



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Donation made to local pantries

Members of the Ogle County Democratic Central Committee donated to eight local food pantries. **Page 7**

WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
49 28	59 36
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
43 29	42 27



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Man charged with murder in death of Rochelle woman

Freeman faces four counts of first-degree murder

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Tuesday, a Palatine man was arrested and charged with four counts of first degree murder stemming from the September 2022 death of a Rochelle woman.

On Sept. 18, 2022 at 10:46 a.m. Rochelle Fire and Police Departments were dispatched to an apartment located at 503 7th Ave. for smoke in a residence. Upon entry into the residence, fire personnel located a deceased female. The fire was deemed suspicious, and additional investigators arrived on scene.

The victim was identified as Devin K. Gibbons, 28, of Rochelle. During the course of the investigation, Gary C. Freeman, 27, of Palatine was developed as a suspect. On Tuesday, Freeman was arrested in Schaumburg and transported to the Ogle County Jail and charged with four counts of first degree murder, one count of residential arson and one count of concealment of a homicidal death. A grand



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Tuesday, a Palatine man was arrested and charged with four counts of first degree murder stemming from the September 2022 death of a Rochelle woman.

jury indicted Freeman Tuesday.

Freeman is currently in the Ogle County Jail on a \$10 million bond. He appeared in Ogle County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon for the first time.

A press conference was held Wednesday morning in Rochelle by Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock and RPD Chief Eric Higby. Rock detailed the charges against Freeman and reminded the public

that they are merely allegations and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Freeman faces three counts of first degree murder (class M felony) punishable by 20-60 years in prison. Truth in sentencing applies to those charges, meaning any sentence he receives within that range will be served for the full term. He's also charged with one count of first degree

murder in a cold and calculated fashion, which is also a class M felony and makes the defendant, if found guilty, eligible for natural life sentencing.

The residential arson charge is a class one felony punishable by 4-15 years in prison and the concealment of a homicidal death charge is a class three felony punishable by 2-5 years in prison.

See MURDER page 3

City officials give State of the Community address Fiegenschuh: 'We're in very good shape financially'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday evening, City of Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh made their annual State of the Community address for 2023.

Bearrows and Fiegenschuh outlined the city's priorities, financial standing, where residents' property taxes go and recent and upcoming projects.

The city's six strategic plan goal priorities include core service delivery, fiscal management & stability, economic & business development, community inclusivity & engagement, infrastructure effectiveness & improvement, and quality of life. The plan underwent an update recently. "Everything comes back to these strategic plan priorities," Fiegenschuh said. "And everything we do has to in some way tie back to this. These are large, broad categories, but if it can't fit within these six, then staff doesn't work

on it."

Fiegenschuh detailed the city's \$106.6 million budget for those in attendance and watching online, including the makeup of the city's and Rochelle Municipal Utilities' expenditures and general fund expenses broken down by department.

The city's top two expenditures by percentage are contractual (37 percent) and capital outlay (27 percent). Capital outlay expenditures have been related to infrastructure reinvestments and a vast majority of contractual expenditures are power purchases by the RMU electric utility.

Sixty seven percent of the city's expenses by department are made up of its police department (32 percent), fire department (21 percent) and street department (14 percent).

"That means we're spending dollars and reinvesting back into keeping our residents safe and our streets plowed," Fiegenschuh said.

The city's general fund



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday, City of Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh made their annual State of the Community address for 2023.

currently has over \$10 million in it.

"We're in very good shape financially," Fiegenschuh said. "That's the thing I'm most proud of at the city. We've really turned the city around financially. Not just the general fund, but the utility side as well."

Bearrows detailed how the city's portion of res-

idents' property tax bills is spent, which includes police officers, firefighter/EMTs, police cars, ambulance, dispatchers, school crossing guards, engineering, economic development, community development and street department operators. Approximately 10 cents of every dollar goes to the city from residents' property tax bills.

Due to increases in Rochelle's equalized assessed value and how it has levied, the city's portion of residents' property tax bills has decreased for the past three years.

"That shows some really good fiscal responsibility on behalf of the city," Bearrows said.

See CITY page 5

Community Growth & Development

To be included, contact your local sales rep!

Rochelle Progress Sections

Coming March 29th!

LOCAL NEWS

Former Rochelle resident releases fourth novel

BRACEY, VA — Former Rochelle resident Rick Kaiser has just released his fourth and latest novel, “Bobby & Penny”, the third book of his “Penny Lane” tetralogy and you don’t want to miss out on this fantastic read! Taking place in a small town in the Midwest, Rick’s artistic prose captures the heart of human struggles through dysfunction, disappointment, tragedy and loss and brings hope, love and peace to the table of redemption.

Rick has been writing since a young age and his poetic flare and ability to masterfully paint a story through the written word continues to impress all of his readers. Rick has in-

corporated moments and places he has experienced throughout the years and woven them into tales of fiction capturing the humor, joy, and sadness of one’s journey through life. Each chapter pulls you in more than the last and touches every emotion you can imagine. You won’t want to stop reading until you have reached the last page.

Rick has received many accolades from readers. One reader described his writing style of the “Penny Lane” series similar to well-known author, Nicholas Sparks. The first book of the series is “Penny Lane” followed by “Peggy Sue” and then “Bobby & Penny”. The

last book of the series, “Bud & Annie” is slated to be released near the end of 2023. Rick has also published “Closin Time” which is a refreshing read about characters in a bar.

The positive feedback from loyal readers has been overwhelming as they continue to support Rick as a successful author. Here are some of the remarks made by his readers. “As an avid reader of many top selling authors, I can tell you this book (Bobby & Penny) is one of the best I have ever read.” “Penny Lane is a precious book; once I started reading, I could not put it down.” “This is a must read!!! My first book since finishing school...



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle resident Rick Kaiser has just released his fourth and latest novel, “Bobby & Penny”, the third book of his “Penny Lane” tetralogy.

just beautiful. Thanks to Rick Kaiser! You rocked his one!”

CBN author, Paul Dailly, wrote:

“Anyone who has spent time with him quickly realizes that Rick handles words the way Michael Jordan handles a basketball, with force and elegance. It’s a beauty to behold and leaves you wondering, ‘How did he do that?!’ The pictures that Rick is able to paint with words bely a man who has spent equal time honing his craft and ferociously searching for and within the heart of a loving God. His metaphors drip with beauty, his similes are deep enough to swim in, and the characters who spring from his history and imagination are as real to him as the last person with whom he shared a cold brew or a hot cup of java.

Rick’s first book, *Penny Lane*, left me in a puddle of tears, in awe of the tenacious grace that carries us all. *Peggy Sue* affected me as deeply

but in a different way. I don’t want to spoil it for those who haven’t had the good fortune to read it, but trust me, you are in for an emotional ride. Through masterful wordsmithing, Rick takes his readers into the depths of their own souls and uncovers, for better or worse, the things that lay hidden and often dormant in each of us. I had to read both *Penny Lane* and *Peggy Sue* in pieces, to give myself time to come up for air.

My hope is that as you read this book, you will discover the kind of person you want to be, the kind of person you want to avoid being, and the courage to do both. May you find yourself in this story and may these words be the salve God uses to heal your brokenness. And once you have found the inspiration to be better, love the Penny Lane’s and Peggy Sue’s in your own life more deeply; love them to wholeness. Life is hard, but love makes us better.”

Author Rick Kaiser is a

current resident of Bracey, Virginia with his wife, Dr. Janet Hayes Kaiser (former RTHS graduate), who inspired him to pursue his talent and create these wonderful novels now enjoyed by many. Rick’s books (*Penny Lane*, *Peggy Sue*, *Bobby & Penny*, *Closin Time*) are available for purchase on Amazon by using the search terms, “Rick Kaiser”, “Big Mouth Publishing LLC”, or by the name of the book. Big Mouth Publishing LLC was founded in 2020 and is registered in the state of Virginia. Additional options for purchase include contacting Rick through social media platforms or emailing rick.realtor@yahoo.com.

Rick and Janet Kaiser are also talented musicians and play many venues around their area as “Midnite Shade”. Their latest songs have been released and are now available for downloads through multiple music platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, etc.

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Reeverts joins Stillman Bank as ag banking representative

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Ryan Reeverts as ag banking representative. In his position, Reeverts will be involved with all phases of agricultural lending. He will be located primarily in the bank’s Stillman Valley office, 101 E. Main St., but will assist customers at all six Stillman Bank locations.

Born and raised in Ogle County, Reeverts is a fifth-generation farmer on his family’s grain and livestock farm. Reeverts graduated from Byron High School and earned his bachelor of science degree in agribusiness economics from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

“We are pleased to welcome Ryan to our banking team,” Thomas R. Hughes, Stillman Bank president and CEO, said. “His education in agribusiness, first-hand

farming experience, and commitment to our local agricultural communities will all be strong assets as we move forward in delivering exceptional service to our customers.”

Hughes continued, “Ryan has a true passion for agriculture, as made evident through his involvement with local community organizations.”

He currently serves as an Ogle County Board member and is a member of the Ogle County Regional Planning Commission. Additionally, he serves as an Ogle County Farm Bureau director and is the Young Leader Committee chairman. He also volunteers with the Illinois FFA organization and local FFA chapters.

For more information on Reeverts or to find out more about Stillman Bank’s products and services, please contact (815) 645.2266 or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

HB4412: City officials detail concerns with state legislation

From page 1

Over \$75 million has been invested in the area by the city, county, state and federal governments on infrastructure upgrades aimed at attracting future industrial development. Anderson's fear is that a solar or wind developer could make a deal to put a large development into the area and have it green-lighted without the city's, counties' or enterprise zone's say, making all of that development investment for naught.

"The big issue from an economic development perspective is that HB 4412 should be amended or a trailer bill should follow to carve out enterprise zones," Anderson said. "We're not against solar or wind. But we should have the authority so say where it goes, not the state. It should be a local decision. We should have the right to say yes or no."

An enterprise zone is a specifically-defined area where incentives are available to businesses that locate there, most notably a tax abatement on real estate taxes.

That same area on the south east side of Rochelle recently attracted Wheatland Tube (Zekelman In-

dustries), which made a capital investment of over \$100 million in the former Nippon Sharyo facility and brought at least 125 jobs paying an average pay rate of \$50,000 or more per year before benefits.

Anderson said creating the enterprise zone and winning the designation for it required "a lot of effort." It was founded by the city, Ogle County, Lee County and the City of Dixon. Investments made in the south east Rochelle portion include a new well and radium plant, water tower, electrical substation, Steward Road overpass, sewer line, water line and road improvements.

"The primary objective of an enterprise zone is to create jobs and bring new investment," Anderson said. "New buildings and new factories bring taxes and fund schools and city services. Lee County previously said no solar or wind projects were allowed in this area and made a resolution protecting it. HB 4412 comes in and says the state ultimately will decide and told counties that they must make permitting as permissible as the state would make it. There were counties all across the state that were forbidding

any kind of wind or solar. This has taken away the counties' authority to do the permitting."

Anderson said the city is waiting for clarification on what the legislation means to its ability to approve or deny any zoning within a mile and a half of Rochelle, which would apply to the enterprise zone. If that doesn't protect the area, he said he wants enterprise zones carved out of the bill and protection for the state-certified enterprise zones.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh stressed that the city did not make previous investments in the area to support solar panels or windmills.

"They don't create a lot of jobs or add equalized assessed value long term," Fiegenschuh said. "Solar panels and windmills depreciate in value over time. A business like Wheatland Tube does not depreciate over time. One of the things that drew that business to Rochelle was that property being in the enterprise zone. That's why it's such a valuable tool to our community."

The city and Rochelle Municipal Utilities have invested in infrastructure in the area with additional

future industrial growth in mind. Rochelle is also one of the few cities in the state with its own short-line railroad, which also is utilized in the enterprise zone area and would be negatively impacted by the allowance of a large solar or wind power development, Fiegenschuh said.

Anderson and Fiegenschuh said industrial growth in the area has increased the city's equalized assessed value, which has resulted in keeping the city's tax levy and residents' property taxes down.

"I'm not against solar, but they don't fund city services," Fiegenschuh said. "Places like Wheatland Tube that use city power and provide high-paying jobs and work with the community are what we want in our community. Solar is great, but it's one-dimensional. Businesses that invest and come here are 10-dimensional because of all the value they bring to our community."

The enterprise zone area could be attractive to solar and wind power developers due to its proximity to RMU and ComEd's new Ritchie Road substation, where they could potentially tie into a transmission line to send power onto the grid.

Anderson said he knows of solar developers that are talking to landowners in the enterprise zone to get them to sign onto a project.

"We know this is going to become a difficult thing going forward because people can sell their land to whoever they want," Anderson said. "The interesting part about it is the asking price for all this land has increased from \$20,000 per acre in 1999 to \$50,000 an acre now. We think it's a win-win for the landowners to allow us to continue to keep this as an enterprise zone and keep the wind and solar folks in other areas where \$70 million has not been spent on infrastructure."

The city is working with State Sen. Win Stoller on the issue, who has submitted a shell bill to amend HB 4412 to say that enterprise zones and municipally-owned railroads should be exempt from the requirement that allows the state to decide on wind and solar power.

Former State Rep. Tom Demmer is now the Lee County Industrial Development Association's executive director, which gives him a vested interest in the issue. Anderson said Demmer will be using his legislative experience to

work on protecting the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone from HB 4412's effects.

"We know that there's a lot of people out there that, once educated on this, will support changes to this legislation," Anderson said. "I think we have a pretty good chance. Sen. Stoller has really taken the lead on this and submitted a shell bill that we'll put the guts into. He and Tom are going to work together to get this thing passed."

Fiegenschuh said he believes local control for cities and counties is "of absolute importance."

"If you look at the way our community has grown and all of the money the city, state and federal government have invested in this area, it makes sense for it to be industrial growth because it's going to grow over time. It's a good use of the land. Having solar there is maybe a good use, but it's not as high of a use as industrial commercial growth that adds value to the community. Our people want jobs and to see the town grow. The only way that's going to happen is by supporting the current businesses we have and seeing more growth happen. And it happens in this enterprise zone."

MURDER: Palatine man charged in death of Rochelle woman

From page 1

"On behalf of my office, I can't thank law enforcement enough for the amount of work that they put into this case, particularly the Rochelle Police Department," Rock said. "It was hundreds of hours and a number of law enforcement agencies came together on this. We're very hopeful that we're going to be able to bring justice for Devin Gibbons' family at the conclusion of this case."

Rock said Wednesday that Gibbons and Freeman knew each other and declined to elaborate any further. Gibbons did have children, but officials declined to say Wednesday whether Freeman was the father. Rock did say law enforcement was aware of "pending legal matters in family court" that helped inform their investigation.

Law enforcement and the state's attorney's office do know where the children are at this point, Rock said. He declined to talk about any potential witnesses to the alleged crime when speaking Wednesday. RPD is not aware of Freeman living in Rochelle at any time in the past.

"I believe the facts are going to indicate that there was some type of relationship between them and violence was the end result," Rock said.

Rock said the cause of Gibbons' death will come out during the course of the court proceedings and officials believe she was already deceased before the fire. Higby declined to discuss the cause of the fire and said that will be revealed in court proceedings as well.

RPD narrowed its investigative search to Freeman "within a short amount of

time," Rock said.

"One of the counts alleges that this was done in a cold and calculated way," Rock said. "We believe there was premeditation and a plan involved when he came to Rochelle."

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, State Fire Marshal's Office, The Red Cross, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigators, Ogle County Coroner's Office, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Rockford and Chicago Offices),

Schaumburg Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Sterling Police Department and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center assisted with the investigation.

Rock said he believes that due to the nature of the case, the investigation was brought to "about as swift a conclusion as it could have been."

"Good, old-fashioned police work led us to today," Rock said. "A number of interviews and speaking to a number of people, collecting a lot of

evidence and having that all analyzed, all this was work done by law enforcement. We had meetings while the investigation was ongoing and we worked together as a team and that's how the charges came about. It was hundreds of hours put in on this case."

Higby thanked all of the law enforcement agencies that assisted with the case, along with his own officers and detectives.

"Fortunately in Rochelle, we do not have many crimes of this magnitude," Higby said. "When

they do happen, it can be a burden on a smaller agency. We're immensely appreciative of all of the law enforcement and other entities that came together to help us bring this case to a resolution. I'd like to specifically point out Deputy Chief Terry Inman, Det. Sgt. John Kaltenbach and Det. Elvis Banerki. Without their work, this does not come to fruition. They put in a lot of hard work on a difficult case and I want to publicly thank them for all of the hours they've spent on it."

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Charlene Harvey

ASHTON — Charlene Harvey, 67, of Ashton, lost her battle with cancer on Feb. 25 at Loyola Hospital in Chicago.

Charlene Cora Harvey was born on April 18, 1955, in Dixon to Charles and Alice (Tate) Harvey. She spent her entire life in Ashton where she could be seen cleaning the post office, the school, or Monsanto.

She was someone who had a kind word and a bright smile for everyone she met. And, as a life-long Ashton resident, she could spend hours recounting tales of the town's events and people. Be prepared to relax, sit back and enjoy the story if you asked her a question.

Charlene had two great loves: baseball and her family; she was especially happy when taking a family trip to St. Louis for some Cardinal baseball! Like half of her siblings, Charlene was a Cardinals fan except when her idol Todd Ziege was traded to the Mets. She took a lot

of teasing until he retired, and she rejoined the Harvey Cardinal fan club.

Charlene was the caretaker of the Harvey family. She lived with and cared for her parents until they passed on. Being the oldest daughter, she also took care of her seven siblings (and often their friends as well). It wasn't unusual for Charlene to rise in the morning to find half the neighborhood kids waiting for her to cook them some eggs and pancakes.

As time went on, Charlene became the caretaker of the next generation. Whether she was babysitting, dog sitting or house-sitting, Charlene reveled in being able to take care of her family.

Charlene was pre-deceased by her parents, her younger infant brother Ricky, and a brother-in-law Bob (Loretta) Felix. She is survived by her seven siblings: Paul Harvey of Franklin Grove; Ray (Val) Harvey of Beloit, Wisconsin; Loretta Felix of Ashton; Sheila



(Steve Mercer) of Dixon; Duane (Tammy) Harvey of Franklin Grove; Randy (Cathy) Harvey of Dixon, and Jeanna (Steve Ehrler) Harvey of Dixon. She is also survived by a multitude of nieces and nephews and even a few grandnieces and grand-nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 4 from noon to 3 p.m. with the funeral service at 3 p.m. at the Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 601 Richardson Ave., Ashton, IL 61006. A private family burial will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

Betty Anne Henley

ROCHELLE — Betty Anne Henley, 85, of Rochelle, passed away Monday, Feb. 27 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon. Betty was born on Oct. 5, 1937 in Chicago; she was the only daughter of the late Ray and Elisabeth (Parker) Borg. She married Kenneth G. Henley on July 5, 1957. After living in Rockford; Atlanta, Georgia and Pecatonica, they settled in Rochelle, where she lived for 40 years.

She was employed by the Rochelle Elementary School District for much of that time, working as a playground supervisor, lunch lady and "bus driver Betty". She loved her job working with students and even when her health

required she quit working, she wished she would get well enough to return.

Betty is survived by her children: Christine "Tina" (Steve) Doty of Elgin, Douglas Henley of Rockford, Erik (Jane) Henley of Sandy, Utah and Amy (Dan) Wilson of Amboy. She was especially proud of her grandchildren: Kayla and Jason, Bethany and Aaron, Michael and Lauren, Nathan, Hunter, Wes, Kenley, Charley and Molly and her 5 1/2 great-grandchildren. She loved watching them play sports and participate in other activities. She also enjoyed going to the casino, seeing theatre productions with friends and playing bingo at the Hub City Senior Center.



In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Ken and her brother, Kenneth Borg.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, March 12 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle from 1-3 p.m. Memorials may be made to Serenity Hospice and Home or to the Hub City Senior Center.

Visit www.ungerhorn.com to sign the online guest book.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies conduct motorist assist

OREGON — On March 1 at 6:48 p.m. deputies conducted a motorist assist near the intersection of Twombly Road and Illinois Route

251. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Victor Bundy, 31, of Sycamore, for driving while his license was suspended. Bundy was released on

a \$2,500 I-Bond with a return court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers issue two arrests

ROCHELLE — On Feb. 23 at 3:08 p.m. Robert Cowans, 47, of DeKalb was arrested for retail theft. He was released on an I-Bond with

a March 31 Ogle County court date.

On March 2 at 4:31 p.m. Rebecca I. Waters, 21, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She

was released on an I-Bond with a March 31 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

B. Henning took first place in photography/digital media for "Lights on", a light painting created in the new curriculum of Photo I.

RTHS wins eight awards at Juried Art Invitational

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School Art teachers Beth Mock and Andrea DeKing were pleased with the notice from Kishwaukee College announcing results from its annual Juried High School Invitational Feb. 17.

The Hubs, along with artists from Sycamore, Oregon, Hiawatha, Indian Creek and DeKalb High Schools, competed for 26 awards.

Rochelle brought home eight and Mock said, "This art invitational is a great competition for our students. Each art teacher can enter multiple works in different categories giving more of our students the opportunity to compete. It also allows our students to physically see their artworks hang in a gallery and get the true experience of an art competition."

This invitational was early this year in order to avoid other art show conflicts, like the I-8 Conference Competition and Congressional Art



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kennedy Underwood took first place in black/white charcoal drawing created in advanced studio art titled "Together" which is an homage to her parents.

Competition. In doing so, more schools were able to compete which led to a more competitive field of artwork. Among more than 100 pieces, RTHS won two first places. Junior Kennedy Underwood won for her black and white charcoal drawing created in advanced studio art titled "Together" which is an homage to her parents. Freshman B. Henning won in Photography/Digital for "Lights on", a light painting created in the new curriculum of Photo I.

"The Photography I course is great for challenging students to make photographs rather than just simply taking pictures. The emphasis on making photos allows students of all levels to explore professional equipment like DSLRs and the darkroom while experimenting during workshop days like our Pete Eckert Light Painting day," second-year art teacher Andrea

DeKing said.

RTHS also took home a second place in Photo/Digital Media by senior Dylan Benge for his work "New Magic Wand," created for his AP Art portfolio. Third place finishes were senior Melanie Garcia in Sculpture/Ceramics and Junior Indigo Marsden for "Silent Screaming" in Mixed Media. RTHS honorable mentions were won by junior Alivia Henkel in Color Drawing and freshman Corrie Hill in Painting.

"As this year's kickoff event of the spring art show competitions, we were very excited to see our students place so well. These competitions reinforce to our students that their artwork is on par with their peers and that the hard work that they invest in their work can be rewarding. We are very proud of all of our art students and what they have been able to accomplish," Mock said.

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HOW TO CONTACT US

News-Leader Main Switchboard (815) 562-4171

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Mike Feltes (815) 561-2124

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LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Bearrows, Fiegenschuh discuss upcoming projects in Rochelle

From page 1

“There’s not a lot of taxing bodies that can tell you they’ve had a reduction in their rate for the last three years. We’ve been very fortunate.”

The mayor and city manager talked about recent city accomplishments including breaking ground on the Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center, the demolition of Hickory Grove, the construction of RMU’s new Ritchie Road substation, 14th Street and 2nd Avenue improvements and approximately 75 ribbon cuttings over the past four years at new businesses and city projects.

Upcoming projects mentioned during the State of the Community address include expanding the city’s renewable energy portfolio, recruit-

ing for public safety positions, a remodel of the fire station’s dorm area, the development of a fire training facility, another new electric substation, competing construction of the RITC and opening it this summer, finding a development project for the former Hickory Grove site, installing cameras downtown and beginning the engineering phase of improvements to Illinois Route 251 on the north side of town with the state.

Bearrows thanked staff for its work over the past year.

“You all working the way that you do and working together makes everybody’s jobs so much easier,” Bearrows said. “All of these projects don’t just happen by chance. There are many hands that get involved.”



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows detailed how the city’s portion of residents’ property tax bills is spent, which includes police officers, firefighter/EMTs, police cars, ambulance, dispatchers, school crossing guards, engineering, economic development, community development and street department operators.

Rochelle Area

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Baptist Church of Rochelle, First Baptist Church of Rochelle invites you to experience our practical Bible services which have nurseries provided in every service along with a wide range of children’s and teen ministries. Sunday School is at 9:30 am with regular church services at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. Wednesday Family Night starts at 6:30 pm with AWANA for the 5 yr. olds thru 6th grade. The Omega Teen Ministry also starts at 6:30 pm for 7th – 12th grades and the Adult Bible Study at 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church is located 6 blocks west of Hwy 251 at the corner of Woolf Ct. and 8th Ave. in Rochelle. Call 562-4168 for more information. Listen at 11:00 am Sunday mornings on WRHL 1060 AM for the Sunday morning “Bible Message.” www.firstbaptistrochelle.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rochelle United Methodist Church invites everyone to enter into the passion of Jesus. For Lent, our Bible Study and worship series will be focused on the last week of Jesus’ life, and the compassion and passion it reveals in loving obedience to God and love for human beings. As we enter the story of Jesus’ passion, we come to it with our own eyes, our own humanity, our own experience. That gets all wrapped up in our interpretation.... that is how faith works! That is how we makes sense of things, and how we come to greater awareness, understanding, insight and compassion for our own stories and for those of others. So this Lent, this time of preparation for Easter, we will enter the passion of Jesus. Let us freeze frame a moment, so that we might dwell....and become not just story tellers, but story dwellers. Adapted from a poem by Marcia McFee. Everyone is always welcome to all of our services. **Ash Wednesday service is a time to pause and reflect on our regrets and laments. It is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Come as you are – you will be welcome! Sunday worship is at 9:00 am** with Sunday School for children after the Children’s Message. Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at www.rochelleumc.com. Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Our **Facebook page** is www.facebook.com/rochelleumc. **Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley, Pastor.** 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. admin@rochelleumc.com. Everyone is welcome and loved!

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

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

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Spy Balloon: A Political Football

BALLOONS launched by adversaries over the United States are nothing new.

In the Civil War, the Union Army launched manned, hydrogen-filled, observation (spy) balloons to keep tabs on the Confederate Forces. In World War II, the Japanese launched thousands of balloons carrying bombs which drifted toward the U.S. on the jet stream, arriving over the U.S. in a few days. When I was a teenager in Alaska in the mid 1950s, we were told that if we found a downed balloon bomb, not to touch it and call bomb disposal.

Fast forward to 2023 and a large balloon (about the size of three school buses) traversed the country. Hundreds of balloons traverse the country each

day having been launched from research institutions, weather tracking operations and hobbyists. The unique aspect of this balloon was that it was huge and everyone could see it at 60,000 feet.

The Chinese accepted ownership of the balloon but claimed it to be a weather balloon off course. It doesn't take a genius to observe the several solar collectors and antenna suspended below the balloon to conclude that this was a surveillance device (spy balloon).

Why it was allowed to traverse the United States is still unclear. It was detected leaving China and over international waters long before it reached North America. The joint chiefs said that it posed no threat. However, military doctrine considers any

spy or spy device a threat. Espionage is punishable with sentences on the order of several years in federal prison.

The suspended balloon's electronics could be gathering data on signal transmission as well as photographic data at sensitive military sites that would be immediately transmitted to the People's Republic of China. Militaries often develop a grid system which describes characteristics of an adversary's military in various grid squares on a map, which is a possible product of the surveillance delivered by this balloon.

The administration was widely criticized for not shooting down the balloon

as it entered United States' air space. Shortly afterward, American fighter jets shot down additional flying "objects" over Canada. According to the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade (a hobby balloon club), they lost track of one of their balloons over Canada at nearly the same time and location of the fighter jet that reported shooting down an object the size of a car.

Balloon clubs all over the country launch balloons with tracking devices (HF and VHF/UHF radio links) that report their location periodically. When super pressure balloons (a type of hobby balloon) are fully inflated at altitude, they can be as

large as an automobile. One balloon stayed aloft for over 700 days and circled the globe many times. These balloons, if below a certain weight, are not required to be registered with the FAA.

The cost of a typical hobby balloon and tracker is around \$200. The current administration reported that it would be impossible to find the debris from one of the automobile-size objects that was shot down. This may be favorable to the current administration since the discovery of the target being a hobby balloon could prove embarrassing. One cannot rule out that the shooting down of these "small objects" may be an overreaction to criticism.

So what can be done about all this? Obviously large spy balloons should

not be allowed to enter United States' airspace. Better training for pilots on the identification of the myriad of balloons traversing the country may help identify friend or foe. Hobby balloons have tracking devices that transmit their location and identification as they travel around the globe.

This data could be made available to the military. A registration number for visual identification could be affixed to a balloon like that which is required by the FAA on drones.

Finally, a more cost-effective way to shoot holes in adversarial balloons should be used. A \$400,000 Aim-9X sidewinder missile or a \$200,000 practice missile is overkill for a \$200 balloon.



Chuck Roberts

Letter: Bible says religion is no help

DEAR editor,

The News-Leader printed a column on this page in their Sunday, Feb. 26 edition. That column was inviting readers to consider religion. I was a bit unsure if the author had a problem with religion or a problem with religion in government. Since there were no Bible references provided, I was not sure from what position the author was offering his opinions about God, Bible, sin and religion.

The author seemed to be alluding that religion is really whatever you make of it. To that, I would sometimes agree. The problem is that all of man's religions only have the potential to give their adherents satisfaction while they are here on earth. Once they die and enter eternity, the Bible says that religion does no

one any good.

The Apostle John gives us the account of a very religious man coming to Jesus and indicating that he was wanting to make sure he was going to Heaven. In John 3:1-7, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again. Jesus told him that we are born once physically, but Heaven is only for those that are born a second time through faith in Christ. The religion of Nicodemus was filled with checking off actions from a list, but it was missing the personal relationship with Jesus, the Son of God!

Mt. 19:16-22 records for us the account of another younger religious man coming to Jesus and specifically asking about eternal life. He explains to Jesus how his religion had kept him pure and following all the rules. Jesus put the man to a test of his sincerity when

the Lord told him to go sell everything he had and come follow Him. Because the man was very rich, he could not part with his money and material things. His religion could take him no further than wishful desires!

Even King Solomon tried to live by religion (in fact, many religions of all his illegitimate wives – 1 Kgs. 11:4). He concluded his search of life's purpose by saying in Eccl. 12:12 that the conclusion is to fear (reverence) God and obey His commandments because that is the whole duty of man. Solomon was remembering the personal relationship he had with God when he became King in 1 Kgs. 3:3-10.

God's whole design of this world was for man to have a personal relation-

ship with Him. Genesis 1:1 says that God created the heavens and the earth. In Genesis 2:7 God breathed into Adam the breath of life. That made Adam different from all the other parts of creation. Adam and Eve enjoyed personal relationship with God until they disobeyed and allowed sin to enter our world. From that point on, every one of us has been born with a sin nature (Rom. 3:10; 5:12).

God has given us the Bible by means of inspiration (2 Tim. 3:15-17 and 2 Pet. 1:21) so that we would be able to know how to regain this relationship with Him. The Bible gives to us all of our guidance along with the help of the Holy Spirit. In 2 Pet. 1:3 the Apostle said that we have everything we need

for life and godliness.

The previous author mentioned a series of "filters" which are involved in religion. That is not needed in a salvation relationship with Christ. In Acts 17:11, when the people of Berea heard gospel preaching, they went directly to the Scriptures to see if those things were true.

In a few weeks many of us will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. The resurrection of Christ proves everything Jesus said is true. He said in Jn. 14:6 that He is the only way, the truth, and the life for anyone to come to God or get to Heaven. Jesus proved that He is the same God who created this world (Jn. 1:1-3) and the one who loved us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8). This fact counters the letter of last Sunday which said, "The Bible is only

for the Christian faith."

The truth is that the Bible is the only way for eternal life for all people! All of man's religions have dead founders! God created the world and us, gave His Son for our sin's punishment, had Him to rise again, and will judge every person by what they do with Jesus and His claims for salvation (Ac. 17:31).

It is my faith in the Christ of the Bible that defines who I am. I cannot separate that out of any part of my life and being. I am a Christian 24/7. It does not matter if I work on an assembly line or serve in a governmental position. It is my biblical faith that sets my beliefs in all parts of life. Religion will come up short in attempting that.

Pastor Doug Cowan
First Baptist Church
of Rochelle

Submit a letter to the News-Leader

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

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

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

Those that want to make

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

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

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Jeff Helfrich
Managing Editor

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

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314 Capitol
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Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
John Gruben jgruben@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board
*Dave Casey dcillini94@gmail.com
Steve Builta [sbuilt@gmail.com](mailto:sbuilta@gmail.com)
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Eric Van Hise eric.vanhise@gmail.com
Trisha Vaughn jrvtlv02@msn.com
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@rthsd212.org

Rochelle Township High School Board
*Tom Huddleston tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Carol Hayenga carol.hayenga@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Jacky Aguilera jacky.aguilera@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Bobby Chadwick bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org
Brian VanVickle brian.vanvickle@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board
Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3
Lloyd Droege ldroege@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org
Greg Sparrow gsparrow@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4
Bruce McKinney bmckinney@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney skkenney@oglecounty.org
David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

Creston Village Board
Wayne Williams jwdw13@yahoo.com
Jennifer Payton
*Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net

Hillcrest Village Board
*Randy Salsbury rsalsbury@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball tball@hillcrestil.us
Renee Kerwin rkerwin@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township
*Bob Withrow flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick flaggtwpclerk@rochelle.net
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Flagg-Rochelle Library
*Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net
Teresa Haggstad haggstads@comcast.net
Michael Scanlan scanlan@comcast.net
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge nit1pr122@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

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 Democrats donate to local food pantries

OREGON — The members of the Ogle County Democratic Central Committee made a difference in their community by recently donating a total of \$800 amongst eight Ogle County food pantries, an idea that originated during the pandemic as a unique way to celebrate the holiday season together since in person gatherings were not possible. The Ogle County Dems have raised over \$2,500 for area food pantries during the last three years.

“I am so proud of our members,” Treasurer David “Skip” Donald said. “They understand not only should we be working to elect individuals who strive to help those in need, but we can contribute directly as well.”

For more information about the Ogle County Democrats, visit their website at Oglecountydems.org.



Ogle County Democrats Treasurer David “Skip” Donald making a donation to Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Director Kathy Wragg.

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

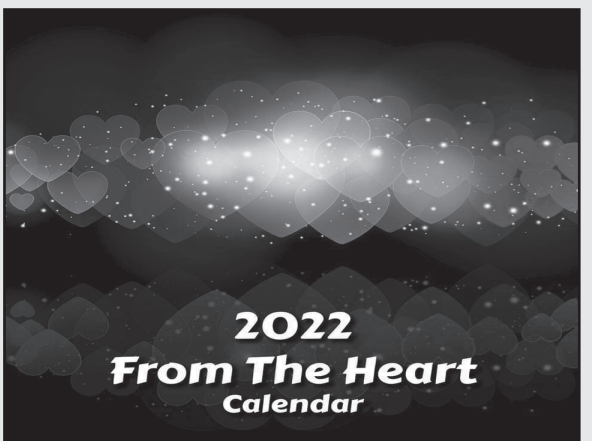
March 5 - (Sunday Brunch) - Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Sausage Links, Breakfast Casserole
KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

****All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 www.KitchenTableRochelle.org**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 2 Addison Perkins	March 13 Veronica Lopez	March 24 John Wooten Lanie McPherson
March 5 Briggs Bridgeman	March 16 Christy Oleson	March 25 Chaz & Kathy Conant (anniversary) Liz Danekas Shaun Rosenbach
March 6 Nicole King	March 19 John Overstreet	March 26 LeeAnn Komadina Kim Dougherty Bernie & Anna Sexton (anniversary)
March 8 Chaz Conant Donna Sassaman	March 20 Jesse Lopez Rachelle Phillips	
March 9 Minia Waters	March 22 Wakely Peterman	
March 12 Troy Komadina	March 23 Kristi Gonzales	March 30 Grace Olson

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- Feb. 8 - Holly Kubale, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 9 - Jessica Johnson, Edgerton, \$25
- Feb. 10 - Joanne Storey, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 11 - Jessica Rogers, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 12 - Sandra Cummings, Rockford, \$50
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- Feb. 20 - Jeff Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
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- Feb. 24 - Dorie Golt, Rochelle, \$25
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- Feb. 27 - Olivia Ankney, Rochelle, \$25
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Answers:
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Jacket is different. 2. Pocketbook is missing. 3. Sign is missing. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Post is different. 6. Hat is moved.

Super Crossword

OFF THE GRID

ACROSS

1 Imperfection
7 1970 Simon & Garfunkel hit
14 "— Lot" (Stephen King novel)
20 Geronimo's tribe
21 Scenting compound
22 Push forward
23 Footballer from a major Kansas city?
25 Dwell (in)
26 Corp. VIPs
27 Pimples
28 "The — of the Ancient Mariner"
30 Fashion designer Tahari
31 Actor Brynner
32 Strong urge
33 Footballer ejected from a nightclub?
36 She helped Theseus
39 Imparted fizz to
41 Critical
42 Not on a footballer's right?
44 For the most part
46 Aristocrat's home
47 Formerly
48 Liberal —
50 Mai — (rum drinks)
52 Salvador the surrealist
54 Hard hitter, biblically
60 Ship shelters
64 Footballer with a rod and reel?
67 PC-sent greeting
68 Hearing things
70 Fast shark
71 Bamboozles
72 Footballer working as a sound technician?
75 Matching pullover and cardigan
77 Old Chrysler
78 Think meditatively
79 "Uh, pardon me ..."
80 Like Goodwill goods
82 Apple variety
85 Humiliated
90 Expand, as a house
95 Footballer on a plane trip?
97 Thin pancake
98 Envious composer in "Amadeus"

DOWN

1 "See-saw, Margery —"
2 Fanciers of fine dining
3 Wrinkle-removing procedure
4 Iterate
5 Greek consonants
6 Vietnamese festival
7 Common infant illness
8 Girl played by Lily Tomlin
9 Bamboozles
10 Anger
11 Quick escape
12 Stuck going nowhere
13 When typical workdays start
14 Self-indulgent binge
15 Have existence
16 Experience a huge failure
17 Remove hair from, as one's legs
18 Like doctors' practices
19 In an aerodynamic way
24 Early Mexican
29 '80s Golden Arches burger
31 Bulldogs' school
32 Scared (of)
33 Kennel club classifications
34 Rowing need
35 TiVo device
37 — minimum
38 Connect-the-points puzzle
40 Abbr. limiting a list
43 Canon — Rebel
45 Exec. helper
48 Make — out of (rebut)
49 Skating place
51 "It's finally clear"
53 Woeful cry
55 Relatives of xylophones
56 Clickable screen image
57 Some ring wins, for short
58 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
59 Take it easy
60 A helmet protects it
61 Take — from (do as suggested by)
62 Units of absorbed energy
63 Vigor, in music scores
64 "Oedipus complex" coiner
65 Egyptian goddess of fertility
66 Black-clad teen, maybe
69 High point
73 Blowout win
74 Enshrouded
76 Mink's cousin
79 "Mein Gott!"
81 "Such a pity!"
83 Erstwhile space station
84 Troublemaker
86 Rear, at sea
87 Marine animal's pelt
88 Title girl of old comics
89 Like green or purple hair
90 Doesn't reject
91 Embedded, as a nail
92 "Taking Woodstock" star — Martin
93 Source of flowing water
94 Tennis divider
95 Shark feature
96 Tot's wheels
99 Pollen bearer
100 Lowest parking garage tier, perhaps
103 "Absolutely!"
105 Earthy hue, to a Brit
109 Post-Q string
110 Fender flaw
111 Latin "Lo!"
113 Lyrical verse
115 Sales staffer
116 Outer: Prefix
117 Rio carmaker
118 Hi- — image

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SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



LADY HUBS HONORED

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team presented its awards Tuesday evening.

See page 5 for more details

RTHS Girls Bowling

Growth on the lanes

Lady Hubs record nine-win season as well as first-ever IHSA Sectional berth

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — With nearly its entire roster back from last season, the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team continued making strides on the lanes, increasing its win total as well as its standing in the Interstate 8 Conference. Rochelle saw its season conclude in historic fashion, earning an IHSA Sectional berth for the first time since the postseason format changed in 2013.

The Lady Hubs finished with a 9-7 overall record and a 6-4 record in the conference this season. Rochelle swept its home-and-home series against Morris, Kaneland and Ottawa while scoring nonconference wins over Dixon, Streator and DeKalb. The Lady Hubs took third in the Interstate 8 regular-season standings and fourth in the IHSA Regional at Mardi Gras Lanes.

“I think we have a chance to go above and beyond next season,” head coach Eric Widick said. “All six of our kids want to come back next season and it’s an exciting proposition to have all of our kids back next season. We want our kids to bowl and get more experience over the offseason and we’re hoping to have some summer camps where we can

bring our kids back as well as any other kids who are interested in bowling. We want to keep growing our program.”

Without a single senior on the varsity roster, Rochelle recorded notable tournament finishes of sixth at the Cavalier Classic and fifth at the Sterling MLK Invitational. Sophomore Cassidy Vincent earned First-Team All-Conference honors for the second straight season and headlines the eligible bowlers who could return next year. Freshman Kylie McCullough earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention.

“I thought our girls worked together well and they always supported each other,” Widick said. “When one of the girls was down, someone tried to get that person back up. The girls had fun together and that’s really important for us. We want our girls to learn about bowling and we want them to learn about life and how to overcome certain experiences... If we can pick up our spares, we can compete with any team out there and that’s going to be our target next year.”

Juniors Faith Adams, Anahi Alanis and Makenzie Liezert as well as freshman Mackenzie Burnett are all eligible to come back next season. As the offseason be-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Makenzie Liezert is one of six varsity athletes eligible to return for the Rochelle Lady Hub bowling team next season. Rochelle finished with a 9-7 overall record and a 6-4 conference record this season.

gins, Widick said the biggest goal for next season will be to increase roster numbers so the program will have enough bowlers for a junior

varsity team.

“We’re hoping to have 12 bowlers next season so we can keep growing the program,” Widick said.

“I’m excited for next season. We know there are a few teams in our conference that are losing some really good bowlers, but we also know

there are a few teams with some young players who are coming up. It’ll be a challenge, but we’re looking forward to that challenge.”

RTHS Boys Bowling

Hubs show growth during eight-win season

IHSA Sectional qualifier Powell headlines players eligible to return next year

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Despite rostering only one senior at the varsity level, the Rochelle Hub bowling team strung together a winning record as well as a top-3 finish in the Interstate 8 Conference. With several varsity starters eligible to return next season, head coach Jim Lyles said the Hubs have an opportunity to become one of the better teams in the conference and the area.

Rochelle finished with an 8-7 overall record and a 5-3 record in the conference. The Hubs swept their home-and-home series against Kaneland and Ottawa while splitting their series with Sycamore and notching nonconference wins over Oregon, Dixon and Streator. Rochelle took third in the Interstate 8 tournament and ninth in

“We’re excited about the young players we have and our freshmen bowl quite a bit.”

Jim Lyles

the IHSA Regional at Plum Hollow Lanes.

“We won a lot more conference matches and earned a lot more conference points than we did last season,” Lyles said. “We were fairly competitive in most of our matches and I’m looking forward to next season. We have a lot to build on and the kids practice a lot. They’re at the bowling alley all of the time and they generally get along so that really helps out too.”

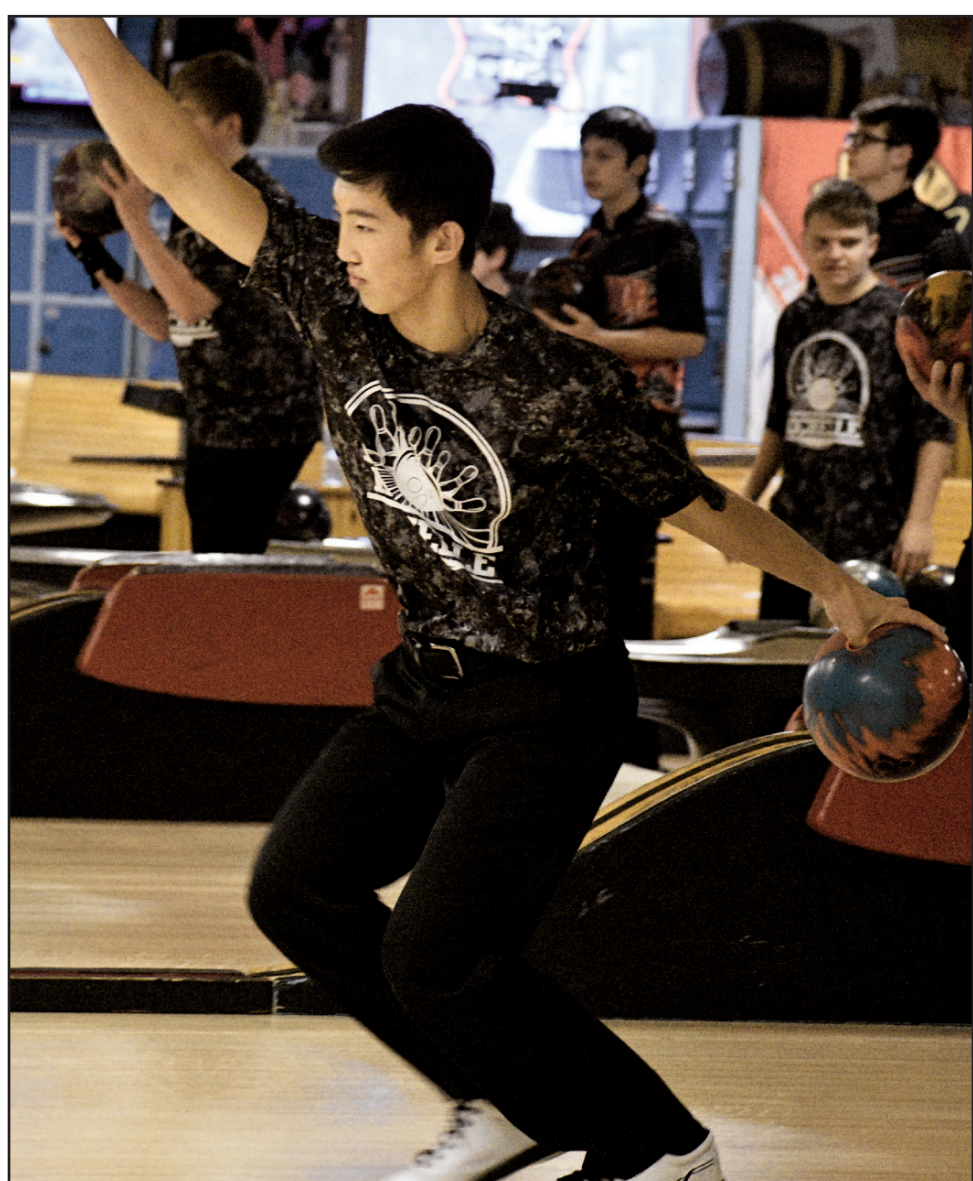
While the Hubs will lose senior and All-Conference Honorable Mention Evin Odle, Rochelle has multiple Interstate 8 honorees eligible to return including freshman Andrew Powell, who won the Dixon Tough-

man Tournament as well as the Interstate 8 tournament and was both a First-Team All-Conference honoree and an IHSA Sectional qualifier. Sophomore Lo-

gan Frye, who was named a First-Team All-Conference bowler this season, will also be eligible to return next year.

“We’re excited about the young players we have and our freshmen bowl quite a bit,” Lyles said. “Andrew has a chance to do really well in the conference next year and we’re hoping he’ll be even more hungry next year. Logan has come a long way as well. Our goal for next season will be to record a top-2 finish in the conference. We know a few of the tougher teams in the conference will be losing some talented bowlers, so we should have a chance to move up.”

The Hubs will have three juniors with varsity experience eligible to return next season including Christian Thorne, Sam Tracey and Jonathan Alanis, who earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention this season. Freshmen Owen Tooley and Levi Waddle, who each earned varsity experience this season, are also eligible to return for Rochelle’s team next season.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Evin Odle will be the only varsity athlete departing from the Rochelle Hub bowling team this season. Rochelle went 8-7 overall and 5-3 in the Interstate 8.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Juniors Eli Luxton (left) and Alivia Henkel (right) received All-Conference First Team honors from the Interstate 8 for the 2022-23 season.

Luxton, Henkel earn Interstate 8 First Team honors this season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Juniors Alivia Henkel and Eli Luxton were each named All-Conference First Team honorees in the Interstate 8 for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity basketball teams this season. Luxton averaged 16.0 points and 8.3 rebounds per game for the Hubs (10-20, 4-10 Interstate 8), while Henkel averaged 11.3 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.4 steals per game for the Lady Hubs (8-24, 6-8 Interstate 8). Henkel was selected unanimously by the conference.

"I've been working really hard and it was great to hear from other coaches that they felt I've been working hard and doing well too," Henkel said. "I think I've become a better leader and I felt like I was able to learn more about my teammates and where my spot is on the team."

"It felt good to see that my hard work paid off," Luxton said. "I felt like I became a better leader this season. My coaches wanted me to score and grab a lot of rebounds and I felt like I did both of those things. I want to jump higher and I want to improve my

defense next season."

Senior Torrin Nantz was named an All-Conference Honorable Mention for the Lady Hubs after averaging 7.5 points per game this season. Henkel's standout performances from the 2022-23 season include a 21-point second-half effort against the Plano Reapers on Jan. 31 as well as a 24-point outing against Aquin Catholic on Dec. 27.

I felt like I could be wherever my coach needed me to be," Henkel said. "If I needed to defend the other team's best offensive player, I could do that and if I needed to score, I could do that too. I want to improve my shooting percentage next season and I want to work on expanding my shooting range."

Luxton notched several double-doubles this season, recording 20 points and 14 rebounds against Morris on Feb. 20 as well as 17 points and 10 rebounds against LaSalle-Peru on Feb. 15. Both Henkel and Luxton are All-Conference honorees in the Interstate 8 for the first time in their high school basketball careers.

"We had a tough season, but we have young guys and I think we're going to get in the gym and get better," Luxton said.

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SPORTS

RMS Girls Basketball

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Rochelle Middle School seventh-graders battle Kaneland Harter on Monday afternoon

The Rochelle Middle School seventh-grad girls basketball team faced Kaneland Harter on Monday afternoon. The A team scored 10 points, with Audrina Rodriguez totaling six points while Gianna Olguin and Kaliyah Cathina each added two points. Martha Landa, Zoe Norberto and Gwen ODell each had two points for the B team. Pictured above are seventh-graders Gianna Olguin (top left), Carol Carpenter (top right), Madison Ludwig (bottom left) and Audrina Rodriguez (bottom right).

T-Byrd Lanes

U15, U18 bowlers compete at Zone 1 tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FREEPORT—T-Byrd Lanes sent several youth and high school bowlers to the 2023 Illinois Pepsi

USBC Zone 1 Championship tournament at Four Seasons Bowling Center on Saturday.

Kylie McCullough finished 17th out of 28 bowlers in the U15 Girls

Division with a 552 series, while Chloe Rodriguez finished 25th with a 428 series. Joshua Moser took 29th out of 59 bowlers in the U15 Boys Division with a 547 series and

Bryson Stewart took 37th with a 512 series. Noah McKinney and Brock Yarbrough placed 41st and 42nd with respective series scores of 498 and 494 in the tournament, while Jaxon

Breit finished 50th with a 468 series.

Anahi Alanis took 18th in the U18 Girls Division with a 577 series. Sam Tracey placed 27th out of 48 bowlers in the U18

Boys Division with a 665 series, while Christian Thorne placed 29th with a 644 series. Jon Alanis and Logan Frye took 37th and 39th with scores of 597 and 589.

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that the FY2023 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Dement Township, County of Ogle and the FY2023 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Dement Road District, County of Ogle for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance's will be held on March 13, 2023 at 6:45 pm. The budget will be on display at the township office located at 321 S Woodlawn Road, Creston, IL. Final action will be taken by the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held at 7:00 pm on the 13th of March.

Penelope C. Payton, Dement Supervisor
Bonnie S. Boehle, Dement Clerk
No. 0301
(March 1 and 5, 2023)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCHELLE, OGLE AND LEE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS TO SELL NOT TO EXCEED \$5,200,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ELECTRIC SYSTEM ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE)

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois (the "City"), will hold a public hearing on the 13th day of March, 2023, at 6:30 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 420 North 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell General Obligation Alternate Bonds (Electric System Alternate Revenue Source) in the amount of \$5,200,000 to pay the costs of improving the electric system of the City.

By order of the Mayor of the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois.
DATED the 1st day of March, 2023.
Rose Hueramo
City Clerk, City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois
No. 0306
(March 5, 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

"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."

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

FURMANS Lawn 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.

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.

FOR SALE Commercial fluorescent light fixtures with bulbs. \$5.00 each. 4 foot and 8 foot units (10 available) in Mendota. Call 630-803-7146 (03-12-23)

FOR SALE Sterling silver spoons. Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs - \$35.00. Six Easter designs - \$12.00 each. Call 815-246-9593. (03-20-23)

315 WANTED TO BUY

Wanted to Buy Older Comic Books. 815-481-4922. (03-15-23)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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 all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Basketball

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs take home RTHS, Interstate 8 Conference awards

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team held its season-ending awards banquet Tuesday evening, with several student-athletes taking home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards. Seven athletes brought home Academic All-Conference recognition including Abby Metzger, Megan Seebach (Honorable Mention), Miraya Montes, Kennedy Adamski, Bailey Jackson (Honorable Mention), Torrin Nantz and Alivia Henkel (above from left to right). Alivia Henkel was named the Most Valuable Player, while Sydney Tabor was named the Defensive Player of the Year, Abby Metzger was named the Most Improved Player and Bailey Jackson received the Coach's Award (below from left to right).


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*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 3/31/23. Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

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