



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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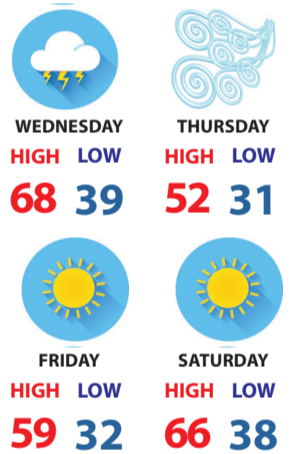
KNOW IT  
TODAY



Friday storms hit  
Rochelle area

Severe weather rolled through the Rochelle area on Friday, causing damage at local parks and Fairways Golf Course. **Page 3**

WEATHER



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OBITUARIES

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• GAYLE A. SWEGER

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• FARM & FLEET

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Village of Progress Winter Games awards ceremony held

**OREGON** — The Oregon Park District hosted the second annual Winter Games Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 23. The ceremony is a culmination of 10 weeks of competitive games with the Village of Progress. Over the 10 week period the athletes competed in football, soccer, basketball and hockey.

The Winter Games are made possible through the generous donation from the Oregon Park District's presenting sponsor, E.D. Etnyre & Co.

The athletes entered the ceremony to the horns played by Oregon Junior Senior High School teachers Miles Beske, Andy Eckardt and Zach Hall.

The Star Spangled Banner was performed by the quartet of Mark Tremble, Miles Beske, Andy Eck-

ardt and Zach Hall.

Following introductions by Oregon Park District Executive Director Erin Folk and Neal Trainor, Oregon Park District VOP coordinator, the athletes enjoyed hearing from OJSHS Principal Dr. Heidi Deininger. Deininger spoke to the character and strengths the athletes possess. Sportsmanship was the common theme over the past 10 weeks.

Medals were presented to the following athletes:

Event one: Football - longest throw: Gold - Cameron (Rochelle), Silver - Clo (DeKalb) and Bronze - Karl (Stillman Valley).

Event two: Football - best accuracy throw: Gold - Matthew (Stillman Valley), Silver - Jessica (Lindenwood) and Bronze - Chris (Rochelle).

Event three: Basketball - speed dribble: Gold - Adon (Rochelle), Silver - Austin (Byron) and Bronze - Sue (Leaf River).

Event four: Basketball - most lay ups: Gold - JR (Stillman Valley), Silver - Matthew (Stillman Valley) and Bronze - Chris (Rochelle).

Event five: Basketball - dribble down and back: Gold - Brian (Oregon), Silver - Tony (Lindenwood) and Bronze - Darren (Polo) and Sam (Holcomb).

Event six: Hockey - longest shot: Gold - JR (Stillman Valley), Silver - Ben (Oregon) and Bronze - Liz (Oregon).

Event seven: Hockey - most saves: Gold - Summer (Oregon), Silver - Cameron (Rochelle) and Bronze - Rebecca (Byron).

Event eight: Soccer - speed/dribble control:



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**The Oregon Park District hosted the second annual Winter Games Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 23. The ceremony is a culmination of 10 weeks of competitive games with the Village of Progress.**

Gold - Rachel (Mt. Morris), Silver - Jim (Oregon) and Bronze - Clo (DeKalb) and Tim (Oregon).

Event nine: Soccer - most goals: Gold - Hope (Rochelle), Silver - James (Rochelle) and Bronze - Sharon (Rockford).

Event 10: Soccer - most saves: Gold - Stacey (Oregon), Silver - Sherri (Rochelle) and Bronze - Darren (Polo) Valley), Hockey MVP - JR (Stillman Valley) and Soccer MVP - Hope (Rochelle).

The ceremony concluded with everyone's favorite activity...dancing. The crowd joined Oregon Park District and Village of Progress for the YMCA, Macarena and the chicken dance.

## Subdivision construction underway

**ROCHELLE** - The intersections of Springdale and Crest Lane, Crest Lane and North Knoll Drive, Ridge Road and Crest Lane, and Brookside and North Knoll Drives, will be under construction beginning April 3 at 7 a.m. through June 16.

The city's contractor, Porter Bros. Construction, will be replacing storm drainage inlets, manholes

and pipe at various locations along these streets. The project will also include pavement, curb and sidewalk removal and replacement in various locations within and adjacent to the intersections mentioned herein. Residents can expect streets within the work zone area to be frequently shut down to one lane of traffic until June 16.

Work is expected to

be substantially complete June 16 and is subject to weather. Advance warning, detour and other temporary traffic control devices will be posted near the affected area. Please use caution while traveling in this area and pay special attention to the advanced warning signage, road closed signage and other temporary traffic control devices within or in advance of the work zone.



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**Emerald Level Award winners of the State 4-H Experience Award included Gracie Prose, Ogle County.**

## Ogle County 4-H youth honored for career achievement and leadership

**URBANA** - 4-H youth across the state have been honored for their career achievements in the 4-H program.

The State 4-H Experience Award offers recognition for members who took part in activities and events in the categories of Participation, Community Service, Leadership, and Project Mastery. In order to qualify for the award, 4-H members must have expanded their 4-H experience beyond just the county level.

"4-H encourages and provides supports for youth to develop mastery in their chosen subject area, but we also encourage youth to use those skills in leadership roles," Lisa Diaz, University of Illinois Extension assistant dean and 4-H director, said. "These awards recognize youth who have pledged to use their head, heart, hands and health to support their communities and their world."

Youth choose learning

pathways and are encouraged to find 4-H experiences to explore at the county, state and national levels.

"4-H experiences take place at the community level, but there are opportunities to expand youth experiences," Diaz said. "These youth have pushed themselves to new limits and expanded their worldview in order to qualify for these awards."

Diamond Level awards recognize youth who completed six or more experiences in one of the three dimensions, with at least four experiences beyond the county level. The Diamond Level awards are sponsored by Dwight Huffstutler, James and Sharon Walker, Wilbur and Marilyn Nelson and

Gary and Cecilia Balke. The Emerald Level award recognizes youth who completed eight or more experiences in one of the three dimensions, with at least four of those experiences beyond the county level and at least two at the state, national, or international level. The Emerald Level awards are sponsored by Bill and Jane Wyffels, Carrol and Patsy Bolen, Sandra Lignell, and Doug and Edith Block.

Emerald Level Award winners in Leadership include Gracie Prose, Ogle County.

The Deb Stocker Award honors an exceptional member of the 4-H Youth Leadership Team. Gracie Prose of Ogle County was this year's recipient.



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HIM CHART ANALYSIS



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# LOCAL NEWS

## UNITY: Hospice center volunteers giving back to local families

From page 1

“The important thing is that Unity Hospice wants to provide the best care. It’s not just medical care, but it’s the body, mind and spirit. That’s what we’re looking for. A lot of our volunteers provide that support.”

Chick started volunteering with Unity in January 2021. That was during the pandemic, and Unity would bring her projects to do from home. In September of that year, she started in-person office work, putting together care packages for patients and going to nursing homes to do hand massages for patients.

Later on, Chick expressed to a previous volunteer coordinator that she’d like to start helping by talking to families after their loved one passes.

“I felt like over the years I’d learned a lot about grief and I’ve helped a lot of people with grief,” Chick said. “I lost my son, my mom at a young age, and I lost all three of my brothers in about 4.5 years. As time went on, helping others through their grief was just a good outlet for me and I had a lot of help in my processing. This is what I mainly do now.”

Helping people with their grief is enjoyable for Chick, and after speaking with families on Unity’s behalf she can put them in touch with a chaplain that will stay in touch with them.

“I make sure he knows which ones are of concern,” Chick said. “If I hear something in their voice, I have our chaplain reach out. No

matter what age the loved one is, grief is hard. Most of ours are elderly, but people have trouble adjusting.”

Chick found time to volunteer after her home-based business was deemed nonessential in 2020 during COVID-19. Through the process of that summer, she was trying to stay occupied and Unity opened up a door to volunteering. She believes her volunteer work has helped her with her own personal grief. To manage that, helping others is an outlet she needs.

“I retired earlier than I thought I would and this is still a way to show that I care,” Chick said. “I like making people feel better. This is another way to do that. Grief is a hard process to deal with. The fact that I can kind of validate all that they’re going through, I empathize and sympathize and make sure they understand any feelings that come with grief are perfectly natural. And there are ways to process that.”

Etchison said Chick’s work is crucial to Unity’s work with families after their loved one passes. The organization provides counseling for up to 13 months after a loved one passes. At the beginning of that process, Chick lends a listening ear and checks in on families to see how they’re doing and what support they may need.

“It’s incredible and I’m so glad Donna wanted to get involved and can take her experiences and give back,” Etchison said. “That’s a big thing with hospice volunteers in general. A lot of them are people who want to give

back or have experienced their own grief. I overhear the calls sometimes and I’m so impressed with everything she says to them. We always want our staff to meet patients where they are and see where they’re coming from and provide a listening ear. I know she’s doing everything she can to provide support for our families.”

After working as a Unity nurse, Carpenter became a full-time caregiver for a family member and found extra time that she chose to spend sewing for Unity patients after she saw a need for it. She learned to sew as a child and has enjoyed it since.

“It’s something I can do at home that helps somebody else,” Carpenter said. “If I can make somebody’s day, that’s awesome. I think Unity is a great hospice service. I think they love their patients and have a desire to make them as comfortable as possible and treat them like kings and queens.”

Carpenter started off sewing memory pillows for patients and then started making clothes adjustments for patients, which can be requested by nurses. Carpenter will sew buttons or Velcro on shirts so patients can put them on themselves. She takes on any special sewing projects for patients. Her biggest project recently was for Unity’s veterans program, where she used recycled jeans from various community members to make blankets for patients featuring their military histories.

“Annie asked me about veteran blankets and I gave



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Deb Carpenter is a former Unity nurse and now helps with volunteer projects. She makes quilts and does sewing work for patients. She’s made memory pillows, veteran blankets and has made patients’ clothing easier for those that struggle to dress themselves.**

them a try and I’ve had fun doing those,” Carpenter said. “I’ve also written some cheer mail and I enjoy writing letters to people to hopefully give them a little smile.”

Unity Hospice, which has a Rochelle office, meets its patients and

volunteers where they are in 17 counties in Northern Illinois. Volunteers visit patients in the area they reside and work on assignments that meet the reasons that they wanted to get involved.

Unity Hospice and Palliative Care has a number

of volunteer opportunities including patient care, administrative, student interns, bereavement, Paws for Patients, music & memory, veteran to veteran and more.

To learn more information, visit [unityhospice.com/volunteer](http://unityhospice.com/volunteer).



### Friday storm hits Rochelle, topples 100-year-old tree planted in honor of World War I veterans

On Friday, March 31, violent winds from a storm that hit the region resulted in several trees being uprooted at both Fairways Golf Course and Memorial Park. Facebook posts by Fairways Golf Course said it closed following the storm damage for cleanup and reopened Tuesday. It thanked Timbermen Tree Service, the Kishwaukee golf team and volunteers for help with cleanup. Among the uprooted trees at Memorial Park was a tree planted in 1923 to honor Rochelle’s World War I dead. Flagg Township Museum Historian Tom McDermott and his granddaughter took cuttings from the 100-year-old tree in a hope that there can be replanting for it to live on.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Zoning board holds first comprehensive plan workshop

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its monthly meeting Monday, the City of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission held its first workshop amid the ongoing process of updating the city's comprehensive plan.

The planning & zoning commission will serve as the public forum as the city works to update the plan. The city adopted its first comprehensive plan in 1973 and its most recent update was in 2016 while working with Teska & Associates.

The comprehensive plan is intended to provide a framework for future development and revitalization based on existing conditions, trends, goals and objectives. The plan is updated every 5-7 years. The city is again working with Teska & Associates to update the plan and the process will be led by its representative, Pete Iosue, who attended Monday's

meeting.

Outside of planning & zoning meetings, the city has also established a committee to update the comprehensive plan that includes Mayor John Bearrows, City Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey, Planning & Zoning Commissioner Claude McKibben, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh, Sustainability Coordinator Molly Sedig, GIS Coordinator Casey Heuer and city community development department members. Other city staff members will also lend expertise to the committee on their specialized areas.

The committee will make suggested revisions to each chapter of the 2016 plan before they go to the planning & zoning commission workshops for review and input.

Monday's meeting consisted of going through updates to the first three chapters of the city's previous comprehensive plan including introduction,

community development guidelines and planning strategies.

The updates to the introduction of the comprehensive plan included "minor and straightforward" changes including striking language of objectives that have been completed or have become unachievable or irrelevant since 2016.

The discussion on the community development guidelines chapter updates included the level of priority that will be dedicated to the downtown and the city's other corridors as well as improving housing in Rochelle.

The 2016 comprehensive plan involved a strong priority for the revitalization of the downtown area, and progress has been made since. Planning & Zoning Commissioner Will McLachlan said Monday he wanted to make sure the new plan will reflect that progress and also focus on improving other corridors in the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its monthly meeting Monday, the City of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission held its first workshop amid the ongoing process of updating the city's comprehensive plan.**

city, while still keeping downtown improvement a priority.

"We focused so much on the downtown," McLachlan said. "For the next seven years or until it's updated again, maybe we do focus more on some of those other corridors and not just on the downtown and southern corridors."

Also discussed was housing, and language was changed to include exploring public-private partnerships for future housing opportunities.

The discussion on planning strategies involved encouraging all types of housing in the city, overall growth management strategy and incorporating recent census data into the plan.

May's meeting will involve the city's future land use plan and transportation plan. June's meeting will focus on community facilities & services and the utility plan. The final meeting will involve watershed management, economic

development and plan implementation. A public hearing will also occur before final adoption. The planning & zoning commission will vote on the plan for recommendation to the city council, which will ultimately vote on its adoption.

The meetings will occur on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at city hall. The city encourages members of the public to attend the meetings and provide input on Rochelle's future direction.

## PANTRY: Rochelle organization seeing record numbers

From page 1

"The days when we only have 30-35 can be a little boring. But the days when we have 70, that's a good day. It's great. The more people we can help, the better."

Two of the RCFP's biggest donors are ALDI and Walmart. When its van comes back from those grocery stores with donations, it's full, Jacobs said. The food pantry also gets two deliveries a month from the Northern Illinois Food Bank at a reduced cost. So far, the community's need hasn't been anything the food pantry can't handle, Jacobs said. Monetary donations have also helped it to continue to offer services to anyone who needs them.

"We're very lucky that we live in Rochelle," Jacobs said. "Rochelle is a very generous community. I don't have any concern about meeting people's needs in the future. Because

we always seem to find a way to get it done. That's why Christian is in our name. I've said it many times, we live in a great community."

April is National Volunteer Month, and Jacobs said that despite the recent pandemic, the RCFP's volunteer numbers are right where he'd like them to be. Churches and local civic organizations send volunteers each week.

Jacobs called the food pantry's volunteers "incredible," and he said it makes him proud to call Rochelle home.

"They always show up and we get the job done, no matter what gets thrown at us," Jacobs said. "They're just unbelievably good people. And they're very kind, generous and treat the clients as well as they can be treated. I can't say enough about our volunteers. And that speaks about the whole city. Every time a crisis comes to a family in this

town, the whole town steps up and takes care of it. You don't find that everywhere. We're very fortunate. And I don't think everybody knows that. We offer a lot."

Jacobs himself made volunteering and giving back a goal when he retired. He was involved with the RACF for eight years total, including six as RACF board president.

"2020 was my last year there and I ran into Jennie O'Rourke at the From the Heart gala and started asking her about the pantry," Jacobs said. "I came in and started volunteering and after a couple months I was asked to join the board. At the end of the year, they asked me to be president. I said whatever it takes to help. I like giving back."

If you would like to make a donation to the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry or volunteer, contact the food pantry at 815-562-6654 or rochelefoodpantry@gmail.com.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**The Rochelle Christian Food Pantry added 300 new clients in 2022 and Board President Cal Jacobs said trends have stayed the same so far in 2023. In January, the RCFP saw an all-time record high of 475 visits.**

## Eagle's Nest Art Group Spring Show is April 29

**OREGON** — Eagle's Nest Art Group invites the public to attend its annual Spring Membership Art Show. The opening reception is on Saturday, April 29 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come to see some of the best in local art by local artists from Oregon, Mt. Morris, Byron, Dixon, Forrester, Rochelle, Sterling, Rock Falls and Rockford.

The show continues on Sunday, April 30 and Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The ENAG gallery is on the second floor of Conover Square Mall, located at 201 N. Third St., Oregon. An elevator is available.

Artists will be on hand to welcome you. Refreshments will be served.

A wide variety of original art will be on display including: oil, acrylic

& watercolor paintings, glass work, pottery, gourd art, calligraphy and drawings. Also included is a fine selection of art prints and cards for sale.

In support of the *Hands On Oregon* project, ENAG is selling specially marked art pieces. All of the proceeds go to help with the work of this non-for-profit community project.

The annual art show is dedicated to celebrating the long history of art

in this community. The Eagle's Nest Art Group began in 1957 and continues to support the work of local artists with art shows, programs and classes. More information about the group will be available at the show.

The shops of Conover Square will be open during show hours. The show is free. Parking is plentiful.

For more information call (815) 732-7783 or (815) 734-6594.

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# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## TikTok: Have we run out the clock?

THE big fuss lately has been about the app (software application), TikTok. TikTok is owned by a China-based company, ByteDance, which is subject to Chinese law, essentially the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) — a well-known adversary of the U.S. The PLA can compel any Chinese Company to do whatever it wants. TikTok in the U.S. lets users post short videos, provides entertainment, comedy, crazy antics, songs, latest social-media trends, updates on your favorite celebrities, etc. In China, TikTok (called Douyin in China) is restricted to educational subject matter, Chinese Communist Party propaganda, no enter-

tainment and a 40-minute limitation on viewing for youth. TikTok has over one billion world-wide users, or about 18 percent of all Internet users.

The TikTok app delivers your information to other parties (at a price), although they do ask for your permission to do so for some items. If you click on “do not use,” that does not necessarily mean they will not use your information, since it is difficult to verify. It is easy to program an icon on your screen that when clicked does nothing. If they don’t have access to your information, there is no reason to provide free access to TikTok. There is no such thing as a free lunch. TikTok collects your personal

information that you disclose when you create an account, your posts, your comments, your location, your politics and many more tidbits, plus information it receives from cross-use websites, such as Facebook. When you sign up for Facebook, that information is delivered to TikTok (cross-use).

Consumer Reports found that TikTok can still track you, even if you do not have a TikTok account. Hundreds of popular websites embed tiny TikTok trackers, called pixels, which provide TikTok information such as your IP address, a unique ID, the page you visited,

what you are searching for, etc. According to Consumer Reports, if you visit the United Methodist Church, WebMD or the national Girl Scout websites, you are tracked by TikTok. This is not unlike other services such as Hotmail, Google and Yahoo who collect your data while you are using their service, which they then typically sell to advertisers.

TikTok, on the other hand, collects your data and feeds you videos that you like, such that you become addicted, or receive messaging that attempts to change your mind about certain topics. Researchers at Bangor University

(England) indicate that TikTok is addictive because of the release of dopamine into the brain making a person feel good. TikTok, like other social media, is prone to negative commentary. Some of the videos deliver sexual lyrics and bad language in songs that may not be age-appropriate for kids. There have been posts about disordered eating contests, self-harm and suicide.

What is worrisome about TikTok when compared to other websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google, etc. is that it is controlled by the Chinese PLA. The PLA is a well-known adversary of the U.S. as evidenced by spy balloons,entanyl proliferation in

the U.S., cyber-attacks, etc. A technical paper entitled “*The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Viruses as Genetic Bio-weapons*” was written in 2015 by members of the PLA.

In my opinion, TikTok should be banned in the U.S., along with all the cross-use programming that delivers information to TikTok, mainly because it is a propaganda arm of a major adversary to the U.S. We do not need another social media app that has as its underlying intention to significantly undermine U.S. society.

With the proliferation of trackers on the Internet, perhaps we have already run out the clock regarding privacy.



Chuck Roberts

## Legislation to outlaw cat declawing

AS lawmakers debated a bill this month to outlaw cat declawing, I couldn’t help thinking sometimes the best intended legislation can have disappointing consequences.

The legislation pits two well-intentioned groups against one another: animal rights activists and veterinarians. Members of both groups love animals and want what they believe is best for them.

But their worldviews differ.

Animal rights folks are the idealists who see the world as they believe it should be.

The veterinarians, on the other hand, are pragmatists who deal with the woes of four-legged critters and their two-legged owners every day.

I’m the son and husband of veterinarians. I’ve spent my entire life surrounded by their concerns.

Cat declawing has fallen out of favor in the veterinary community. Most veterinarians I know

— and I know many — do the procedure rarely. Our family cat has her claws and is a happy well-adjusted member of our family.

During the last 20 years, my wife and I have rescued special needs cats and given them a home in our house. One was a victim of abuse where we believe a past owner deliberately broke its leg.

Another was a kitten born without eyes that was found abandoned at the bottom of a drained swimming pool. Someone wanted the kitten destroyed, but my wife refused and we gave it a home for 13 years — much to the delight of our three then-young daughters.

We love cats. And, no, we have never declawed any of our own animals because we view it as an unnecessary surgery.

But veterinarians also see difficult situations. They see the elderly client who brings in a cat she dearly loves but it keeps clawing her thin skin and leaving wounds that won’t heal. They see the child who is immunosup-

pressed, and his parents fear a playful scratch from a kitten could give way to an uncontrolled infection.

It’s heartbreaking to think of these felines being taken from their loving homes. And sometimes there is no place for the cat to go. Shelters are often overcrowded and not taking new animals. And even if they do, the cat may spend many months in a cage waiting for a placement.

Worse yet, unwanted animals are often dumped in rural areas to fend for themselves. We feed plenty of abandoned cats on our front porch every night.

Faced with these undesirable alternatives, some owners choose to euthanize their pet.

Sometimes declawing is the only alternative to keeping an animal from meeting one of these fates. I wish that weren’t the case. But that’s the state of the world we live in.

A declaw surgery done

well can be safe and the pain well managed. The long-term consequences can be minimal.

House Bill 1533, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora, aims to outlaw the surgical removal of any cat’s claws, with few exceptions.



Scott Reeder

The measure recently passed the House and now goes to the Senate.

Veterinarians say declawing has largely fallen out of favor but at times it is necessary.

At the prompting of veterinarians, exceptions are carved out of the legislation allowing declawing to protect the feline’s health. For example, a cat that keeps digging a rash raw could be declawed.

But no exceptions were made for cat owners who may have medical conditions that could be complicated by scratches.

“Removing a cat’s body part because it’s

convenient for a human, doesn’t make any sense — especially because it’s cruel,” said Marc Ayers, Illinois director of the U.S. Humane Society.

Hmm, I can think of plenty of tomcats who would just as soon not have one particular appendage removed but the Humane Society does support neutering.

“The big idea that we denied was the human exemption because we see that as a big loophole,” Rep. Hernandez told me. “Pretty much what they’re trying to do is give people who are immune compromised or have blood disorders or dementia a medical exemption to be able to declaw their cats. But by doing that, how are we going to prove that this person has a medical exception?”

She later added, “I think a lot of people could say, ‘Hey, I’m immune compromised.’ And leave the doors wide open for others.”

Yes, it is possible an owner may lie about their own health to get a cat

declawed. But if such a person were so unscrupulous, might they not choose to abandon or kill their pet if they can’t get it declawed?

“Legislation to make it illegal can be problematic because we need to be able to use it as a last resort to prevent euthanasia,” said Dr. Amy Wolf, a Springfield veterinarian. “In situations like that we are helping cats. It’s the lesser of two evils.”

And there’s the rub. Many veterinarians, such as Wolf, who *do not* perform declaws oppose the legislation because they know at times it is the best of several bad outcomes.

Elective declawing is fading away on its own. But occasionally, in tough cases, it’s the best outcome for the cat.

Trying to legislate medical procedures by legislative fiat doesn’t make sense, it should remain in the capable hands of veterinarians.

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

### How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger  
1218 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C.  
20515  
(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart  
M104A State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0180

IL Rep. Tom Demmer  
314 Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0535

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com

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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



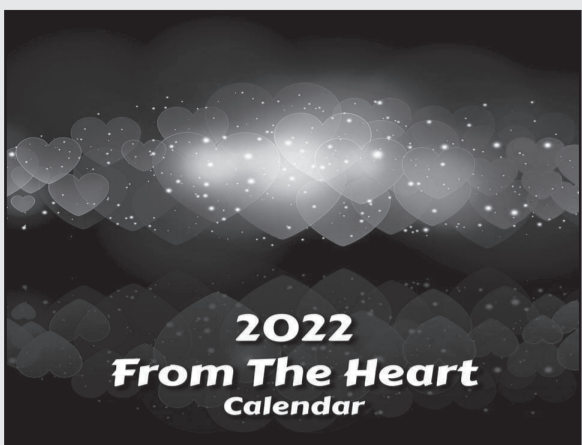
**Ogle County Sheriff's Office congratulates Lewis on graduation**  
The Ogle County Sheriff's Office recently congratulated Dalton Lewis on his graduation from DuPage County Corrections Academy.

**Lager named to fall 2022 dean's list at Ripon College**  
**RIPON, Wis.**—Tanner Lager, a class of 2026 student from Rochelle, was named to the fall 2022 dean's list at Ripon College. To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve a 3.4 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 credits of regular letter-graded work.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>April 6</b> Stephen Avila Eddie Villalobos Josh & Sarah Kulwicki (anniversary)	<b>April 11</b> Bev Wiginton Christine Doering Chris & Christine Doering (anniversary)	<b>April 19</b> Pastor Angelo Bonacquisti
<b>April 7</b> Arianna Grana Anjelique Grana Beckham Stockton	<b>April 12</b> Amber Lopez Charles Peterman	<b>April 21</b> Emma Waters
<b>April 8</b> Jodi Prosser Trevor Komadina Timothy Avila	<b>April 14</b> Kristyn Sulser	<b>April 24</b> Lainie Arnold Jose Tlapa
<b>April 10</b> Johnny Gonzales	<b>April 16</b> Marissa Seldal James Doering	<b>April 26</b> Evan Jones
	<b>April 18</b> Millie Danekas	<b>April 30</b> Oakley Gonzales Nora Bridgeman

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



- Mar. 10 - Veronica Wicks, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 11 - Jay Eller, Amboy, \$25
- Mar. 12 - Danielle Bettner, Rochelle, \$50
- Mar. 13 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
- Mar. 14 - Glen Hughes, Dixon, \$25
- Mar. 15 - Rosemary VanKirk, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 16 - Judith Urban, Loves Park, \$25
- Mar. 17 - Dena Doran, Princeton, \$250
- Mar. 18 - Brian Edwards, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 19 - Brittany Samp, Palos Heights, \$50
- Mar. 20 - Mike and Irma Seaworth, Holcomb, \$25
- Mar. 21 - Charlie Boonstra, Dixon, \$25
- Mar. 22 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
- Mar. 23 - Troy Mowry, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 24 - David Glessner, Dixon, \$25
- Mar. 25 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 26 - Tara Richardson, Waterman, \$50
- Mar. 27 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Mar. 28 - Maria Hernandez, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 29 - Kaylee May, Rochelle, \$50
- Mar. 30 - Billy Gregg Evans, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 31 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 1 - Adam Hall, Sycamore, \$25
- Apr. 2 - Sue Snyder, Phoenix, \$50
- Apr. 3 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 4 - Linda Alderks, Chana, \$25
- Apr. 5 - Liquor N Wine, Rochelle, \$25



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Shred  
6 Tyke  
12 Alaskan capital  
13 Actress Lansbury  
14 Soak up  
15 Packed in a box, as oranges  
16 Boxer Spinks  
17 Like dried mud  
19 Mac alternatives  
20 Round Table titles  
22 First lady?  
24 Expected  
27 Facts and figures  
29 Congers  
32 Elvis Presley hit song  
35 Spiked club  
36 Mandolin's kin  
37 UFO crew  
38 Billboards  
40 Minor quibbles  
42 Nile biter  
44 &&&&  
46 Deal (with)  
50 Weak  
52 Missouri-born president  
54 "— serious?"  
55 Small song-birds

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13				
14						15				
16					17	18			19	
20					21			22	23	
24	25	26		27		28		29		30
32			33				34			
35					36				37	
38				39		40			41	
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
50			51				52	53		
54							55			
56							57			

**DOWN**  
1 Hayseed  
2 Not — many words  
3 Drudges  
4 Eg. and Syr., once  
5 Barhopping tour  
6 Big truck maker  
7 Ham — (deli order)  
8 Links org.  
9 Personal bug-aboo  
10 Power co. supply  
11 Tiny amounts  
12 Tokyo-based carrier  
18 Amaze  
21 Altar promise  
23 Victory sign  
24 Poorly lit  
25 Actress Hagen  
26 Fugitives  
28 Creative flair  
30 Allow  
31 Soon-to-be grads  
33 Homer's neighbor  
34 Profit  
39 Beauty parlor  
41 Diving gear  
42 Miles away  
43 Withered  
45 Neither fem. nor masc.  
47 Skip  
48 Frying needs  
49 Em halves  
51 "See ya!"  
53 Caviar

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### CryptoQuip

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

Clue: X equals L

UE QCXW U ZQBXJ YDHDYKD NOD  
LMJ DEEDZKN NOMN MRUCR UK  
OMHUCR QC FW LQJW.  
U'F EDDXUCR KQ WQBNQXDKK.

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

I'm feeling so youthful.  
having on my body.  
bad effects that aging is  
If only I could reverse the  
answer

# ASHTON NEWS

## Lee County Sheriff's Office urges motorists to "Drop It and Drive"

**DIXON** – In honor of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Lee County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local law enforcement agencies to step up enforcement efforts across the state. Motorists can expect to see increased patrols and traffic safety enforcement zones throughout April.

"Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes

on our roads today," Chief Deputy Derek Ranken said. "During Distracted Driving Awareness Month, law enforcement will boost enforcement efforts, stopping anyone who is texting and driving. Remember, if you have a phone in one hand, you can expect a ticket in the other."

In Illinois, using your phone in anything other than handsfree mode is not only dangerous, it's illegal. Drop it and drive. The Illinois distracted driving campaign is funded with federal

traffic safety funds administered by IDOT.

### St. Patrick's Day

The Lee County Sheriff's Office announced that it made zero driving under the influence arrests and issued three seat belt citations during the St. Patrick's Day enforcement period. In total, Lee County Sheriff's deputies conducted 17 traffic stops. They also issued six speeding citations, one uninsured motorist citation and one

warrant arrest.

"We strongly enforce traffic laws for one reason – to save lives," Chief Deputy Derek Ranken said.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office joined forces with state and local law enforcement and highway safety partners in the St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign.

The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign was funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



### Viall finishes as state runner up for AFC FFA

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently congratulated student Kate Viall for finishing as state runner up discovery star in ag placement at the state awards day in Decatur.

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Academy

Clover Conner

#RaiderWay

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

James Scholar Honors Program

Andrea Buhrow

#RaiderWay

### Conner, Buhrow accepted into collegiate academic programs

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently announced that student Clover Conner has been accepted to Sauk Valley Community College's Academy for the 2023-24 school year. Each year SVCC selects high achieving juniors to attend their senior year on campus at SVCC. Dual credit courses, high rigor, service and leadership will drive Clover's senior year. The AFC School District also recently congratulated student Andrea Buhrow on being asked to be part of the James Scholar Program at the University of Illinois.



### Ashton-Franklin Center School District recognizes third-quarter honor roll students for 2022-23 school year

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently recognized its third quarter honor roll students for the 2022-2023 school year.



### Ashton-Franklin Center animal science class visits Whispering Pines Reindeer Ranch

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently thanked Whispering Pines Reindeer Ranch for hosting its animal science class on March 24. Students learned all about reindeer, their diets and behaviors and got to interact with several reindeer.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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**Public Library**  
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS

**FORGING THEIR SKILLS**

Forge Wrestling Club competed at the Naperville Central Developmental meet.

See page 7 for more details

RTHS Softball

## Jacksonville Jamboree

Lady Hubs head south for tournament games at Future Champions Complex

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**JACKSONVILLE**—The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team made a spring break trip down south for the High School Jamboree tournament at the Futures Sports Complex in Jacksonville late last week. Rochelle battled against Burlington Central and Dundee-Crown, dropping both contests. The Lady Hubs (0-3, 0-0 Interstate 8) will face Plano on the road Monday evening.

“I thought we looked really good behind the plate,” head coach Deanna Jacobs said. “It was a good trip and it was nice to get a full game in and start building a tradition for our program.”

### Burlington Central

Rochelle started the tournament with a 13-0 loss against the Rockets on Friday. Burlington Central took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, where Emily Rafferty brought Danielle Durckel home on an RBI groundout before Allie Botkin scored on a passed ball. The Rockets surged ahead in the second inning,

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team made a spring break trip down south for the High School Jamboree tournament at the Futures Sports Complex in Jacksonville late last week. Rochelle faced Burlington Central and Dundee-Crown in tournament action.

tallying five runs on three walks, two singles and one error to command a 7-0 advantage. Lana Garrett and Botkin each slapped RBI singles for the Rockets in the frame.

Rochelle had two batters reach base in the bottom of the second inning, with junior Macy

Belmonte hitting a single and senior Adamaris Betancourt drawing a one-out walk. But a strikeout and a groundout ended the scoring threat for the Lady Hubs, who trailed 12-0 after the Rockets scratched five more runs in the top of the fourth inning. Anna Sanders singled and scored

on an error before Makayla McEwan belted a two-run double into deep right field. Singles from Hannah Rindner and Olivia Sutton enabled two more runners to cross home plate.

Junior Ella Alfano notched her second single of the game for the Lady Hubs in the bottom of the

third inning, but consecutive groundouts stranded Alfano at second base. Burlington Central iced the win with one run in the top of the fifth inning, where Sanders scored on an error.

### Dundee-Crown

Rochelle closed out the tournament with a 12-0

loss against the Chargers in a rain-shortened game that lasted less than three innings.

The Lady Hubs fell into a deep hole early, with Dundee-Crown scoring 11 runs in the first inning before adding one more insurance run in the second inning.

RTHS Boys Tennis

## Doubles rally results in win over Belvidere North

### Rochelle netters surge back to secure 3-2 home victory against Blue Thunder

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE**—Better communication fueled the fire for senior Paul Swartz and freshman Mark Green as the duo worked together to erase a one-set deficit during the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team’s non-conference home match against Belvidere North on Monday evening.

With assistant coach John Michael Loggins coaching the first-year varsity players up, Swartz and Green successfully rallied in the second set, overcoming a two-game deficit and forcing a third-set tiebreaker, where the boys closed the match in dominant fashion to secure a 4-6, 6-4, 10-3 win over Alex Valenzuela and Tyler Sanders at the No. 3 doubles court. The duo’s comeback proved to be the deciding match point for the Hubs, who ultimately edged the Blue Thunder 3-2.

“We were down 3-1 in the second set and were teetering on the edge of losing that set, but my partner Mark kept nailing his serves and that gave us the momentum we needed to take the set and roll through the tiebreaker,” Swartz said. “Coach Loggins came over when we

were down and said that we needed to start talking to each other more. We started to motivate each other from that point on and if we made a mistake, we’d pick each other up and move on.”

Belvidere North took the early lead over Rochelle (2-1, 0-1 Interstate 8) on Monday, with the Blue Thunder taking both singles matches. Junior Jimmy Chavez fell 0-6, 0-6 against Spencer Kohls on the No. 1 singles court, while senior Evin Odle managed two games in a 2-6, 0-6 loss to Jack Dickerson on the No. 2 singles court. The Hubs claimed their first match point at the No. 2 doubles court, where senior John Green and junior Parker Lenkaitis showed dominance in their 6-4, 6-1 victory over Aidan Alexander and Jack Stolp.

Action then moved to the No. 1 doubles court, where seniors David Wanner and Owen Haas maintained a steady advantage en route to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Ben Leake and Kyle Williamson. Monday’s doubles win will likely be one of many this season for the two talented senior players, who teamed up to claim the Interstate 8 Conference title at No. 1 doubles last spring.

“We have a lot of experience and we have a lot

of depth,” Wanner said. “Owen and I won the conference championship in doubles last season and that was awesome, but we have a goal of making it to state this season. We have to make something happen at the sectional, but I think we can do that... Our team chemistry is a strength and we know how to pick each other up when we’re in a lull. We also know how to keep each other going when we’re playing well.”

While Wanner and Haas closed out their win on the No. 1 doubles court, Swartz and Green were busy rallying back to extend their No. 3 doubles match into a third-set tiebreaker, where the senior and freshman kept the ball in play and put their Belvidere North opponents on the defensive. Both matches concluded almost simultaneously, with Rochelle taking both points to clinch the match victory.

“It was a huge confidence booster for me, especially after a tough loss against LaSalle-Peru last week,” Swartz said. “I had a different partner today, but he stepped up and I was able to match his play. Getting that swagger back was big for me and getting the team win in a close match is nice because we know we’re capable of coming through

Senior Owen Haas lunges for a return shot during the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis match against Belvidere North on Monday.

in the clutch.”

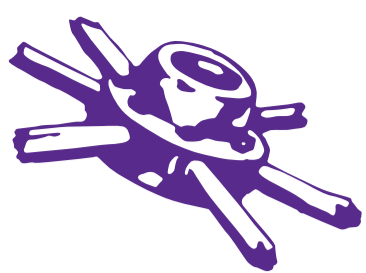
### LaSalle-Peru

The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team opened Interstate 8 Conference play with a 4-1 loss against LaSalle-Peru on the road Tuesday evening. Seniors John Green and Owen Haas combined to score the lone match point for the Hubs

(1-1, 0-1 Interstate 8), winning their match 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 over Andrew Bollis and Danny Santoy on the No. 1 doubles court.

Junior Jimmy Chavez took three games in a 2-6, 1-6 loss against Adam Kasperski at the No. 1 singles court, while freshman Mark Green played a close second set in his 1-6, 4-6

loss against Michael Peters at the No. 2 singles court. Junior Parker Lenkaitis and senior Evin Odle fell 0-6, 0-6 against Jon Milota and Michael Milota at the No. 2 doubles court, with seniors Paul Swartz and Jace Whitehead hanging tough in a 3-6, 5-7 loss to Colin Krug and Riley O’Brien at the No. 3 doubles court.



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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Caleb  
Dreska**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track & Field*

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

*A: Since I was 7 or 8 years old.*

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

*A: Running and the adrenaline rush while sprinting.*

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

*A: Math because I like solving problems.*

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

*A: Usain Bolt and Ja Morant because they're successful.*

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

*A: Usain Bolt because he's fast and he's an amazing world record holder.*

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

*A: To be a mechanic or a construction worker because they seem to make good money.*

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

*A: France because the Eiffel Tower seems so cool to see.*

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

*A: Supporting the school in any way I can.*

**Miles**

**Hunley**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Track & Field*



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

*A: Since eighth grade.*

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

*A: Going to meets because the atmosphere and the excitement are the best.*

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

*A: English because I enjoy my teacher and writing essays.*

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

*A: Noah Lyles because I watch a lot of his 200-meter training videos and I implement his training.*

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

*A: My dad because he always encourages me no matter what I do.*

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

*A: To be a pro bodybuilder because while the pay may be great, you can have a free schedule besides going to the gym.*

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

*A: Zion National Park because I enjoy hiking and being out in nature.*

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

*A: Every teammate and coach encouraging and helping you to do better.*

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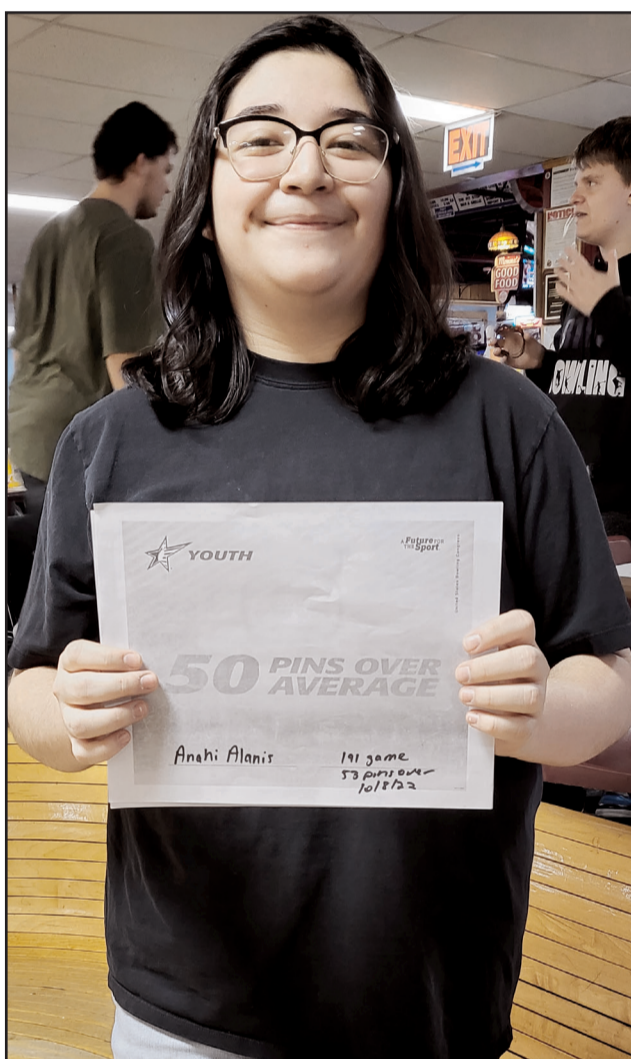
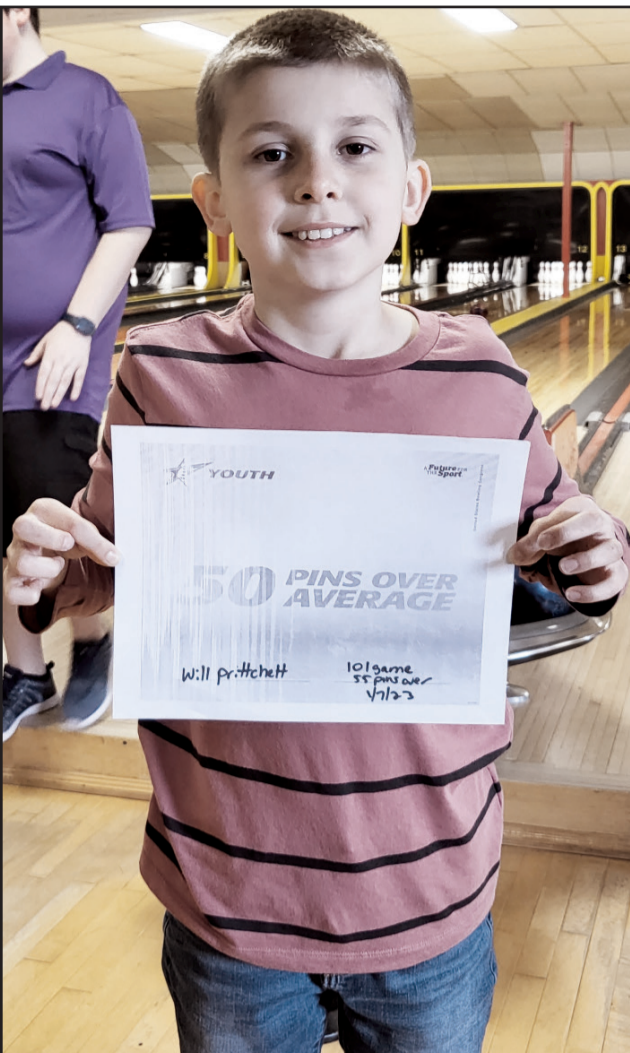
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# SPORTS

T-Byrd Lanes

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



## Local bowlers take home Youth League and High School League awards from T-Byrd Lanes

T-Byrd Lanes recently recognized several local bowlers with Youth League and High School League awards. Will Pritchett, Kiera Hopp, Grayson Campbell (above from left to right), Kylie McCullough and Anahi Alanis received 50 Pins Over Average Awards. Sergio Ramos took home a 75 Pins Over Average Award. McCullough, Alanis and Ramos are pictured below from left to right.

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### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on March 20, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:  
Alpha Studios, 409 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, IL 61069  
Dated March 20, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0321  
(March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023)

### LEGAL NOTICE FOR CRESTON-DEMENT PUBLIC LIBRARY NEW BUILDING

By authority of the Board of Library Trustees, sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., prevailing time, on April 21, 2023, by the Board of Library Trustees of the Creston-Dement Public Library for the new building. Any bids received after 2:00 p.m. will not be accepted. The project consists of site work, landscaping, building structure, exterior cladding & finishes, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, low voltage systems, audio visual, interior construction and interior finishes.

Responses shall be submitted in duplicate on or before the specified closing time in an opaque sealed envelope marked as noted within the Bidding Documents on the outside and addressed to: Kristi Scherer, Library Director, Creston-Dement Public Library. Responses are to be mailed or hand delivered to the Creston-Dement Public Library, 107 S. Main Street, Creston, IL 60113.

A pre-bid virtual conference for general contractors will be held on April 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. through a virtual link noted in Section 001113 of the bid documents. (not mandatory)  
Bid security in the form of a bid bond or certified check made payable to the Creston-Dement Public Library equal to 10% of the base bid amount shall be submitted with the bid. Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds, and Certificate of Insurance will be required from the successful bidder.

The Creston-Dement Public Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all documents submitted or parts thereof, to waive any irregularities or informalities in the prequalification procedures and to approve trade contractors and vendors to bid in a manner serving the interest of the CrestonDement Public Library.

All bidders must comply with the applicable Illinois Law requiring the payment of prevailing wages, and bidders must comply with the Illinois Statutory requirements regarding labor and bidding, including Equal Opportunity Laws.

Bidding documents which include Project Manual and Project Plans will be on file and may be obtained by bidders on March 30, 2023, after 12:00 p.m., for electronic distribution through BHFX Planroom website: <http://www.bhfxplanroom.com>. All communication should be directed to Shaun Kelly, Engberg Anderson, 8618 W. Catalpa Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656. (PH: 312-846-7646; EM: shaunk@engberganderson.com). Hard copies are also available and all costs associated with printing will be borne by the bidding contractor or vendor.  
Kristi Scherer, Library Director, Creston-Dement Public Library  
No. 0328  
(March 29, April 2 and 5, 2023)

### NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SS.

**COUNTY OF OGLE**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF MADELINE  
KARCZ, Deceased  
)  
)

No. 2023PR13  
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of MADELINE KARCZ, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters were issued on March 22, 2023, to DIANE W. ANDERSON, whose address is 1708 Highland Place, Streator, IL 61364, and whose attorney is James G. Ahlberg, PO Box 358, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, no later than October 9, 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.

No. 0413  
(April 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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### 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

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### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

### 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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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.

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# SPORTS

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BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**NAPERVILLE** — The Forge Wrestling Club sent 19 athletes to the 2023 Naperville Central Freestyle and Greco-Roman Developmental tournaments on Saturday. Two athletes took home first-place freestyle finishes and five athletes earned first-place greco-roman finishes.

### Freestyle

Nehemiah Andronic finished first in the 8U Bantam 61-67 Division with a 2-0 record. Andronic recorded 12-0 technical falls over Frankfort's Alexander Hallstrom and NWO's Noah Caputo.

Roman Villalobos finished first in the 16U Cadets 173-181 Division with a 3-0 record. Villalobos notched three consecutive technical falls over Fox Lake's Larry Williams (10-0), Omega's Aidan Rowells (12-2) and Plainfield Elite's Jack Nowicki (10-0) to secure the divisional crown.

Kaiden Morris shared second place in the Junior 201-221 Division with a 2-0 record. Morris recorded a first-round fall over Beat the Streets wrestler Samuel Costello and a 15-5 technical fall over St. Charles East's Christian Wilson before double forfeiting the first-place bout.

Brenden Voight placed second in the 16U Cadets 149-156 Division with a 1-1 record. Voight received a first-round bye before scoring a 15-3 technical fall against Lewis Vander-schoot. Voight battled Schaumburg's Callen Kirchner in the final round, conceding the match by fall.

Xavier Villalobos placed

second in the 16U Cadets 118-129 Division with a 2-1 record. Villalobos notched a fall over Englewood's Ahmad Cobb and a 10-0 technical fall against Callan's Isiah Kan before falling by 13-5 decision against Hononegah's Rocco Cassioppi.

Wells Millard placed second in the 8U Bantam 38-51 Division with a 1-1 record. Millard opened with a 12-2 technical fall over Suplex's Makar Pavlys before conceding a hard-fought 12-8 decision against Morris wrestler Colton Symons. Millard received a third-round bye.

Elias Andronic took third in the 8U Bantam 51-54 Division with a 1-2 record, earning a fall over Suplex's David Bugrimov. Teddy Millard took third in the 12U Novice 65-70 Division with a 2-1 record, defeating Oak Forest's Alejandro Gomez by 14-2 technical fall and Arlington's Noah Rossi by 10-0 technical fall. Christopher O'Neill took third in the 14U Senior 189-192 Division.

Maddison Wickham finished fourth in the Girls High School 112-117 Division with a 1-2 record, outlasting Greg Gomez Trained's Rebecca Disilvestro for a 14-8 decision. Dempsey Atkinson finished fourth in the Girls High School 146-161 Division with a 1-2 record, scoring a 12-1 technical fall against Peoria's Nakiza Williams. Jackson Norris finished fourth in the Junior 120-126 Division with a 1-2 record, notching a fall over Greg Gomez Trained's Aarav Ledrova.

Hadley Losoya finished fourth in the 14U Senior 114-125 Division with a



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Forge Wrestling Club sent 19 athletes to the 2023 Naperville Central Freestyle and Greco-Roman Developmental tournaments on Saturday.

1-2 record, earning a fall over Blackhawk's August Eggleston. William Julian finished fourth in the 14U Senior 122-130 Division with a 1-1 record, scoring a fall against Frankfort's Quinn Reynolds. Eliud Lombardia took fifth in the 16U Cadets 125-129 Division with a 2-1 record, losing his first match before defeating Plainfield Elite's Nathan Alli by 8-7 decision and Elmhurst's Ben Schoettler by fall.

Rowen Villalobos placed sixth in the 10U Intermediate 63-67 Division with a 1-2 record, winning by fall over Tinley Park's Evan Annicks. Cammyla Macias finished seventh in the Girls High School 112-117 Division and Keagan Albers placed eighth in the 16U Cadets 116-121 Division.

### Greco-Roman

Wells Millard finished first in the 8U Bantam 38-51 Division with a 2-0 record, notching back-to-back falls over Beat the Streets wres-

tlers Dakota Lacy and Morris wrestler Colton Symons. Nehemiah Andronic finished first in the 8U Bantam 60-62 Division with a 2-0 record, scoring technical falls against NWO's Zach Caputo (8-0) and NWL's Dale Yanke (8-0).

Rowen Villalobos finished first in the 10U Intermediate 61-66 Division with a 2-1 record, notching falls over NWO's Noah Caputo and NWO's Roman Spinelli. William Julian finished first in the 14U Senior 125-130 Division with a 3-0 record, notching falls over Forge's Hadley Losoya and Englewood's Jayden Vealas as well as an 8-0 technical fall over DeKalb's Tyler Daub.

Xavier Villalobos finished first in the 16U Cadets 128-133 Division with a 3-0 record. Villalobos won by 8-0 technical fall over DWC's Kyle Pasco before scoring a fall over Panther WC's George Marinopoulos. Villalobos then earned an 8-0 technical fall over OPRF's Zev Koransky.

Teddy Millard placed second in the 12U Novice 68-73 Division with a 2-1 record, defeating Arlington's Noah Rossi by 10-0 technical fall and Built by Brunson's Mateo D'Angelo by 12-2 technical fall. Maddison Wickham placed second in the Girls High School 115-126 Division with a 1-1 record, notching a 10-0 technical fall against Peoria wrestler Manar Salem.

Tommy Tourdot took third in the Junior 126-137 Division with a 2-1 record, earning a 8-0 technical fall over Notre Dame's Joshua Logsdon and a fall over Beat the Streets wrestler Samuel Quintavius Murrell. Kaiden Morris took third in the Junior 215-221 Division with a 1-2 record, defeating Beat the Streets wrestler Samuel Costello with an 8-0 technical fall.

Elias Andronic took third in the 8U Bantam 51-58 Division and Christopher O'Neill took third in the 14U Senior 177-192 Division. Roman Villalobos took third

in the 16U Cadets 177-188 Division with a 1-1 record, defeating Thunderbirds wrestler Aiden Hennings by 8-0 technical fall.

Hadley Losoya finished fourth in the 14U Senior 125-130 Division and Brenden Voight finished fourth in the 16U Cadets 147-156 Division with a 1-2 record, scoring a 9-1 technical fall over Hurricanes wrestler George Sanchez. Eliud Lombardia took fifth in the 16U Senior 123-131 Division with a 2-1 record, notching an 8-0 technical fall over Built by Brunson's Kale Schrauth and an 11-6 decision against Beat the Streets wrestler Abbas Abdulamir.

Keagan Albers placed sixth in the 16U Cadets 118-125 Division with a 1-2 record, earning a fall over Englewood's Dylan Olinger. Jackson Norris finished seventh in the Junior 126-137 Division with a 1-2 record, scoring an 8-0 technical fall against Notre Dame's Joshua Logsdon.

Rochelle News-Leader

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5

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Customer service after the sale is invaluable.

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# ON THE FARM

## How rising food demand is affecting farming

**T**HE population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food, and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition. Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet up with demand.

- **Climate change:** Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of the

world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal *Nature* predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline as early as 2030, but wheat output would increase. Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

- **Decreased commercial farming interest:** Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates and regulations, and the impact of immigration and trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

- **Consumer waste:** Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household wastes 74 kg of food each year, according



to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve

output, farmers have to make some changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less

water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve

efficiency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise, and it has become challenging to keep up.

## Mapping the future of the agricultural industry

**T**HE demand for food is directly related to population growth. By 2050, food needs are expected to double, according to a study published in the journal *Agricultural Economics*. That puts increasing pressure on the agricultural sector to meet growing demand. However, many experts think the industry will fall short. In addition to increased food demand, consumer habits, technology, and policies continue to force the agricultural industry to evolve. Indeed, the agricultural sector may look very different in the future.

Social media has transformed many industries, and it can do the same for agriculture. Farming supply chains can communicate with one another by getting feedback from customers in real time through social media. However, agricultural operations will have to devote teams to manage social media presence, especially since misinformation is so widespread on social media.

Apart from social media, local farmers may increase their efforts to utilize mobile apps and direct-to-consumer purchasing options. The global pandemic helped businesses reimagine takeout and curbside shopping. Local farms may want to market to the home-shopping com-

munity, providing ways to deliver produce, fresh meat and poultry and other items direct to customers' homes.

The future may feature a significant shift in the way farms source their ingredients. Regeneration International says that regenerative agriculture can be the future. This describes farming and grazing practices that may help reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. Some insist that farmers who utilize regenerative agriculture produce food that is more sustainable and healthy. This is something eco- and health-conscious consumers can stand be-

hind.

There's a good chance that technology will continue to play important and growing roles in farming operations. New agricultural technologies can collect data on soil and plant health and produce results in real time. Precision farming technology can be developed to deliver integrated solutions no matter the size of the operation. Farmers may give more thought to sustainable products.

Crops like hemp and cannabis are being utilized in new and innovative ways, and they're only the start as consumers have expanded their views on plant-based foods and products.



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