

with a heave of 21 feet 11 inches and the discus with a throw of 38 feet 6 inches. Steward's Jamie Riddell won the long jump with a distance of 12 feet and the triple jump with a distance of 25 feet 6 inches. Kings won the 400-meter relay with a time of 1:08.22.

5-6 Boys

St. Paul's Braxton Bruns won the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.49 seconds as well as the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.87 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 31.35 seconds. St. Paul's Joey Chadwick won the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:15.53 and the 800-meter run with a time of 2:39.19. St. Paul's Esam Farraj won the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:17.22 and Kings' Eli Underwood won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 23.21 seconds.

Steward's Derik Maertz won the shot put with a heave of 22 feet 10 inches and the discus with a throw of 44 feet 9 inches. Underwood won the long jump with a leap of 11 feet 4 inches and Steward's Ben Hayes won the triple jump with a distance of 22 feet 4 inches.

See MERIDIAN pg 6



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Landon Mickley finished fifth in the shot put at the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Sectional on Friday. Mickley is pictured above with throwing coach Zach Miller.

TRACK: Season ends at sectional meet

From page 1

"They'll have a chance to improve and possibly qualify for state next year. It was a big learning experience for them and I think they'll be used to the pressure the next time around."

Freshman Wyatt Worthington placed ninth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.91 seconds as well as 10th in the 110-meter hurdles with a personal-record time of 17.90 seconds. Junior Luis Hernandez finished 15th in the 3200-me-

ter run with a time of 10:58.00 and freshman Declan McGee placed 13th in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:15.05.

Freshman Elijah Mayen took 15th in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.68 and freshman Gabe Montes finished

18th in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:00.16. Sophomore Virgil O'Dell took 23rd in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.54 seconds and freshman Reece Harris placed 21st in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.41 seconds.

TENNIS: Seniors lead Hubs to sixth at sectional tournament

From page 1

While the Hubs took their first set convincingly, their opponents gained the advantage midway through the second set, earning a 4-1 lead as the duo looked to regroup for a late-set rally. With clear minds and a lack of focus on their prior mistakes, Wanner and Haas fought all the way back, scoring multiple breaks to flip the score 6-5 in their favor.

"We weren't letting our mistakes get to us and we were helping each other

whenever one of us made a mistake," Wanner said. "That helped us to come back and finish the match. We played a lot of that set from behind, but we were in a similar spot at the conference meet and we were able to do the same thing there. We showed in the first set that we could put a full set together and we knew that if we could play our game, then we would have a good chance to win."

The final game of the match wouldn't come easy for the Hubs, as Pham

and Jensen kept their hopes alive with a series of points after reaching deuce. But on their fourth attempt with the advantage and with Wanner on the serve, the seniors secured the match point on a net finish from Haas, who along with Wanner let out a roar of excitement as their families and teammates applauded from the bleachers.

The 6-4, 7-5 victory clinched the state berth for the seniors, who will be Rochelle's first state qualifiers in doubles since

Charlie Duval and Brandon Jones in 2013.

"We knew we were just as good as our opponents," Haas said. "We played against them earlier in the season and I thought we played better today than we did the first time. We seem to play our best from behind and it's been a strength of ours. We're both looking forward to representing Rochelle and it's an experience that I'm definitely going to soak in for as long as I can."

Wanner and Haas were two of the six varsity play-

ers representing Rochelle in the sectional tournament. Seniors John Green and Nolan Fonfara faced Alleman's Chase Baird and Lincoln Dorsey in the second round of the doubles bracket, taking four games in a 2-6, 2-6 loss. Juniors Parker Lenkaitis and Jimmy Chavez took the court in singles, with Chavez falling 3-6, 3-6 against Sycamore's Regan Ni and Lenkaitis losing 4-6, 1-6 against Burlington Central's Lucas Lemon.

Wanner and Haas ul-

timately earned fourth-place medals in the doubles bracket, falling 4-6, 0-6 against Geneseo's Connor Nelson and Samuel Robinson in the semifinal round before conceding a 2-6, 6-7(2) loss to Alleman's Baird and Dorsey in the third-place match. Rochelle finished sixth out of 10 schools with six points in the sectional tournament.

The IHSA State Championships will begin on Thursday, May 25 at Palatine High School and surrounding area courts.

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ASHTON NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center students attend Manufacturing Day and tour Whiteside Area Career Center

Twenty-nine Ashton-Franklin Center High School students attended Manufacturing Day (pictured at left) earlier this month. They toured Crest Foods and Bonnell Industries, as well as participating in manufacturing competitions at Sauk Valley Community College. They learned about local manufacturing jobs and products made in the Sauk Valley area. On Thursday, May 4, Ashton-Franklin Center eighth grade students toured the Whiteside Area Career Center (pictured at right). Many AFC juniors and seniors that attend WACC presented to both AFC eighth grade students and other schools from the Whiteside area.



Ag in the Classroom golf outing is June 22

SUBLETTE — Bureau and Lee County Farm Bureaus will be hosting their 14th Annual Golf Outing for supporters of Ag in the Classroom. The outing will be held on Thursday, June 22 at Shady Oaks Country Club, 577 US Route 52, Sublette.

The Tournament will be a shotgun start, four-person scramble. Tee time is 9 a.m. and lunch (provided by COUNTRY Financial) will be served for all teams during the event. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Bureau and Lee County Ag in the

Classroom programs. Today's youth are two and three generations removed from the farm. That's why we feel it is so important to bring agriculture awareness to local students. Supporting the Ag in the Classroom program helps us provide free agriculture materials, presentations and resources to local teachers and classrooms in Bureau and Lee Counties. So, whether you consider yourself "good on the green" or just want to have a fun day out, this is the tournament for you!

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and support a good cause. Team fees are \$200 for basic registration, \$225 for super registration and \$250 for premium registration. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, half a cart and lunch. If you are not a golfer, but would like to support this event, several sponsorship packages are also available.

Registration is suggested by June 4. Registration after the deadline will be accepted if space is available. To register, contact the Bureau County Farm Bureau, (815) 875-6468. Tee time starts at 9 a.m. We hope to see you there.

Franklin Grove's Reuter named to SNHU winter president's list

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Mitchell Reuter of Franklin Grove was recently named to the Southern New Hampshire University winter 2023 president's list.

The winter terms run from January to May. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 and above for the reporting term are

named to the president's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.



Ashton-Franklin Center FFA officers attend leadership training at Sauk Valley CC

Four of the newly-elected Ashton-Franklin Center FFA Chapter Officers attended Chapter Officer Leadership Training at Sauk Valley Community College. Mallory, Taylor, Jacob and Kate worked together, listened to speakers, and gained insight on leadership and their chapter.

Ashton-Franklin Center art students visit Chicago

Ashton-Franklin Center High School art students traveled to Chicago on Saturday, May 6 to view the collection of the Art Institute. The trip happened at just the right time so the group could see a special exhibition of Salvador Dali.

Lee County Sheriff's Office launches Memorial Day enforcement period

LEE COUNTY — The Lee County Sheriff's Office today announced it is stepping up enforcement for the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign that will run May 19-30 and reminds motorists to buckle up for safety. "Click It or Ticket" leverages education and enforcement to save lives. Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial

start of summer, a popular time for traveling to visit family and friends. Whether you are traveling down the block or across the country, make sure you buckle up every time. Wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent. Seat belts save lives every day, but they're only effective if they're used. While Illinois currently

has a 93 percent seat belt use compliance rate, unbelted occupants still account for more than half of those killed in motor vehicle crashes. The simple click of a seat belt could save thousands of lives each year. The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation with federal highway safety funds.

Franklin Grove Cemetery Memorial Day service set

FRANKLIN GROVE — American Legion Post 497 will host a Memorial Day ceremony at Franklin Grove Cemetery on Monday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
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CHARLES A. BALLARD, Deceased.
)
NO. 2023-PR-20

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CHARLES A. BALLARD, of Byron, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 10, 2023, to THOMAS H. BALLARD whose address is 811 W. 2nd St., Byron, IL 61010, and COLLEEN PATROSKY, whose address is 28659 Surrey Dr., Sterling, IL 61081, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than November 17, 2023, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for THOMAS H. BALLARD and COLLEEN PETROSKY, Co-Executors of the Estate of CHARLES A. BALLARD, deceased
No. 0527
(May 17, 24 and 31, 2023)

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Case No.: 2023 MR 4

PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, RUTHANN WICKE, Defendant, in the above-entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Ogle County by the Plaintiff against you praying for a Judgement and for other relief.
NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, RUTHANN WICKE, the Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in this action or otherwise make your appearance, in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, held in the City of Oregon, Illinois, on or before June 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgement entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint.
Dated this 9th day of May, 2023.
Kimberly A. Stahl, Circuit Clerk
Prepared by:
TESS, CRULL & ARNQUIST, LLC
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 68
Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-8754 - phone
(815) 562-3412 - fax
lawyers@tesscrulllaw.com
050923K
No. 0528
(May 17, 24 and 31, 2023)

113
FINANCIAL

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

119
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127
SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn

NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE
VILLAGE OF CRESTON, a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff
vs. CHARLES W. MIDDLETON, UNKNOWN OWNERS, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,
Case No.: 2023 MR 5

PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, CHARLES W. MIDDLETON, Defendant, in the above-entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Ogle County by the Plaintiff against you praying for a Judgement and for other relief.
NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, CHARLES W. MIDDLETON, the Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in this action or otherwise make your appearance, in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, held in the City of Oregon, Illinois, on or before June 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgement entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint.
Dated this 9th day of May, 2023.
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050923K
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101
LEGAL NOTICE

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105
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

CUSTOM Construction Systems. Residential/Commercial Roofing. Shingles/Metal/Flat. 815-871-7835. (05-24-23)

201
DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

301
ANTIQUES

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

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

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

405
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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203
HELP WANTED

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle. No phone calls please.

03262023

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Rochelle News-Leader

Attn: Mike Feltes, PO Box 46
Rochelle, IL 61068
or email: mfeltes@oglecountyilife.com

EOE

307
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Learn how at StopBullying.gov

SPORTS

MERIDIAN: Local athletes compete at RTHS on May 4

From page 3

7-8 Girls

Creston's Emma Heller won the 100-meter dash with a time of 15.72 seconds as well as the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 20.61 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 33.01 seconds. Kings' Kenna Beck won the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:20.90 and St. Paul's Mia Heitkamp won the 800-meter run with a time of 3:39.16. Eswood's Marley Cherry won the 1600-meter run with a time of 9:17.62 and Kings won the 400-meter relay in 1:05.40.

Eswood won the 800-meter relay with a time of 2:51.54 and Creston's Maya Esparza won the shot put with a heave of 26 feet 9 inches. Creston's Alexis Crawford won the discus with a throw of 47 feet 9 inches and St. Paul's Delaney Heal won both the high jump with a clearance of 3 feet 10 inches and the long jump with a distance of 12 feet 3 inches. Steward's Morgan DeLille won the triple jump with a distance of 25 feet 1 inches.

7-8 Boys

Cornerstone Christian Academy's David Arguello won the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.75 seconds and the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:03.99. Kings' Jaden Martina won the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.10 seconds and Creston's Danny Garcia won both the 800-meter run with a time of 2:30.22 and the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:53.96. Kings' Colton Hopp won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 20.83 seconds and Kings won the 400-meter relay in 57.02 seconds.

Eswood won the 800-meter relay with a time of 2:05.00 and Eswood's Hunter Bivins won the high jump with a clearance of 4 feet 6 inches. St. Paul's Aiden Carmichael won both the shot put with a heave of 31 feet and the discus with a throw of 96 feet 7 inches. St. Paul's Tyler Johnson won the long jump with a mark of 15 feet 6 inches and Kings' Ty Horn won the triple jump with a mark of 30 feet 5 inches.

St. Paul Lutheran School



St. Paul athletes compete at 2023 LSA State Championships

St. Paul Lutheran School student-athletes Cohen Haedt, Aiden Carmichael and Tyler Johnson competed in the 2023 Lutheran Sports Association Track & Field Championships this weekend. Carmichael placed 10th in the discus, while Johnson placed 10th in long jump and Cohen Haedt placed 11th in the 800-meter run.

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